OCTOBER KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Virtue of the Month
Responsibility - doing the things you are supposed to do, making good choices, and accepting the results of your actions

Practice at Home
List all the responsibilities that are required to make dinner. Have each person in the house take responsibility over one of the tasks.

Schoolwide Announcements
- Many thanks to the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) for helping us celebrate Constitution Week and raffling off books about the Constitution on 9/23!
- Please mark your calendar for the comeback of one of our favorite events, the PTA’s Fall Fest! It will be Saturday, October 15th from 10:00-2:00 behind the schoolhouse.
- We will be celebrating Kindness Matters during the month of October, which is National Bullying Prevention Month. Students are welcome to participate in the spirit days listed in the Looking Ahead section. Families can watch the Character Day Parade at 1:30 on 10/31 for grades K – 5 around the court. An RSVP will be sent home soon so badges can be pre-printed and sent home.

Looking Ahead
10/5: No Students, Teacher Professional Development Day, Yom Kippur
10/11: Afternoon Assembly: TED’s Mindset
10/14: Wear Purple for Positivity & October Birthday Celebration
10/15: PTA’s Fall Fest 10:00-2:00
10/17: Wear BCPS Blue for Civility
10/18: Wear Green for Equity
10/19: Wear Orange for Unity
10/20: Wear Red for Respect
10/21: No School, MSEA Convention
10/24: No Students, Teacher Professional Development Day, Diwali
10/25: Wear your favorite thinking hat as you think before you speak kind words.
10/26: Bring your favorite small stuffed animal friend who can witness your kindness to others
10/27: Wear CTE’s shirt as we show pride for working together in kind & helpful ways
10/28: First Responders’ Day; Wear Super Hero attire as we say THANK YOU to our local first responders!
10/31: Character Parade at 1:30; Wear a school-appropriate costume.

Genre and Culture Focus of the Month
Mysteries and Bully Prevention Month

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What We Are Working On

Reading:
- **Wonders Unit 1 & 2**
  Essential Questions: What can we learn when we try new things? What can you find out when you explore?
  Important skills – asking and answering questions, identifying characters and setting, identifying similarities and differences of texts.

Phonics:
- **Open Court Units 1 & 2**
  - Identifying upper- and lowercase letters A-Z
  - Proper letter formation
  - Recognize letters in the alphabet
  - Phonemic Awareness: Number of words in a sentence, listen for sounds and rhythms, use rhyme and repetition

Sight words: a, the, and, go, had, he, I, see, has, you

Writing:
- **Writer’s Workshop**
  - Writing and identifying our letters of the alphabet starting at the top
  - Drawing detailed pictures to show ideas and to match words. Labeling pictures.

Math:
- **Bridges Unit 2 – Numbers to ten**
  - Important Skills – count to 20, recognize and build sets to 10, count, order and compare numbers to 10, write numerals to 10

Content:
- **Health Unit 1 – Safe and Healthy Start to School**
  - Important Skills – What to do in case of an emergency at home and school.
- **Science Unit 1 – Checkerspot Challenge**
  - Important Skills – Why do we need to help the Baltimore checkerspot?

Classroom Reminders

Remember to have your child bring a filled water bottle each day.

Students need to wear closed toes shoes to play in the mulch. On days we have P.E. please send your student in sneakers.

Shout Outs for our Paw Pride Winners for showing the virtue of unity.

Autumn F. Wyatt D.
Harper E. William S.
Michael B. Jason P.
Kinsley D. Ryder M.
Stella K. Daniel B.
Liliana L. Brooks M.

Birthdays

Ryan R. – 4th
Cole W. – 6th
Nathan H. – 8th
Autumn F. – 14th
Cooper W. – 24th
Harper T. – 26th
Michael B. – 30th
Bridges in Mathematics
Kindergarten Unit 2
Numbers to Ten

In this unit your child will:
- Quickly recognize how many objects are in a collection (up to 5) without counting
- Compare sets using the words more and less
- Develop number sense with combinations that make 5, and then 10
- Count objects and match the quantity to the written numeral
- Build with two-dimensional shapes

Your child will practice these skills by solving problems like those shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many red dots? Show me on your fingers. How many blue dots? Show me with the fingers on your other hand. How many in all?</td>
<td><strong>Five- and ten-frames</strong> help students develop number sense. The frames help them make mental pictures of numbers in various ways. On the first card, students see that 5 is made up of 2 red dots and 3 blue dots. Many children can recognize 2 and 3 without having to count each dot. They might also know that when the whole row is filled, we have 5. On the ten-frame card, they see 7 is made up of 5 red dots and 2 white dots. They may notice that 7 is 3 less than 10. Seeing the “parts” of numbers is foundational for adding and subtracting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many dots do you see? How do you see it?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the number rack to show 3 in one push.</td>
<td>The <strong>number rack</strong> is a math tool made up of 10 beads broken into a group of 5 red beads and a group of 5 white beads. Like the ten-frame, it helps students see numbers in relation to 5 and 10. In later units, students will use the number rack for more formal practice with addition and subtraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count how many dots are on each card. Decide which card has more and which card has less.</td>
<td>Young children visually recognize <strong>more</strong> before they can count collections. <strong>Less</strong> is a more difficult term. In this game and other activities like it, students determine “which is more” and “which is less” by counting the dots on each card and then comparing the two quantities. Using the ten-frame structure, they see which quantity fills more of the squares. If two quantities are the same, they are said to be <strong>equal</strong>.</td>
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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNIT 2

**Q:** Why is there an emphasis on seeing groups instead of counting by 1s?

**A:** The ability to quickly recognize groups less than 5 helps students develop an understanding of quantity. First we build the model with counters they can hold in their hands, then we use cards to illustrate the model they made, and finally we ask children to picture it in their minds. This progression from the concrete to the abstract helps develop efficient strategies for computation, such as counting on to add (“5 + 3 is 5…6, 7, 8”). Some kindergarteners will continue to count by 1s as they develop their counting skills early in the year.

**Q:** How can I help my child with mathematics?

**A:** Kindergarteners enjoy showing their families what they are learning in school. Asking questions, giving encouragement, and showing interest in their work builds your child’s confidence as a mathematician.

This chart shows how number writing is taught at school for numerals 6–10. You may want to refer to it when helping your child write numbers at home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Down around in a circle you go. That’s a 6 just as you know!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Slide to the right. Then slant the line. That makes 7 every time!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Make an “S” but do not wait. Slant back up to make an 8!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Loop to the left and add a line. Now you’ve made number 9!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Make a 1 and then 0. That makes 10! Now you know.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>