

Friday, May 23, 2008

Dear Parents:

Can you believe that there are only 14 days of school left? We have started our new thematic unit Look Around: Exploring Our Environment. The Kindergarten Teachers' book was I Can Draw My Environment. 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.

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.

NO SCHOOL on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. When we return, I will be conducting the final assessments of the year. These assessments will be used for your child's last report card. They will also be used in placing children next year. I also must report student progress in meeting state standards to the administration. It is vitally important that the children do their very best on these assessments. PLEASE make sure that your child goes to bed early and gets plenty of rest and a good breakfast before starting school. Also, take time to tell your child that you expect him/her to do their best at school.

You are invited to attend a short ceremony on the last day of school, Friday, June 13 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.

If you have a child entering kindergarten next year or know someone who is planning to send his or her child to kindergarten at next year, please register him/ her immediately.