

School Street School

September 30, 2011



October Calendar

6- Picture Day

7 - Early Dismissal K-12

10 - School Closed

31 - Halloween Parade 1:00



Student of the Month

Pre K - Arnav Dasoju

AM K- Isabel Zambarano

PM K - Allison Hale

1st - Jaden Visioli

2nd - Zoe Floys

3rd - Marylinn Lagos

Class Attendance Award for September Mrs. Viruet's PM Kindergarten

CLASSROOM NEWS

Dr. Chiodo - OT - As we move into the last week of September, students will be starting to address self-help and organizational skills. This will include following both written and verbal directions, sequencing, and managing materials. Fine motor and sensorimotor components will be mixed in to make the tasks both more engaging and fun!

Ms. Spinner - Can you believe fall has started? In math, the students practiced reading and plotting points on a coordinate graph. In addition, the class practiced rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. The class enjoyed playing rounding houses. Then, we practice rounding numbers to estimate sums and differences. Hurrah! The students started subtraction mad minutes. Our addition mad minutes continue to improve. In language arts, the class learned how to write "juicy leads". Ask your child to explain the 4 "juicy leads". The class continued to listen to How to Be Cool in Third Grade, write summaries, and make text connections. Our first reading log is due Monday, October 3. Hopefully, everyone reaches the goal! The October goal is 225 minutes.

Ms. Kovall - Can you believe fall has begun? This week in room 208 students have started breaking down the creative writing process. We have been working on different type of lead sentences. Some different types of lead sentences include a question, surprise, sound, or one word lead. In math we

continue reviewing basic math addition and subtraction facts and continuing to practice regrouping when subtracting. Students have also been learning coordinate geometry by plotting and looking for points on a grid. Ask your child about into the lobby and up the elevator.

Mrs. Kelly - This week in math we continue with mad minute fact practice in both addition and subtraction. We have started to review rounding to the nearest tenth and hundred. Every Wednesday is "word problem Wednesday" when the students will be quizzed on their problem solving abilities. We have been reviewing the "key words" to problem solving, as well as how to write a number sentence and label, label, label!

In science we will be working on a germ experiment and social studies we will continue maps and directions.

Grade 1 - The first grade classes have been very busy this week. We have completed our first Mad Math Minute assessment, as well as our first Monthly Writing Assessment. In addition to wrapping up our September assessments, we are still working on getting to know each other and the routines of our classrooms. The first grades are all beginning to explore literacy centers and our Guided Reading groups are forming. It has been a busy start to the new school year!

Ms. Cutugno - This past week, our class has been learning many new and exciting things! In Foundations, we have started to learn about bonus letters and glued sounds. In Math, we have completed Chapter 1, taken the Chapter test on Tuesday, and began Chapter 2: Number Patterns on Wednesday. We have been reading about Narrative Stories in Writing and are preparing to create our own next week. In Science, we continue to collect data on our plant experiment and we are finishing Chapter 1 on Thursday. We will be having our first Science test on Friday. Study guides were sent home Tuesday night. Please study!

Mrs. Wasserman - Speech - Speech lessons are underway and we are all working hard to improve our communication skills! Monthly themes are used in speech in order to help facilitate vocabulary and language skills. Activities are created to work on each student's specific speech skills in an engaging and interactive way. The themes for October are going to be 'Fall Fun' and 'Halloween'. Some of our fall activities include discussing the changes around us during fall and how it differs from the other seasons.

To promote speech and language skills at home try starting a conversation about things your children like to do in the fall. Some great times to have a conversation include during mealtimes, when driving in the car, or during commercials when watching television.

Mrs. Theiller - Pre K - This week we began play planning using our play planning wheel, colored clips and markers. The children made a plan and drew a picture to help them remember where and what they were going to do in the center that they chose to play in.

In keeping with our family theme, we read *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *Green Eggs and Ham*. We colored and cut out circles, rectangles and squares. We pasted the shapes onto paper to make vehicles that can go into our garage.

Mrs. Wieland - The children read a book on apples, as well as watched a video on apple farming; these were a springboard for group discussion and paragraph writing. Some of the skills practiced were: following directions, brainstorming, recalling information, organization and sequencing of information, writing complete sentences, and rereading written work aloud to check.

In math class, the children have been using the abacus, real life objects, number lines, and counting up and down to perform addition and subtraction as appropriate. Hand motions were added to the

doubles facts to better enable the children to prompt themselves as well as commit those facts to memory.

Mrs. Shellenhamer - During the past week the second graders in room 206 have been involved in a plant classification activity . The students contributed magazine pictures of many types of plants and worked in groups to sort the pictures into 4 categories: flowers & leafy plants, fruits & vegetables, trees & bushes, and grass, weeds, etc. The boys and girls then glued the sorted pictures onto labeled posters. The posters are BIG and effectively emphasize the fact that there are many different types of plants. These 2nd grade scientists used the skills of observation, communication, classification and cooperation in order to complete this project successfully.

Mrs. Baseil - Bridges - It's "A" Week in Bridges to Learning. Students generated an impressive list of "A" words including alphabet, Allison, acorn, author, art, Africa, Asia, America, arrow, anchor, airplane, and astronaut. In order to make a connection between literacy and science, students enjoyed watching a special NASA video entitled **Elmo in Space**. This week our library area is overflowing with space related texts. To see how we imagine ourselves as American astronauts, check out our bulletin board located directly outside room #105!

