

Friday, September 28, 2007

Dear Parent,

Today your child is bringing home their first writing journal. Each day I teach them one thematic idea and afterwards they write about that idea in their journal. Have your child tell you what he/she wrote in their journal. The Barbara Saul book this week was Cats. The KinderFriend book was Me Too! The Phonics Library book that came home was We Can Make It!

Prompt, daily attendance is essential to your child's success in school. It is important to have your child at school by 8:20 AM every day. Everything we do in kindergarten is built upon previous lessons. If your child misses school, he/she will not have those experiences to build on. The school receives its funding only for children who are in attendance daily. Be aware that this year South Bay Union School District will be much more aggressive in addressing attendance problems.

I want to talk about our Read Alouds, which are designed to replicate and extend the story time sharings that are enjoyed by families. In our Read Alouds, we use the big and little books like Cats and the Kinderfriends books such as Me Too! For beginning readers, the choral reading of the predictable text bridges the gap between story listening and story reading. It encourages children to become active participants in the reading process. The Read Aloud enhances and increases text exploration through repeated readings. It helps to build children's confidence in reading and allows them to learn at their own pace in a risk-free environment.

On Wednesday, October 17, we are going to Christie's Pumpkin Patch in Blue Lake. Each child will select a pumpkin to take home. Permission forms are being sent home today with this note and need to be signed and returned A.S.A.P. Children who do not have signed permission forms will not be permitted to go.

We will be leaving just after school starts and should return by lunch. Make sure they are dressed in play clothes and are wearing comfortable shoes. We need 3 or 4 parents to accompany us. Please note that ONLY children enrolled in our school can come with us, no younger children. I need chaperones that are free to supervise the students in our class. If lots of adults want to chaperone there may not be enough room on the bus and you would have to carpool to and from Blue Lake. If you would like to help chaperone, please contact me.

For your information:

1. NO TOYS are to be brought to school.
2. If your daughter wears a dress to school, please be sure she is wearing shorts underneath.