

Kindergarten News!

"Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, Serving God's Children"

September 17th, 2018

Dear Parents,

September is half over already and we are off to a great beginning. Routines are being learned, and we're settling in to a school family feeling!

Please send a stuffed bear tomorrow for Bear Day and letter "B". Even if it's not their show and tell day we will do this as a class activity. We'll graph the bears by size, color, etc., noticing similarities and differences. Show and tell can be anything this week. They could bring something about their baptism, too, if they've been baptized.

This week we'll continue on with letter "Bb" Many recognize most letters already, but have difficulty distinguishing lowercase, especially ones such as b, d, and p. We work hard on writing them a specific way to help with this, but many bad habits get in the way. **Encourage top to bottom, left to right formation.** Since last week went so well learning to use our reading centers we are already beginning guided reading lessons! Some will be working with letter and sound recognition yet, and others will get little books to begin the process of reading!

If you haven't heard of www.starfall.com it is a great website for children to use independently that is totally literacy based, and loads of fun! We use it during center time, but it's great at home, too. If you go to my page on Zion's website I have a button called "Resources." There are many great ones to try, though some might work better later in the year.

Our Bible lessons this week are about Noah and the ark. We will learn how Noah trusted God and listened to him. Throughout life we will need to trust in God, even when something doesn't make sense. A rainbow reminds us that God always keeps His promises. Our Bible verse to learn is from Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." Our offerings still go to Flutter Productions. Have your child bring back the envelope you receive in the Monday Folder on Wednesday to help.

Since we are learning about Noah and the first rainbow we will spend the week doing science activities about rainbows and colors. We'll learn about primary and secondary colors and have fun making them different ways. Watch for homemade playdough to come home in a baggie, probably on Friday.

At this time every year we begin practicing for fire drills, disaster drills, and lock downs. Disaster drills are in case of tornadoes, etc. Lock downs are helping us be prepared for any type of issues involving people. The school district has procedures we follow, too. We work to make this not scary, but let me know if you have a worrier. I explain that we just need to be prepared, but that God is always with us!

We have a field trip planned for the two kindergarten classes on Thursday, September 27th, to the Outdoor Center to learn about South Dakota Wildlife. We will need drivers, so either email me or I'll have a sign up sheet by our classroom door. We will leave Zion about 12:10PM and be back before school lets out at 3PM. If you want to drive you will need to have done a background check, which you can get the paperwork for that in the office anytime and sign a waiver for Outdoor Campus. Thank you!

The children are now working well in centers, so I will begin working with small groups on guided reading lessons. The centers I have them working with exposes them to books, letters and sounds, math concepts, and writing experiences. Each child has a homework baggie in their backpack. It won't have something new in every night, but check. I'll have a sheet of suggestions for working with your child in the baggie. Always put it right back in the backpack every time you use it, as I could be changing what goes inside it at any time. Eventually there will be little paperback books coming home regularly for your child to read to you. **They especially must always come right back, as someone else will be using it, or it will go in their school reading box.** Some will begin with little books and most will work with letter and sound recognition. As we learn to read these are the first two strategies we teach: Do they look at the picture for ideas as to what it is about? Do they get their mouth ready with the beginning sound of the word? When you read to your child each night you can begin using these strategies, too. Have them help you figure out a word, based on the context of the story, the picture, and the first letter sound. Encourage your child to point to each word as they read it, showing their recognition of the word and to help keep their place as they read. Don't worry if your child doesn't have books for awhile. They need to know most of their letters and sounds, so some will be ready this fall and some will be ready later.

God's blessings,

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