Mrs. Sabatini - Speech - We have finished reviewing all of our goals and are all working hard to improve our speech and language skills! The older students have started receiving speech homework which is a way to help improve communication and generalize skills. Another way to help practice speech skills is by practicing several of the activities that have been added to the links section of my edline page. These independent activities are great learning tools. We will soon begin our "Autumn" speech theme.

Mrs. Mentone - This week we are trying to become independent in our centers. The five centers were explained on Monday, and the students are trying to work through them by Friday. This will prepare the children for guided reading groups, which will start next week. The hardest part of this is budgeting their time. The work must be completed and done neatly and correctly. This is sometimes difficult for independent learners. The Take 10 will go home in the Friday Folder on 10/7. There will be a calendar and instructions. The parents will be responsible to make sure it is completed by the following Thursday.

Mrs. Hame - Spanish -

Kindergarten: This week the children practice their greetings and matched pictures with the correct Spanish and English words. They also learned the color red/rojo and practiced writing their letters by tracing the words. We also learned a new song: Buenos Dias song.

First: This week we sang our Buenos Dias song. The children learned to identify the meanings of greetings by looking at pictures and reading the body language. We listened to a Spanish greeting and circled the correct picture that showed the meaning. Next week the students will take a mini-quiz and do this on their own. Please encourage them to practice each day!

Second: Using pictures and basic vocabulary on greetings and courtesy words, the children practiced their Spanish reading skills. They took turns reading a Spanish dialogue and told the meanings of what was being read. They were excited to meet Jose and Rosita; my puppets friends! Next week we will continue to practice and review for our quiz on the week of Oct. 3rd. so please have them practice at home.

Third: Using basic vocabulary on greetings, leave takings, and courtesy words, the children practiced their Spanish reading skills. They took turns reading a Spanish dialogue and told the meanings of what was being read. Next week we will continue to practice and review for our quiz on the week of Oct. 3rd. so please have them practice at home.

Mrs. Flynn - This week in math, we have been working on telling time to the hour and the half-hour. Students made their own clocks and identified the hour and the minute hands. We then practiced matching digital to analog time, and vice versa. During Language Arts and Reading, students continue to read on their Individual Guided Reading Level. As a class, we have been using the Listen and Learn Phonemic Awareness Activity Program. This program focuses on individual and blended letter sounds.

Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K - Our focus this week continues to be our Family Theme. We began making props for our Garage and Kitchen Centers. During Make Believe Play Practice we created many different scenarios to facilitate self-regulated play within these centers. One of our favorite books during Story Lab was I Love You Through and Through by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak. We talked about the connection between the little boy in the story, and the daily interaction that the children have with their own families.

Mrs. Harbeson - Pre K - This week the Bridges to Learning preschoolers continued to play in the different rooms of the house. They enjoyed cooking, doing laundry, washing the babies, changing diapers, and painting the garage as some of the activities during Make Believe Play Centers. A new game was introduced: I Have, Who Has Names and the children had fun practicing their friends' names. During Remember and Replicate, the children worked on watching the teachers make shapes, remembering what the shapes were, and replicating them.

Million Minute Reading Marathon Update

As announced during Back to School Night, School Street School is embarking on an exciting year-long, school wide initiative called the **Million Minute Reading Marathon**. Collectively, as a school community, we are going to attempt to read for 1,000,000 minutes! Overall the objectives of this ambitious program are to increase parental support of at home reading and to increase at home read-aloud and independent reading time.

Parent letters describing the Million Minute Reading Marathon program were sent home on Monday. Attached to the parent letter was a parent/child reading questionnaire. If you haven't already done so, please return the questionnaire by this Friday, September, 30. We are hoping to get 100% participation in the survey. Also, in Friday folders you will find your child's first Million Minute Reading Marathon Log. The logs are due back next Friday, October 7 and every Friday after that through the end of May.

This Friday, during a Kick Off Assembly, School Street School students will be introduced to the Million Minute Reading Marathon. They will learn that in order to achieve a school wide goal of reading for 1,000,000 minutes, they each need to read for 100 minutes every week. Teachers will perform a skit of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. Coach Bongo and members of the Boonton High School Track Team will be on hand to emphasize the importance of setting goals and pacing oneself. At the end of the assembly, students will sign a class reading pledge which states, "**Slow and steady wins the race. Read each day; keep up the pace!**"

Mrs. Hughen - AT - Students met in small groups for Enrichment this week. The students colored their own Wild Things from the story Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak. Using the website www.buildyourself.com, sponsored by the New York Wildlife Conservation Society, the students learned about animals and their habitats while creating a Wild Thing unique to only them!

Mrs. Viruet - This week, Mrs. Viruet's kindergarten students studied the life cycle of the apple tree. We learned:

1. The seasons of the apple tree.
2. Apple blossoms need to be pollinated in order to make apples. Bees or the wind usually does this job.

3. How the apple grows on the apple tree.
4. Apple colors, shapes and taste varieties.
5. The legend of Johnny Appleseed.