

K5 AM - October Newsletter

Dear Families,

I enjoyed meeting so many of you at Back-to-School-Night. Our class had almost 100% attendance. Thank you for coming and supporting our school. I'm looking forward to a great year with your children.

A big thank you goes out to the two mothers who assembled all of the decodables we will be reading this school year. That was a big time-saver for me.

Reading Readiness:

All students should write their name with the first letter capital and the rest lowercase. In September, we have been learning to recognize and write the letters from A-I. Please practice naming and writing these letters at home as you help with homework.

In your child's Leitch folder, you will find your child's first predecodable book. Before I send these home with your child, we will have practiced many times in school. Please have your child continue practicing them at home. You may wish to have them decorate a special box to keep all of their books in this year. That way, they can go back and practice previous books. In their Leitch folder, you will also find our first set of flashcards. These words are words they must learn by sight; they can not sound them out. Practice these words with your child and return the bottom portion of the flashcards to school when your child is ready to be tested. One last thing in the folder is their special tracking wand. We have been practicing tracking with their wand when we have them read. Your child can show you how to use their wand. You may wish to have them keep their wand in the same place as their books, so you can find it whenever they want to practice reading.

In our language arts workbook, we have been talking about nouns (people, places, animals, and objects). See if your child can name one thing that belongs in each category.

Math:

In September, we learned shapes and sorting objects into groups of things that are alike. We, also, have learned to recognize an ABAB pattern. We will be making our own patterns soon with objects and people. Each month as we explore the new calendar, we look at numbers 1-30. We will experience numbers as we practice writing and counting daily.

Social Studies:

We have been learning about our busy classroom, school rules, safety, and working together. Please reread the Social Studies magazines with your child when they come home.

We are working on social skills such as sharing, taking turns, lining up, walking in line, keeping our hands and feet to ourselves, and using indoor voices. We are learning how we are special, the same yet different from each other, and how we are all part of a family.

This month, we will study fire prevention and safety. We will get a close-up view of a fire truck and the tools firemen use when they visit our school. Here are some important words to use with your child: protect, danger, and safety. We will, also, be learning how to stop, drop, and roll.

This month, we will also be learning about Christopher Columbus and why he is important to our country.

Science:

The introduction of a new month, October, brings an awareness of a new season, fall. As you walk around the neighborhood, help your child notice the things that are changing: the weather, trees, and the length of the day.

We will be talking about healthy habits: keeping hands clean, using tissues, covering our mouths when we cough, and brushing our teeth.

Our main science unit for this month will focus on our senses. You may want to practice these words at home to help your children become familiar with them: senses, see, hear, sound, loud, soft, smell, taste, touch, feel, hard, smooth, and rough.

Computers:

The children will use the computers in our classroom every week. Right now, we are working on shapes, counting, the alphabet, and position words. Every other Thursday, we will get the chance to go to the Computer Lab and practice there, so we will see what it will be like next year.

Book-It:

Pizza Hut is sponsoring a Book-It Reading Program. Parents will list books they read with their children on a chart each month from October to March. You may read to your child in any language. At the end of each month, I will collect the charts and return them with a free mini pizza

coupon. Be sure to fill out the October Book-It form this month. It was sent home with this newsletter. This is part of your child's homework. You should read to them every night, if possible.
Homework:

Homework will be sent home every Monday. You have the entire week to work on this. Return it in your child's LEITCH folder each Friday. Please do not return early, as it might get misplaced. Your child will receive stickers on the back of their folder to keep track of homework returned.

Sharing:

This is a very important oral language experience. Your child should prepare for this each week. Your child's sharing day was sent home with this newsletter. They may only share on their assigned day. We will begin sharing the first week of October. Have your child do the following to prepare:

- Write their name and the beginning sound on a brown paper bag.
- Put any item in the bag. If it is a book, they should put a bookmark on their favorite page.
- Answer the following questions about the item:
 - What is it made of? Metal, wood, cloth, or plastic
 - How does it feel? Rough, smooth, soft, or hard
 - What does it do? Bounce, roll, or tell a story
 - When or where did you get it?

VIP:

This stands for Very Important Person. Each child will have one special week. They will be able to bring in pictures, certificates, or other special items and tell the class about themselves. They will be in charge of taking the attendance to the office, charting the weather, changing the calendar, being line leader, and doing other special helpful things. Their name will be listed in the school newsletter. Your child will bring home a special VIP folder the Thursday before it is to be displayed in class. Please return this to school the following Monday. The VIP dates were sent home with this newsletter, so you can plan far in advance.

Review at Home:

Please look over any papers, books, or journals your child brings home. Ask your child to tell you about the papers. Your interest and involvement will help your child practice and review skills and show your child that you value what they learn. Parents are their children's first teacher. Teachers at school add to the base of knowledge and experience that you provide at home. Together, we can make your child a successful student.

Behavior Update for September:

I am pleased to say that most children know when to speak and when to be quiet. It's hard for them to remember to raise their hands and take their turns when they have so many important things to share. A few children need to be reminded to keep their hands to themselves. Please encourage and reward polite behavior at home.

Pumpkin Patch Field Trip:

On October 19, we will be going to the pumpkin patch. Your child will get to pick a small pumpkin to bring home with them. Permission slips were sent home in the Leitch folder. If you have not done so yet, please return this to school as soon as possible, so that your child will not miss out on our fun trip.

Newsletter on Web:

For your information, I always put my newsletter on the web, in case you misplace your copy or have questions about what is happening at school. The address for this site is www.jleitch.edu. When you go to the site, click on kindergarten under classrooms on the sidebar. Then, click on K5AM. You will then be able to click on my monthly newsletters.

Voicemail:

Our school is hooked up to voicemail. This makes it easier for you to leave messages for your child's teacher without having to wait for someone in the office to answer the phone. When you call, dial the school's number as usual (657-6100) and when asked for an extension, mine is 44085. If you just need to report a child's absence or let us know someone different is picking up your child, just dial the school's number and someone in the office will pick up.

Motor Room:

Every other Friday, we get to go to the motor room and do many fun activities to prepare the children for next year. We will be working with catching and throwing balls, jumping rope, hula hoops, etc. all year long. Please make sure your children wear shoes they can put on themselves and practice at home tying their shoes, as it takes me a while to help all twenty children with shoes. Also, please make sure the girls wear pants on Fridays.

Progress Notices:

On October 11, in the white Leitch folder, you will find a progress notice showing the things we have been working on so far in school. If any area is highlighted, this means that your child needs to work on it at home. If you need ideas on how to help your child succeed, please let me know and I can help you find some things.

2nd Grade Buddies:

We are very lucky this year to have a second grade class (Room 8) to be our buddies. Once a month, we will be meeting with them and having the chance to participate in a fun activity together. We met them for the first time today. Ask your child to tell you what they did with their buddy.

Important Dates:

- October 11 – Progress Notices Sent Home
- October 18 – Fall Stampede – the entire school participates.
- October 19 – Pumpkin Patch Trip
- October 30 – Picture Day
- October 31 – Halloween Parade

Thank You,
Martha Sivertsen