



# Kindergartners in the News

October 3, 2011

Dear Parents,

Our "Kindergartners in the News" newsletter will be sent home each week. Usually this newsletter will be sent home on Wednesdays. As I did not send home a newsletter last week, this newsletter will cover information for last week and this week and will be sent home today.

Mrs. Abid will also send home a newsletter on Fridays to inform you of activities that have taken place when she was teaching as well as any upcoming events. Please make sure to read both newsletters to know all the information about Kindergarten.

We have begun to learn to write the letters of the alphabet. To date, we have learned to write letters "A", "a", "T", "t", "P", "p", "C" and "c". When learning to write our letters, we are learning how to hold our pencils (with a two-finger grasp) and to always start writing our letters at the top. We never write any of our letters from the bottom up. These are good handwriting habits that will help your child to print and later learn cursive writing more easily.

We have started doing gluing activities using our glue sticks. Some of the boys and girls are having difficulty. The children are learning to turn the glue only slightly out of the container and to place only a medium amount of glue on the perimeter of the paper that needs glue. Following these suggestions will make gluing easier and less messy.

The Kindergartners have listened to the Bible story of Noah's Ark. They are very good listeners when the Bible stories are read. We also watched the Super Book video about this Bible story to reinforce what we learned. During our "Prayer Circle" time, we learned the "Noah Prayer" with hand motions. We will continue to practice and say this prayer this week.

We learned God promised to never flood the whole earth again. God gave us the rainbow as a reminder of that promise. Last Monday, each Kindergartner used watercolors to paint a rainbow based on this Bible story.

This Bible story tied in nicely with the Art Prize field trip the Kindergartners took on Friday. The *Noah's Ark Crayon Mosaic*, the collaborative Art Prize entry created by students at St. Paul the Apostle School and five other Catholic schools, was on display at Cathedral Square.

Johnny Appleseed Day was September 26<sup>th</sup>. Last week, we listened to a story and watched a Disney animated video about his life. We learned Johnny loved nature and God. While traveling with his Bible, apple seeds and a tin pot he tried to take care of the earth and help others. We will continue to learn about apples in the next several weeks.

Zero the Hero surprised us last Wednesday as this was the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school. This imaginary superhero likes numbers that end in zero! Each Kindergartner was given colored circles which were used to make 4 groups of 5 circles each. Each child counted their circles the slow way by ones (from 1-20). Next, we counted the fast way by fives (5, 10, 15, 20).

Every 10<sup>th</sup> day of school, we listen to the "Zero the Hero" song. The boys and girls like to march around the room while we sing along to this fun song that teaches us to count from 1 -100. We don't see Zero the Hero, but we have a Zero the Hero pet (stuffed animal) that visits are room. The stuffed bear wears a super cape and a red "0" on his chest. We will do more number activities on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school.

The feast day of Guardian Angels is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Today the Kindergartners were introduced to the “Guardian Angel” prayer and listened to the story entitled Guardian Angel, What’s Your Name? On Tuesday we will watch the video “The Blown Around Room” about a boy named Stephen who has a very messy bedroom. Things change, however, after his guardian angel pays a visit.

Each Kindergartner was given a holy card today with the Guardian Angel prayer on the back. Your child may want to keep it near his/her bed and say the prayer before going to bed.

During October, the boys and girls will learn about the rosary. This week they will be introduced to the names of the prayers that are said when we touch the beads on the rosary. (The boys and girls do not have to say the prayers.) We will practice the pattern of prayers often.

Please return your child’s September Reading Record Sheet to school if it has not yet been returned. The October Reading Record Sheet is attached. Please continue to read to your child for at least 10 - 20 minute each day. Reading to your child is the single most important activity you can do to help your child become a reader.

Please have your child return their September Family Project (pictures or drawings of your family) this week if they have not been returned. Through this project, we will create a “Home Family Album”. Each child will share their pages with the class when they are returned. If you have any questions, please let us know.

The boys and girls are getting used to our routines. We continue to work on our listening skills, following directions the first time and taking turns. Please reinforce these important skills with your child at home. We continue to work on these skills in order to set the tone for the entire school year.

As it is a new month, the boys and girls were assigned a new table at which to sit. Each month we will change tables as this allows the students to get to know new friends. Please ask your child where they now sit.

Many of you have returned a small picture of your child (approximately 2 ½ inches by 2 ½ inches), which was requested in a previous newsletter, to decorate their colored “mailbox” that holds their notebook and work papers. The picture could be cut out of a larger photo. Please send a picture to school by the end of the week if one has not been sent.

On Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Kindergartners and 4 year-old PreSchool classes will go to Steffens Orchards in Sparta. We will ride the Catholic Central bus, along with our parent chaperones, for this field trip. The Kindergarten class will be allowed 6 chaperones to ride the bus. Additional chaperones may meet us at the orchard. During our trip, we will have apple and pumpkin education, ride a tractor shuttle into the orchard, pick one apple and one pumpkin to take home, and enjoy cider and one applesauce cookie (no nuts or dairy products) per person for a snack.

Attached is the permission slip for this field trip. Please return the permission slip and money by Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. CHECKS FOR \$5.00 SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO STEFFENS ORCHARDS.

Please remember that any chaperone who joins us for our field trip has to have Virtus training provided by the diocese. You may want to bring a camera as well as money if your are interested in buying “goodies” from their market.

Finally, tomorrow is School Picture Day. If you would like to order pictures, please fill out the Picture Day envelope and send the envelope and money to school tomorrow.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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| October 4  | School Picture Day  |
| October 7  | 11:00AM dismissal for all students / Professional Development for teachers in the afternoon |
| October 17 | Field trip to Steffens Orchards with the 4-year-old PreSchool class                         |
| October 21 | No School - Professional Development day for teachers                                       |
| October 31 | Halloween Party in our classroom  |