

The Week in Review: April 1, 2010

Language Arts: This week, we reviewed a couple of the letter combinations we've learned recently ("oo" and "ow") and we added three more to our repertoire: "ee," "oi" and "oy". We also practiced finding mistakes in sentences. On Wednesday and Thursday, I wrote sentences, which were full of errors, on the dry erase board. I told the kids that I hadn't gotten much sleep the night before and was afraid that I might have made a few mistakes when I wrote the sentence for them to copy. They *loved* this opportunity to correct their teacher!

Math: We spent Tuesday and Thursday of our math block reading to the children in the Puffins and Field Mice classrooms. The kindergartners were great – you should have seen them! They were all very grown-up; they remembered to read with fluency and expression, etc. I was very proud of all of them. The rest of the week was spent reviewing the concept of odd / even and painting Styrofoam "planets" from a build-your-own solar system kit I got for the kids.

Science: This week, we began a new unit on plants. To begin, I asked the kids what plants need in order to grow. Their list was: sun, shade, water and soil. Then we planted two bean seeds – one that had been soaked overnight in water, one that was dry. Over the course of the week, we've been keeping two Seed Journals, comparing the progress that each bean seed is making. So far, our soaked seed has grown a root. The unsoaked see hasn't done much. ☺

Things my child and I can work on together at home:

1. While reading with your child, encourage him / her to notice any "ee," "oi" or "oy" words.
2. Please continue to help your child work on telling time. This is a very tricky concept for kindergartners. The more often they have a chance to practice, the more likely it will be that they'll have that "light bulb experience" and begin to catch on.

Thanks:

- To Luke's grandmother, Pat, for providing us with a special snack on Wednesday.
- To the Speight family for providing us with a special "April Fools snack" today.
- To Natasha Morgan, Elizabeth Shelton, Linda Kearney and John Leavy for agreeing to accompany us on our field trip to the Wildflower Center tomorrow.

FYI:

1. On the following page is a copy of our Shared Reading piece for the week. Please print it out and encourage your child to read it to / with you.
2. **Reminder: Field trip tomorrow!** Please send your child in his / her **Child's Day T-shirt** with a **SACK lunch with no warm-ups**. Just so you know, in years past, many of the kids have come to school dressed in their T-shirts with no jackets for this field trip. Since this is an outdoor field trip, they were pretty miserable. Though it may be warm in the morning, I think the temperatures are supposed to drop as a front moves in. **Please send your child with a jacket just in case.** Thanks!
3. **Parent conferences** are coming up at the end of the month (**Monday, April 26th**). I will post a sign-up sheet outside the door next week. Looking forward to talking to you all about the wonderful progress your kids have made!
4. Mr. Allen put the **Scholastic book order** forms for the month of April in your parent pockets this afternoon. You may order on-line, or by the traditional order form / check method. **Orders are due** no later than midnight (for on-line orders – please don't knock on my door with a check in the middle of the night ☺) next **Wednesday, April 7th**.
5. The **Week of the Young Child is coming up week after next (April 12th – 16th)**. PAC has planned a number of exciting events to celebrate. We'll need a few special items and a few volunteers for the week. Please watch for sign-up sheets to be posted outside our door soon.

Upcoming activities: Since we missed out on math this week, we're going to get a double dose next week! We'll spend our regular literacy circle time reviewing the concepts of patterning, telling time, coin names / values and place value. During our math block, we'll work on subtraction.

April

In April

I will go away
to far off Spain
or old Bombay
and dream about
hot soup all day.

Oh my oh once
oh my oh twice
oh my oh chicken soup
with rice.

By Maurice Sendak