

Friday, March 19, 2010

Dear Parents:

We have finished the second week of our thematic unit, On Our Way: Land, Air and Water Transportation. We have already studied about trucks and trains and now boats. Our Read Aloud book was The Little Engine That Could and our Kinder Friends Book was Taking A Trip. The Big and Little book was Lucky Leprechaun. The Shared Story was Vroom, Chugga, Vroom, Vroom. The Science Link book was Cool Wheels! The Alphafriend this week is Zelda Zebra who is teaching the children all about the letter "Zz". They enjoyed singing the song, Freight Train.

In mathematics, we have been working on sequencing numbers less than ten. The students have been shown a sequence of numbers and then asked either which number comes after the sequence, or what number comes before it. They have also been practicing telling time on an analog clock (a clock with hands). Most can correctly identify a penny and a nickel and tell how much money it is. They have also been learning to add two numbers with a sum less than 10. Again, most can also write an addition sentence. We have just begun to teach the concept of subtraction. We have also been working on modeling problems so that students can decide which function to use to solve the problem. We finished another math unit this week and took a test on the concepts taught in the unit.

Recently an important study was released that concluded kids who watch TV were more likely to bully. I will quote from the article, "*Chicago, Illinois (Reuters) -- The more television 4-year-old children watch the more likely they are to become bullies later on in school, a U.S. study said on Monday. At the same time, children whose parents read to them, take them on outings and just generally pay attention to them are less likely to become bullies, said the report from the University of Washington.*

*Bullying can now be added to the list of potential negative consequences of excessive television viewing along with obesity, inattention and other types of aggression, said Frederick Zimmerman who led the research.*

*Previous research had indicated that emotional support from parents helps young children develop empathy, self-regulation and social skills, making them less likely to be bullies, said the report published in the April issue of the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. Whether the child ate meals with both parents, whether parents talked to the child while working were also measured, along with the average number of hours of television viewed."*

Please mark April 19-23 on your calendars as NO SCHOOL, as it will be Spring Break.