

Good evening Room 5 Parents!

Wow! What an AWESOME first week! We have had so much fun getting to know each other and building our classroom community! We have been busy experimenting, playing, voting on class decisions, and reading some wonderful Mo Willems books. On Monday, we made some play-dough for the week. We used our math skills to help us figure out obstacles like using a 1/2 cup instead of 1 cup to pour out 4 cups total of flour and 1 cup of water. The kids loved to see how adding in the salt, oil, and food coloring to the mixture changed it's consistency, appearance, and even smell. Ask your child if they can remember the recipe!

We are still familiarizing ourselves with our wide variety of math games in the classroom, however, we have already begun to gravitate towards a few popular ones. Playing math games such as Connect 4, Chutes and Ladders, WAR, Checkers, Sorry!, Blokus, etc. are an excellent way to learn fundamental math skills like one-to-one correspondence, number sense, pattern recognition, logic, reasoning, and so much more. Board games also assist in strengthening social skills and literacy. I have included two articles that further explain the benefits to playing these games, that would make for a perfect activity with your child over the weekend!
<http://www.nctm.org/publications/teaching-children-mathematics/blog/why-play-math-games/>
<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/creativity-play/benefits-board-games>

On Thursdays, we will be having a buddy time with the older kids in Ms. Alexandra's class. Some days we read, some days we play games, participate in group activities altogether, and more. This week, we took our buddies with us to choose a tree in the neighborhood we will be studying all year. Every month, on the same day, our class will be visiting this specific tree to study the changes that may or may not have occurred and why. We make predictions prior to our visit, have a discussion about why we think these changes may happen, and then again once we have completed our visit and taken pictures. This week, we drew a picture of our tree from memory in our journals and the class is already excited to see "what will happen to it next time"!

Next week, we are diving in to our first exploration of...:drum roll:: OUTER SPACE!!! The kids enjoyed and were very intrigued by the solar eclipse that took place last Monday and we have already gone to the library for our first visit to check out some books on the planets and space. Stay tuned!

If everyone could bring either a 4x6 family photo or a copy of a family photo to hang up in your child's cubby, please do so on Monday or Tuesday! We really miss our families throughout the day sometimes and it's a nice little memento and piece of home they can go to whenever they want-and also a great discussion starter!

Book orders were sent home today. If you would like to place an order, please go to <https://clubs.scholastic.com/> and create an account for your child. Our class code is MRX4Z. Deadline is next Friday, September 1:)

Reminders:

- Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays your child should be in their gym uniforms. Tuesdays and Thursdays are dress uniform days. All children should be in comfortable gym shoes everyday:) Also, girls should be comfortable enough to climb and move about freely-that being said, please ensure your daughter is wearing a pair of shorts underneath their dress uniform!
- NUT FREE school! Parents, PLEASE be cautious of what snacks and foods you are packing your child each day. Under no circumstances are nuts allowed and be mindful of the packaging. Many snacks say "may contain traces of nuts" which in this case, are not allowed either. Foods and snacks that read "manufactured in a facility that processes nuts" ARE OK! Thank you for your understanding sorry for any inconvenience!

- Snacks should be a fruit, veggie, starch, crackers, etc. but candy is not allowed, nor is anything frosted (i.e. doughnuts, cupcakes). Please make sure your child is able to open their water bottles, tupperware, etc. with little help!
- Children should use the rest room before coming into class and have a hearty breakfast. We don't want anyone asking for lunch at 9:00 a.m.!
- Your child should have an extra change of clothes to be kept at school- underwear, socks, shorts/pants, and a shirt all clearly labeled with their name.
- Please make sure to send your child with a refillable water bottle everyday that has their name written on it.
- Check backpacks daily for your child's folder. We do send home time sensitive material on occasion and some things do need to be sent back to school immediately. Also, notebooks must remain at school so if your child does bring their journal home by accident, please send back the next day!
- We have begun collecting box tops! If you have any, please cut them out (make sure they haven't expired) and send them with your child any day! This also makes for a great mini math activity! Here is a list of participating companies: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>

That's it for this week! Have a fabulous weekend!

-Ms. Anna

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." - Plato