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Kindergarten Times

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Dear Families,

Happy New Year! It's always a challenge to remember a New Year (2018) and calendar time should prove to be quite interesting. We are anxious to see how many children will be aware of the change. Knowing this class, they will have no trouble at all moving forward.

Now that the holidays are over, we will return to the regular classroom routine. Tuesday, January 2nd, will be our 78th day of school. You will be hearing about our 100th Day school celebration frequently in the coming month. We are beginning to plan many 100th Day activities for this special day and will keep you informed.

This week in reading, the big book, *What Color is Nature*, is an informational text. This book is about different environments and the variety of colors found in each. We will ask the question, "Why do authors write informational texts?"

We will also read, *A Zebra's World*, another informational text. This book is about the life of a baby zebra born on the African plain. After the zebra learns to walk, it begins to eat grass and drink from the water hole. When the water hole dries up, the zebra joins the herd and walks many miles to the river. The herds stay there until rain fills the water holes again. Baby zebra is now ready to take care of herself.

The word wall words are **you** and **what**. The letter of the week is **Ff**. We will identify words that begin with the letter f sound. The grammar lesson for this week is writing complete sentences, using a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and the correct punctuation at the end. We will continue to write story sentences, emphasizing the importance of adding details to our writing. The Decodable Readers are *What Can You See?* and *Fat Cat*. Again, continue to point to each word as it is read.

We will begin **written spelling tests** on Wednesday mornings at the writing center beginning **next** week. This first test will be a **practice test** to familiarize the children with the format we use. Also, this extra week will give the children a chance to get back into the school routine. Please begin to review the Word Wall Words at home to prepare for next week.

We are implementing a new reading homework assignment beginning today, January 2nd. We are

asking you to read with your child nightly. Log the name of the book, who read it, and the amount of time you read on the **Reading Log Calendar**. Please keep this log in your child's folder, so it will go home and come back to school daily. Partner reading is encouraged and we hope this will be a fun assignment for you and your child. You can read to your child, your child can read to you, or you can share the reading by reading a page to each other. We are hoping to see 15 minutes of reading Monday - Friday. Thank you for your support with this assignment.

The religion lesson this week is "We Learn About God with Our Friends." We will talk about our friends being special gifts from God.

Please remember hats, mittens or gloves, and warm coats. We do try to go outside if it is possible. The entire class is doing a terrific job putting on their winter gear and zipping their coats by themselves. We are very happy they are so independent, and they are very proud of themselves.

You are invited to our first free **Winter Cooking Class** on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00pm in the School Cafeteria. Chef Michael Makuch of Johnson & Wales will be teaching us about food safety and cleanliness. He will also show us how to make hummus boats, vegetable quesadillas, and strawberry banana smoothies. Returns are coming in fast and space is limited. Please return the registration form by January 5th to reserve your spot. Thank you.

The PTO has collected items for the Classroom Raffle Baskets. **Spruce Up For Spring** is the basket theme for our kindergarten class. A donation of one item (\$5.00 to \$10.00) is greatly appreciated. **Many of you have brought in your donation. If you have not, please bring it in this week.** Thank you in advance.

Mrs. Ferreira and I would like to thank you so much for your support. We truly appreciate all you do. Helping your child with the lessons of the week, volunteering your time, and donating items for the children to use are some of the instances for which we are very grateful. We realize how very lucky we are to have this parental support!!

Have a great week!

Mrs. Lucier and Mrs. Ferreira