



MGC K4 News

October 2017



October has arrived with excitement! The children are settling into the K4 routine. They are making friends and learning all the social skills of school. This month's themes are Fire Safety, Fall/Autumn, and Pumpkins. We will start our Reading Incentive Program this month. A note will be sent home soon to explain the details. It is quite simple, and the children enjoy participating. The K4 "I can" statement is *I can try my best!* Please read below to find out what exciting things we will be doing and learning this month as well as important dates and October homework. Please contact me if you have any questions. kunstmann@mgcparish.org or 414-442-7600 ext. 118.

Communication/Language Development & Early Literacy

This month our focus will be on the alphabet. We will name individual letters and learn that each letter is represented in two forms. We will work on upper and lower case letters simultaneously. We will read a variety of alphabet books. This month's alphabet focus will set the foundation for the letter/sound framework that will be introduced at the end of the month. We will continue to work on printing our name. Centers will focus on alphabet puzzles, letter sorts, games, and manipulatives. Our literature will focus on both fiction and non-fiction books. We will begin to predict what the story might be about by looking at the cover. We will make connections from the text to self and the world around us. The book, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* will be highlighted this month. We will write and illustrate a class book based on the story and use a puppet to describe what we see. Our class books will soon be ready to be sent home. Please read the book with your child and return it to school the next day so another child may have a turn.

Cognitive Development Mathematical Thinking

In math our number focus will be 0-5. This will include recognition and counting objects using 1 to 1 correspondence. We will sort, count and compare different color leaves. We will discuss how many of each color we have on and off of our tree. We will focus on the vocabulary of more/less and equal with objects and numerals 0-5 and with the *Who came to school?* chart. Math centers will include: sorting, counting, and sequencing by size.

Scientific Thinking

This month nature gives us so much to notice, compare and explore. Our science center will include items from nature to touch and observe. We will also use our senses and name differences and similarities while we compare apples, coconuts, and pumpkins. Last month we tasted apples. This month we will taste coconut and pumpkin seeds. We will investigate how they grow and open up each to see what's inside. We will work as a group to make predictions, problem solve, and record our findings.

Social/Emotional Development

This month we will continue to discuss appropriate ways to deal with our feelings and to name another person's feelings by their facial expression.

This will be the beginning of our empathy training and being responsible for our actions and how they may affect others. We will also focus on the importance of solving our problems with words. As part of our social teaching we will show respect by acknowledging others effort and work through noticing and clapping.

Health and Safety

The focus will be on covering our mouths with our elbows when we cough or sneeze and using tissue to clean our noses. Fire safety will be discussed all month. We will have a Fire Safety presentation at school by a Firefighter during the week of October 9.

Faith Development

This month we will learn the different forms of prayer: praise, blessing, thanksgiving, petition, and intercession. We will continue to work on the Sign of the Cross as we learn about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will end the month with the story of Creation.

Creativity and Fine Motor Development

The art center will include lots of painting with fall colors and a variety of tools. Journals will allow the children to express themselves through pictures and dictation. Kinetic sand will be part of the sensory experience this month along with exploring the inside of a pumpkin. We will begin letter books at the end of the month, and children will continue to work on using the tripod grasp and printing their name.

Important Dates

- **Oct. 11-12** No School
- **Oct. 17** Family Lunch
- **Oct. 18** Picture retake
- **Oct. 22** Walk for Catholic Schools
- **Oct. 26-27** No School
- **Oct. 25-26** P/T Conferences
- **Oct. 28** Halloween Party

October Homework

- Practice name printing.
(Please help your child remember that the first letter of their name is an upper case letter and all the other letters are lower case letters).
- Participate in the Reading Incentive Program.
- Look for, name, and talk about alphabet letters.
(Mom starts with the letter M.)
- Count objects 1-5. (Use the vocabulary, how many crackers on the napkin, chairs around the table, cars in line, people in your family, beds in the house, fingers, toes, etc.)
- Have your child tell you what they did at school. Use complete sentences.
- Discuss fire safety with your child.
- Make a plan and practice a fire drill in your home
- Take a nature walk and notice all the changes of autumn.
- Have your child teach you our before breakfast prayer.
- Help your child with the Sign of the Cross.
- Pray with your child.