

Kindergarten April Newsletter

We want to extend a BIG thank you to all the parents who came to conferences. This is such an important time to talk about your child's successes and to make a plan for the rest of the year. We truly appreciate all your support and time given to your child's learning!

The last quarter of the school year will remain full of new learning and experiences for your child. Our final field trip of the year will be to **The Children's Zoo on May 29, 2009**. We will be asking for parent volunteers to accompany and supervise small groups of children. Parents will need to pay for their own admission to the zoo, but the children's fee will be covered by the generosity of the Fredstrom PTA. More information will be coming as the trip approaches, but we wanted you to have plenty of time to mark your calendars for this important date!

Literacy

In the month of April, we will be introducing these new **Word Wall Words**: **run, up, was, went** (Continue to practice **all** the high frequency words for rapid recall.) **New word families**: **-ox, -et, -en**

Our final three themes for the year will be **Down On The Farm, Spring Is Here, and The World of Animals**. These are very exciting themes and the children will be full of news to share as they learn about each of these topics.

Math

Our remaining math units will be **addition** and **subtraction**. Since many of our students know how to perform addition and subtraction by rote memorization, we will be focusing on the understanding of what addition and subtraction actually means by using manipulatives to visually display the process. Research shows that students who succeed in math have a deeper meaning of the process, and we believe this will further help the students as they move on to higher level math objectives. Any help you can provide in having your children explain to you what they are doing while adding and subtracting will deepen their understanding of the entire process. One strategy we will touch on is the "part-part-whole" model that moves the two separate addends to a common grouping spot. This strategy is used a great deal in the first grade curriculum.

At Home Reading

We would like to encourage you, as you are reading at home with your children, to discuss story elements with them (characters, setting, problem, solution) in the books. Stop and have them summarize what is happening in the story at the beginning, middle, and end. These are all very important components for early comprehension building and will lead to a successful transition to first grade. Practice on the **High Frequency Words**, which we sent home last month and are found on our website, would also benefit your child as they become more familiar with the words and increase their rapid recall of them.