

Dear Pre K Families,

With a month of school already passed, the 4's preschool class is busy at work! I have enjoyed getting to know each student's unique personalities and talents. With such positive attitudes all around, the students have come into school ready to learn! I am so proud of the new friendships, deep thinking, and openness to growth I have already witnessed. Needless to say, I love our 4's class and I look forward to the rest of the school year!

The Start of the School Year

Our Daily Rhythm

Sensory/Tactile Activity

Circle Time with Helper of the Day

Free Exploration with Stations

Snack

Outdoor Patio Play/Nature Walk

Circle Time/Story/Science

Craft

Songs/Stories



3 Star Days

Has your child mentioned that they had a "three star day" today? With such an active group of students, Teacher Evan and I created a behavior chart for the students to earn stars. Once they earn 20 stars, they get to choose a prize out of the treasure box.

Here is a look into 3, 2, 1 star days...

3 Star Day: I participated in all activities today with a positive attitude! I sat on my bottom during circle time using my looking eyes and listening ears. I kept my body to myself and used kind words with my friends.

2 Star Day: I participated in most activities today with a positive attitude. I sat on my bottom for most of the circle time using my looking eyes and listening ears. I needed a few reminders to keep my body to myself and use kinds words with my friends.

1 Star Day: I did not feel like participating in activities today. I will next time! I did not sit on my bottom using my looking eyes and listening ears. I will next

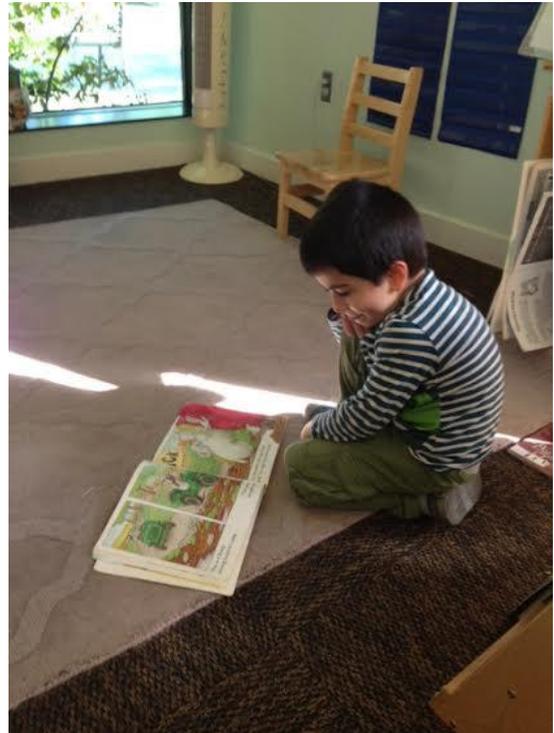
time! I needed multiple reminders to keep my body to myself and use kind words with my friends. I will do better next time. 😊

Helper of the Day

Has your child told you they were the special helper of the day? Every day we have a new student helper who is in charge of calendar, weather, days of the week, and the sand timer. There are some natural teachers in our class ready to lead the group!

Sharing Day

At the end of October, students will begin "Sharing Day." Be on the lookout for a green slip of paper telling you it is your child's sharing day coming up. Sharing day is a chance for students to bring something special from home to talk about with the class. Our friends often learn that they have something in common with another student based on what they bring.



What Are We Learning About?

The Hungry Letter Monster

Our second week of school we received a top-secret letter from the Hungry Letter Monster! We opened the envelope to find a note addressed to our class and the letter A! Every week now the sneaky letter monster leaves us a note and a new letter of the week to learn about. We had a class discussion about where the Hungry Letter Monster lives. Some of us think he comes out of the bushes, while others are convinced he lives in a dark cave. With our friendly monster comes a week of practicing writing, sounding out, and brainstorming words with the new letter.



The Natural World in the Classroom

From leaf walks, to patio play, to bringing nature into the classroom, sprout students take pleasure in connecting with the great outdoors! In September and October we discovered the colors, feelings, and tastes

of fall, all about our friends the bees, wiggly worms in the soil, and how to compost our food scraps. We were amazed to learn that worms have 5 hearts! Students are even doing their first science experiment learning about compost and decomposing materials in soil! We discussed and recorded whether we thought a banana, newspaper, or plastic yogurt lid will decompose the fastest.

Making New Friends

Starting a new school year can be scary; New faces, new environment, and a new routine! Our students have taken all the new experiences in stride while making new friends. As a class we are working on problem solving skills, sharing, and using our words instead of our bodies when we have “big feelings.”

One of Our Favorite Songs

Tiny Turtle

“I had a tiny turtle.

His name was Tiny Tim.

I put him in the bathtub, to see if he could swim!

He drank up all the water.

He ate up all the soap.

And when I put him in his bed,
he had bubbles in his throat! POP!”

What Comes Next?

Continuing to prepare for kindergarten and becoming familiar with life as a student, our sprouts will move into the adventures of autumn and build Recycle City! We will discuss what and whom we are thankful for, continue to explore fall with our five senses, and learn about how we can reduce, reuse, and recycle our way into fun. We will even get a special visit from Wasteful Wally who hasn't quite figured out how to take care of the Earth. We would love for students to bring in cereal boxes for our Recycle City project (more information to follow!)

As always, let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments! You can email me at kate.bernard@portlandoregon.gov.

Take care,

Teacher Kate

