



Ms. Verner The Peanuts Press



Week 1

Congratulations – We made it through the first week! Thank you for all your support with making this a smooth transition for the students. Each year, it seems like we always have a few hiccups, so I appreciate your flexibility with the process. I am confident together we will make a great team for helping your kindergartner reach his/her full potential!

You will notice these newsletters coming out on a regular basis to help keep you up to date with what is happening in the classroom. I remember when my son was in kindergarten...every time I asked what he did at school he usually responded with a shoulder shrug along with I don't know or nothing. I was pretty confident he was holding out on me. If you have a child like my son, you will find these newsletters very helpful. ☺ I realize this first newsletter is rather long...I promise I won't make this a habit. This first one is to give you an overview of our programs and routines.

Calendar Time:

We have community circle to discuss our day, our agenda, and our thoughts and feelings. We started playing the name game to learn all our friends' names, letters and sounds. We clap the syllables in each name. We review the days of the week as well as the month.

Name Game: Each day, the selected special helper plays the game with the class. This game will come home in a zip lock bag. Your child should be able to explain to you how to play the game but, if not, I have included the directions. If your child struggles with any of the activities, please keep this game to practice daily with your kindergartner. Please practice name building, naming all the letters in his/her name (out of order), and saying all the letter sounds in his/her name.

Shared Reading:

We are working on learning songs, poems, chants, and stories. Please take a moment to ask your child to share some of these with you! We play word games and rhyming games to understand language in order to become great readers and writers.

Language Arts Time: Eventually, this will include learning stations, but at first we have a special visitor come to our class – APPLES! When Apples makes his debut on Monday, he will bring a letter to share with the class, a story about the letter, treasures that start with the letter, and all his craziness! Apples is a horse, and he is still very wild and crazy. We are trying to tame him and teach him all the letters and sounds, so he can become a great reader and writer. We are going to work hard to teach him the alphabet!

Letter and Sound Identification: Please help your child learn all the letters and sounds with Apples, so we can all help Apples be successful. It's a big job, but...together I know we can do it!

Writing Workshop: We will work through several units this year. The first unit is Oral Language – Building a Talking Community. The children will work on telling a

story containing characters, a setting, an action, and feelings such as I am playing with my dog in our backyard. It is fun!

Math: At this age, we spend a lot of time working on number sense. Your child will use manipulatives to build a strong foundation with understanding the meaning of numbers as well as being able to recognize the numeral. Your child will participate in “math talk” to help him/her to make connections and apply his/her learning to new situations. Your child will discover that being able to identify his/her strategy for solving the problem is just as important or more important than sharing the answer.

Socially/Emotionally: We are learning to be safe, how to make friends, and care about people. We also are working on keeping our hands to ourselves. We are learning that we are a family at school, and we are all here to take care of one another. We all make mistakes and part of being a family and a friend is to help one another when we make a mistake.

Recess: We have two recesses a day! Please dress your child in layers. This way your child can adjust to the temperature outside.

Breakfast and Lunch: Please remind your child each day if he/she is eating breakfast and if he/she is buying lunch. If at anytime, you decide your child will always be purchasing breakfast and/or lunch, please send me a note, and I can make sure he/she is preselected to eliminate confusion. If your child changes his/her mind daily due to the menu selection, please practice having him/her tell you what type of lunch he/she is having for the day. The practice will help when an adult asks your child at school.

Snack: Please remember to send in one, small snack with your child each day. Our snack time is usually 10 minutes, so a snack your child can eat in that amount of time is perfect.

Water Bottle: We do not have a water fountain in our classroom. If you would like to send a water bottle with your child, he/she can fill it up in our sink. Please do not send juice, pop, milk, etc in the bottle. These can cause quite a sticky mess. I appreciate your understanding. Also, please make sure to write your child’s name on his/her water bottle.

Classroom Bathroom: We have a bathroom in our classroom. Please let your child know he/she can use the bathroom at any time. Children do not have to ask permission. If they need to use the bathroom, they can just go! We have been over this rule, but it is nice when the children are able to make the connection between school and home.

Transportation Changes: Your child’s safety is our first priority at the MACC. Please do not be offended if an adult in the building is checking on transportation for your child or if he/she asks your child about who is picking him/her up. We are trying to make sure your child is safe at all times. Please remember you must send in a note or call the office (before 2:00 if possible) with any transportation changes.

Thank you and have a great weekend!