

Paula Hall – Letter # 3

Dear Parents,

Remember if you want a photo book you will need to send me \$5.00 by October 1st. These books contain around 25 pictures of the children doing various activities we do in class. Starting in October when I take group pictures I will take only enough pictures for those children who will be getting a photo book at the end of the year. I have already taken four pictures of each child to put into their book.

Animated Literacy – This week they met Actress Annie who is helping them with their “short a sound.” Also they met Max the Ox and Felix the Fox who are helping them with their “x sound.” They also learned how to draw mom and an ox this week. To go along with this program we have writing sheets that reinforce the words we have learned. The first quarter we practice writing these words using just the capital letters. This week they worked on the words: **pup and pop**. Next week you will receive your first set of word cards that go along with this program. **Please keep these and have your child practice these words each night.** Also next week you will receive your first homework calendar. Your child must do at least 10 of the activities before returning the calendar to me. This calendar does not need to be turned in until the end of the month.

Reading – In reading they were introduced to the letters from Aa to Zz. I am not concerned that they recognize all these letters yet. However, they should be able to name the letters that they work with in their animated literacy program. This week they met the high-frequency word “A”. The children have their second little book that they are bringing home today called *A Gift*. **Please have your child read this story to you and as many other people as they can over the weekend. Everyone who listens to them read their story needs to sign their name on the story. Your child needs to bring this story back to school on Tuesday to read to me.** This week we read two more poems which are helping us with our letter recognition. One poem was called *ABC Name Game* and the other poem was called *Alphabet Chant*. We also read a new book called **Peanut Butter**. The children really enjoyed this book. On Friday the children had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. They tasted grape, strawberry, and peach jelly. Next they had to tell us which jelly was their favorite. We then made a graph to tell about our favorite jelly. It has actions to do while I’m reading the book. Another thing we did was listen to the story **Cinderella** and used are **Real Life Book** to learn about maps. For a special activity we are watching the movie Cinderella.

Math – This week we still worked on our “Math Farm Book.” They are in your child’s book bag today. They are still working on writing their numbers correctly.

Center Time – This is something new we started this week and will continue to do it throughout the year. The children are divided up into three groups. Each day the group goes to a different learning center. I have five different centers set up in our classroom. This week at Good Luck Bear Center the children played a game using the alphabet and the words we have worked on so far. At Bedtime Bear Center the children drew a picture

on their August calendar page. Next at Birthday Bear Center the children practiced writing their names. Then at Cheer Bear Center the children used the white boards and markers the practice writing their numbers 0-10. Finally at Tender Heart Bear Center the children wrote a sentence about what they did this summer and drew a picture to go with their sentence. We have a special book that they will be writing their stories in throughout the year. It will be fun to see how much they have improved.

Every day we do “Opening.” During this time we talk about what month, day of the week, number of the day, and the year. We practice saying the days of the week and the months of the year. Right now we are learning a song called *The Days of the Week*. It is sung to the tune of the *Adam’s Family Song*. When we sing this song we have to snap our fingers, so you might find your children trying to learn how to snap their fingers. We are learning a song that teaches us the months of the year. We do this song to the *Macarena*. Also during opening we talk about the weather and tell what it looks like outside each day. We use this information to write an addition sentence on our white board. Example: 2 sunny days plus 1 cloudy day equals 3 days we have been in school. So we are already learning the concept of addition. Next we tell how many days we have been in Kindergarten and write it on the board. We then practice our counting by counting how many days we have been in school. When we go back to our seats we write that number in our notebooks. Each child writes the date in their own calendar. As part of our “Opening” we sing a song about shapes. We practice recognizing the circle, triangle, square, rectangle, oval, and diamond. As you can tell the children are learning many different things during our “Opening” time.

Today your child brought home a Scholastic Book Club order form. If you want to order books please send the form and money back to school by September 19th. Remember if you write a check make it out to Scholastic Books.

Please send back your child’s diary! Our first “Star Student” will be Ashlyn Bonnel.

Have a good weekend!

Mrs. Hall