

Sept. 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

Last week's note gave you a look at the Kindergarten morning routine which has literacy as its focus. Our afternoon schedule includes more of that but is mostly dedicated to math. We come in from recess, finish up our calendar math activities, and then start a language arts period. During this time we read and re-read books, have author and genre studies and enjoy independent and soon, buddy reading with their leveled books. That period also includes show and tell. Your child has probably told you about the helper of the day. This is the child who is my designated helper, lines up first, and does the calendar math with me. This child is also allowed to bring an item to school, one that fits in a backpack, for show and tell. Show and tell is part of language arts because it promotes speaking, listening, and responding skills.

The rest of the afternoon is set aside for math instruction. Math is a perfect fit for this time of day because so much of it is hands-on. The children are up and moving and using a variety of materials as they explore topics like counting, sorting, pattern, graphing, measurement, geometry, and the big one, number sense.

Time is set aside during the year for social studies, science, and health but not on a daily basis.

The last part of the day is their favorite. (They usually start asking me about it as soon as school starts.) We call it choice time. The children are allowed to go to art, building, puzzles/games, the rice tub, play doh, etc.

We do have specials during the week: music on Monday afternoons with Mr. Ranger, art on Tuesday afternoons with Mr. Charland, gym with Ms. Moore and library with Mrs. Hilton on Friday afternoons.

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