

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We might actually have some nice weather today. The children and I will be taking advantage of this break in the weather by taking a long walk (half hour) this afternoon through the woods to look for signs of the season and celebrate our Walkathon Week. If you haven't already returned your pledge form, please consider doing so. Here is a reminder:

Let's be healthy! Let's walk!

This week, October 5-9 is our walk-a-thon week. Students are encouraged to walk at school as well as at home and to record their minutes of walking. All pledges and money are due on Friday, October 9. Prizes for the most minutes walked as well as the most money raised will be given.

We've been watching a short video clip on bullying each morning and then discussing it in our morning meeting. It is difficult for the children to differentiate intentional, directed behavior from unintentional or age appropriate behavior (meaning we had a lot of children initially calling their younger siblings bullies!). Today we focused on what to do if someone is bothering you. The class came up with the following:

1. Use your words (I don't like that. Please stop) We practiced saying it in French: Je n'aime pas ça. Arrete, s'il te plait..
2. Your friends should stick up for you, too, using their words.
3. Walk away
4. If the above don't work, tell an adult

On Thursday, October 8th, you are invited to attend a parent night on bullying prevention presented by Dave Wilmes who works for St. Paul Youth Services. He will be focusing on how parents can help their child handle bully situations. The presentation will last from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and will be held in the gym. Child care will be provided. Mr. Wilmes has already presented to the faculty, so I can vouch for importance of this engaging and helpful presentation.

Homework began last week, and I want to thank all who have helped their child to complete it. Your child need only write his or her name on the first page of the packet, but I do request that you check and sign each and every page. That way I know that your child has passed it to you upon completion. I will not be correcting the pages, but I will be looking at them to get an idea for how your child is completing them. Don't hesitate to write me notes in the margin, indicating if something was challenging, super easy or very interesting. I'll put a smile face on completed packets, a circle on those that still need something done. If something's undone, please help your child to do it and to turn it back in. When cutting is involved, you needn't send in what was cut. Just sign the top of the page (rather than preserving the bottom). Also, please keep the packet until it is done and send the entire thing in upon completion. Sending

back individual pages complicates my record keeping. Homework is due on Friday, but it is not an issue if it comes in on Monday.

We've had such fun dressing in different colors the past two weeks for our unit on Brown Bear, Brown Bear (Ours brun, ours brun)! I'm so proud of how much the children are learning and how carefully they are working. You could have heard a pin drop today as they colored, glued and painted their poisson orange (orange fish) page for the book they are compiling. We've been reading the story daily and singing and acting it out during movement time in the gym. Next week they will practice reading it themselves.

To complete our colors I would like to add two more to next week:

Monday—gray (gris)

Tuesday—pink (rose)

Please have your child dress in these colors. Remember that next week is a short week (M-W) because of MEA.

Here is a reminder about the Target Take Charge of Education Program. As the economy is still bad, organizations like Target are tightening their generosity bands. As opposed to past practice where the school got checks from Target twice a year (Sept. and March), Target Take Charge of Education Program will only give checks once a year. The implication of this is less money, but if we all supported the school by purchasing at Target using our red Target card (not other credit cards), the money will come to us. This money has been used in the past to primarily support scholarships for field trips and other student related initiatives. The school's web site has additional information on how to sign up for the program.

I will be contacting potential volunteers later this week, both for the orchard and for volunteering on a regular basis in the classroom as you indicated on the volunteer forms at the beginning of the year.. Thank you so much for offering your time and energy!

I am need of some help to post pictures on my webpage and do some other things with the computer. If anyone is tech sawy and available to come in occasionally either after school or in the evening to teach me, I'd appreciate it. Just let me know.

I was gone for a math training yesterday and will be out next Wednesday, October 14 for continued training in Writer's Workshop. Madame Halina Solakhava will be taking the class once again, as she has for the past two trainings I've had.

Warmly,  
Mme Kathleen Reagan

P.S. I apologize for the small size of the font, but I'm trying to conserve paper, per our school mandate.