

September 2017

K-222 Monthly Newsletter

Important Dates

Monday 10/9 Columbus Day,
No School

Tuesday 10/10 K-222 Mixer
(Grown-ups Only)

Friday 10/27
Family Friday

Tuesday 10/31
Halloween Parade

Monday 11/7
Professional Development for
Teachers, No School for

Dear K-222 Families,

Here are some important notes for September:

- Our first Family Friday will be **8:50-9:15am on Friday, 10/27**. You are invited to join us to see what is happening in the classroom and learn a little something with the kids!
- Remember to send in an extra set of underwear, pants, shirt, and socks. These should all be labeled with your child's name.
- We are excited to share that we have a wonderful new teacher in our class: Welcome, Kaltoun! Neicee has moved to work with Lyndell in pre-k, but we still get to see her sometimes.

What a great start-to-the-year! As we settle into classroom routines and explore new materials, we're also getting to know each other and working together to build a community of learners.

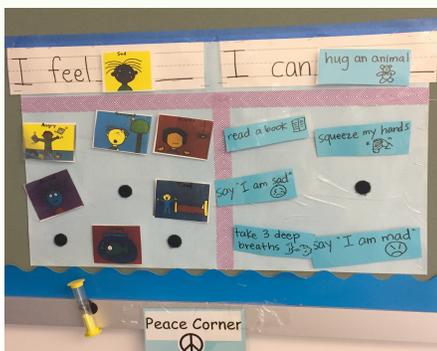
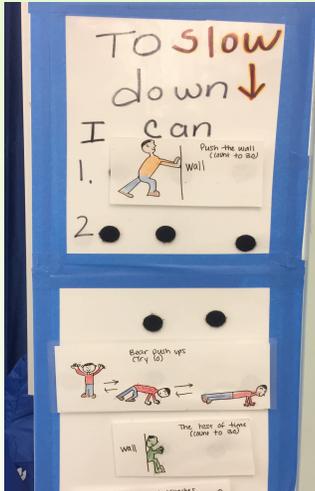
We discussed some big ideas about what it means to be in kindergarten:

- What do kindergarteners do in school?
- What would we like to do together this year?
- What rules should we have so we can do all of these things?
- How do we follow our school rules of, "Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Helpful. Be Your Best."?
- When it's not easy to follow the rules, what are some methods/tools that can help us?

We've been working on recognizing, verbalizing, and addressing our feelings with tools that help us come back to being calm. Some of our favorites are the Quiet Corner, "I Feel _____, I can _____" chart, Break Chair, and "Slow Down" chart. We also learned to use American Sign Language (ASL) to express our wants and needs during whole group discussions. Ask your child to show you some of the signs!

We are excited to have launched our very own class Instagram page, **@k222pss**! This is a wonderful way to encourage your child to talk about and reflect on what we are learning in school. To protect the privacy and safety of the students, we ask that you avoid sharing these photos with anyone outside of the group. If you have any questions about Instagram, please feel free to send us an email.

With love,
Robin, Julie, Millette, and Kaltoun



Guess what we are learning?

This month in reading...

We've been enjoying read-aloud times with books like Wow! School! by Robert Neubecker, Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss, and Should I Share My Ice Cream? by Mo Willem. We also love our independent reading times, when we look at books in our own "reading bubbles" at our tables.

As we learn to take good care of books, we've also been talking about important concepts for early readers:

- Where is the front cover of the book? the spine? the back cover?
- What does the author do for a book? and the illustrator?
- How do we browse books and choose one that we might enjoy?

Once we have read a book (we can do this by using words and/or pictures), we've been practicing how to reflect on what part was our favorite, why we liked that part, and then sharing these ideas with a partner.



This month in math...

We are exploring all different math materials, and trying out different ways that we might use them this year. Children already started to discover how to make patterns, compare shapes, describe attributes, sort, count, and many other mathematical activities! For each new material, we've been discussing:

- What can we do with [pattern blocks, or snap cubes, or geo blocks, etc.]?
- How can we be safe with them?

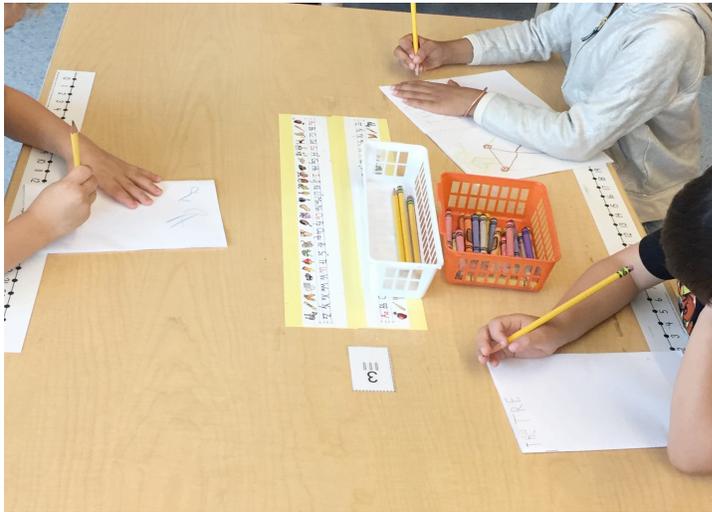
We are doing a lot of counting work in math too! Every day, we count how many days we've been in school. We show this number by adding to our growing number line, writing the numeral, and showing how many with fingers/ten frame dots. We also count to answer the question, "How many children are here today?" We've even been enjoying some great counting books, like Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews and Counting with Tiny Cat by Viviane Schwarz.



This month in writing...

Writers write about all kinds of topics! During writing times, we use pictures, words, and/or add labels to our pictures to express our ideas. We've been writing about the Star Name student of the day and what we will do together in kindergarten. We've also been inspired as authors to create our own books out of "Blank Books."

Nick, who is one of the occupational therapy teachers, taught us about shaking out our fingers and using a strong pencil grip when we write. This has helped us launch our Foundations program, which supports phonemic awareness and the development of early writing concepts.



Our Signs



know tissue bathroom water help



sit after yes no



take a break agree disagree stop

Next month we will...

- learn about the letters: n, m, i, u, c, o, a, g
- do more work with partners and talk about ways to negotiate conflicts with tools like, "Flower Power."
- read stories through pictures and tell stories through pictures and words
- continue counting and creating patterns