



## Ms. Whittaker's News

### Thursday, February 25, 2010

Please remember there is **NO SCHOOL** tomorrow! Please know that I will not be in school on Monday, March 1. I will be traveling back to Canada to visit with my parents. My dad has had some health issues and needs some support at this time. Thank you for your understanding. I will be letting the children know, but please remind them on Monday morning. Thanks.

### CURRICULUM:

#### Music and Movement:

In preparation for our egg to chick science unit we are including music and movement songs that allow us to identify animals and birds that either lay eggs or do not lay eggs. We have learned that spiders, bees, frogs, birds, ducks, penguins and snakes all lay eggs. Monkeys, elephants, bunnies, cats, lions and horses do not. The children are loving these songs and the actions that accompany them.

#### Jolly Phonics:

We continue to review our Jolly Phonics Sounds throughout the entire year!!!

#### Handwriting:

This week we continued our formal handwriting curriculum - ZANER BLOSER with the letters Mm and Hh. We have now completed the "Magic C" letters and the "Line" letters. The children engaged in practicing their formation and then self assessing their own work. They are required to circle the one that they feel represents their best work. It has been fun watching them make this determination. To date, we have completed Cc, Aa, Dd, Gg, Oo, Ss, Ll, Tt, Ii, Jj, Rr, Nn, Mm and Hh. The sequence of letter instruction will be as follows:

"**Magic C**" - lower case letters come first. They begin with the "c" stroke: c, a, d, g, o, s (**completed**)

"**Line Letters**" - They use simple strokes: l, t, i, j (**completed**)

"**Diver Letters**" - dive down, come back up and swim over: r, n, m, h, b, p

"**Slide Letters**" - use diagonal strokes. Diagonals can be difficult, so these letters are taught toward the end: v, w, x, y, z, k

"**Tricky Letters**" - have unique shapes or starting points : u, q, e, f

**Next week:** Next week we will continue the "Diver" letters: Bb and Pp

#### Journaling:

We continue to have journaling opportunities in the class. As the children develop their writing skills they will begin to add new letters and numbers to their journaling. This is an exciting time in the developmental process. You will see stories using pictures at this point...this is all good!!! ☺

#### Reading:

We continue reading aloud during story time. This is a relaxing time as the children listen to new stories and practice their comprehension strategies: using picture cues, visualizing and questioning. Throughout the day the children are invited to explore new books as they complete their assigned work. This week, we have added curriculum appropriate books to our book basket including Egg to Chick books and books on measurement. It is wonderful to watch as they share books with each other and discuss the stories and pictures. Many of the children are identifying words and letters as they develop more print awareness.

Our Kindergarten Reading Program continues every week. Thank you for your comments in the reading folders. I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read with your child and allowing them the opportunity to read to you.

The children are also engaged in weekly instructional reading which has been coordinated with our handwriting letters. The children are becoming familiar with periods, questions marks, exclamation marks and commas. What do we do when we see these punctuation marks in our reading? We are also counting how many words in a sentence. How do we know? How many sentences in a story?

### **Math:**

This week we continued the concept of measurement while fading our unit on money (although we continue to review money during our calendar time). The children are enjoying measuring with unifex blocks and working in small groups to establish who is taller and shorter. I have been amazed at how the group dynamics work at each table and how each group of children is able to work through various concepts as well as formulate new ideas and thoughts. It has been fun to watch!

We also introduced the word ESTIMATE. An estimate is never wrong...but it must be a well thought out guess. We are first estimating the length of various items and then measuring to check how close our estimates are. The children have enjoyed using white boards to record their answers and participate in the large group instruction.

**Next Week:** Next week we will continue our centers with new measuring concepts. The children will be engaged in measuring using different units of measure.

Please take a look at <http://eduplace.com/kids/mw/index.html> for more exciting math activities on line.

### **Science:**

This week, excitement the excitement began....our Egg to Chick unit. On Tuesday, we set up the class incubator in preparation of the egg delivery on Wednesday. We discussed the temperature of the incubator: 100° for the dry thermometer and 84° for the wet thermometer. We also talked about the need to keep moisture in the incubator and ensure that our water tank is always full of water. This unit will be an excellent integration into our measurement unit. On Wednesday, the children were so excited about the delivery of the eggs. We have 10 in total. When the eggs arrived we placed them gently in the incubator. We labeled each one A - J. By lettering each egg we can observe and ensure that the eggs are being turned. This is what the mother hen does when she takes care of them. There was some concern in the class that the mother hen may be sad that we have her eggs. I told the children that we were going to adopt them for a short time and that the mother hen is looking after her other eggs while we take care of these. This explanation relieved some worries. On Thursday (Day 1), each class did some predicting: How many eggs do we think will hatch? And, which eggs do we think will hatch? We have recorded our answers to compare later. Many of our writing activities through March break, will include observations of our eggs and chicks. We will be keeping a journal of new knowledge as well as illustrating observations. We will also be completing various science experiments during the next three weeks. I will keep you posted! Our HATCH DATE is March 10!!!

Today, we completed a fun science experiment : Candeling. We used the overhead projector and used the light to shine through one of our eggs. We carefully took an egg out of the incubator and placed it over the light. The children were able to see the shadow of the chick inside the egg as well as the blood vessels that were running through the egg. It truly was amazing! The children were very excited! We will be repeating this at Day 14 and Day 19...to compare and observe our results.

### **Fine Motor- Art:**

This week we integrated our science unit and made chicks! The children began by tracing the oval body and cutting it out and then tracing their hands and cutting those out....a lot of cutting skills. The children did a super job! They have really perfected their fine motor skills as art continues to be a weekly activity!

**Next Week:** We will continue to integrate science and art and do another activity related to chicks!

### **OTHER NEWS:**

#### **ROOM HELPERS:**

Thank you to my helpers who were able to come this week. I am requesting that room helpers come in at **10:30 - 11:45 am for the morning class and 2:15 - 3:30 pm for the afternoon class**. If there is a conflict just let me know. These times help me in planning for my day and using your time more efficiently. Thank you. Please sign in at the office when you arrive. Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Rago have the master schedule for helpers.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

We do celebrate birthdays here at school. If you would like to send treats on your child's birthday, we usually reserve celebration time for the end of the day 11:15 and 3:00. Please also send napkins as this helps with the clean up process. You are more than welcome to join us at your child's birthday celebration. ☺ ☺

**LIBRARY:**

Although Library day is on Thursdays, **please would you send library books back on Wednesday of each week.** Thank you to all of you for remembering. It has greatly reduced the tears in both classes! ☺

**CONTACTING ME:**

E-mail - [swhittak@cusd200.org](mailto:swhittak@cusd200.org)

Telephone - 682- 2100

E-mail is always the best way to get a hold of me. I check it in the evenings at home as well as on the weekends!

**Dates to remember:**

Friday, February 26:

NO SCHOOL - INSTITUTE DAY

Monday, March 8:

In Class Field Trip : Children's Museum - GEOSPACE - Exploring 3  
Dimensional Shapes

Wednesday, March 10:

HATCH DATE - Very "Egg" Citing

March 29 - April 2:

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

Thank you for sharing your children with me.

Warmly,

Sue Whittaker

Kindergarten Teacher