

Friday, October 30, 2009

Dear Parents:

This was the first week of the Healthy Me unit. I really enjoyed seeing the baby clothes the children brought in on Tuesday to help them learn, "I have grown a lot since I was a baby and I am still growing." Your child should have brought home five little books this week to add to their personal library. The Barbara Saul story was A Ghost Story. The Big and Little Book was Halloween Safety. The Phonics Library book was The Birthday Party. The two Word and Picture books were I See My (Friends) and I See My (Reflection).

The letter of the week was Tt. Tiggy Tiger was the Alphafriend. Your child should be bringing home a little Alphafriend book each week. They should be able to point out things in the picture in the center of the book. You challenge them at home by asking them to find things in your home that begin with the letter T. If you have a connection to the Internet, you can go to the school web page and click on the Alphafriend link to see a picture of the Alphafriend, listen to the Alphafriend's song, and read the lyrics to the song. The Alphafriend page also has a link to the Starfall.com web site where your child can continue to practice working with the letter sound. There are many other Alphafriend resources that you can download and use at home.

Be sure to take some time every day, we recommend at least 20 minutes, to read to or with your child. Make sure your child writes down the titles of the books they read on their reading log. You can then initial the reading log to certify they have done the reading. Reading logs are to be returned to school every Friday. The number and quality of the returned reading logs will determine your child's homework grade on the report card. If your child forgets to return their reading log on Friday, they can bring it to school on Monday (or any other subsequent day). You can download and print reading logs from the school web page.

Your child is learning to read using a combination of phonics and sight-reading. So far this year, the students have learned the names, shapes and sounds for the letters A, S, M, R, and T. They have also learned the words I, see, & my. We have posted these words on our Word Wall, and will be adding to them each week. They are practicing reading these new words in the two little Word and Picture books that I am sending home each week.

Next week, I will be assessing students on their progress. It is important that the children get plenty of sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast. Parent/teacher conferences will begin on Monday, Nov. 16 and run through on Friday, Nov. 20. There will also be conferences on Wednesday, December 2. I am looking forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress.