

Friday, May 21, 2010

Dear Parents:

Can you believe that there are only 18 days of school left? We have started our new thematic unit Look Around: Exploring Our Environment. The Kindergarten Teachers' book was The Ocean. The Teacher Read Aloud book this week was Salamander Room. Our Big and Little book this week was Splash!. The Science Link book was Baby Animals Play. The Kinder Friends book was A Nature Walk and the phonics library book was Ken and Jen. The kids are reading up a storm!

One of the most challenging math concepts in kindergarten is identifying and counting money. The California State Standards call for each kindergarten student to be able to identify and give the value of a penny, a nickel, and a dime. Students should also be able to count by fives (nickels) and by tens (dimes). Children need lots of hands on practice with real money.

I am asking parents to provide their children with the opportunity to handle, identify, and count real coins. Please make time to help your child count the value of different combinations of coins to 20¢. Another activity would be helping children count differing amounts of nickels by counting by fives. You could also do this activity with dimes by helping your child to count by tens. Another extension of using coins in mathematics would be simulating a store at home. Display 5 things that are for sale. Put a price on each within your child's counting ability. Have your child practice identifying the price and then counting out the correct amount of money to make the purchase.

I am sending home the permission form for our field trip to Sequoia Park. Please read, sign, and return it to school next week or your child will not be able to go with us. I am still in need of parents to accompany us on our field trip. Please contact me next week if you can go with us.

The annual school carnival will be held at South Bay School on Friday, June 4. Plan on not cooking that evening and purchase dinner before you go on to play games and contests in the booths. There will be jolly jumps, a cakewalk, clowns, face painting, and lots of other fun activities. I am responsible for one of the booths and I am asking for help. Please consider helping out in my booth for one hour during the carnival. Please note that Wednesday, June 2 is a FULL DAY so that we can have a minimum day on Friday, June 4 with early dismissal for the carnival.

You are invited to attend a short ceremony on the last day of school, Thursday, June 17 at 12:15 pm. At the closing ceremony on the last day, I will also be presenting each student with an award and his/her kindergarten diploma. Please come to help us say good-bye to a fantastic group of young people! The last day of school is a MINIMUM DAY so it will be crowded out front. You may take your child home from the ceremony.