

WHAT'S "WHISTLING" IN THE CARDINAL CLASS FOR SEPTEMBER



Important Information for Parents:

Parents, each month we will post a "*Tweet*" and a class calendar on our website. It is important to read this each month. It will help you reinforce at home the social and academic skills we are introducing. Also, it is fun to try and visualize what your child is doing in class!

Monthly Themes for September

- Welcome to the Cardinal Class
 - Getting to Know You
- Science Time: "Can Fruit Float? Can People Eat Leaves?" and "Follow the Bouncing Ball"
- Journal Letters Ff and Ee
 - Numbers 1 & 2
- Handwriting Time: "Mat Man"





Getting to Know You Games:

Let's Make a Friendship Spider Web

The children will make a big circle. The teacher will hold the end of a big ball of yarn and roll it across the room to a child. The child who "catches" the ball of yarn will say "Hi, my name ____." All the children will say "Hi ____." That child will roll the ball of yarn to another child until everyone has had a turn. When everyone has had a turn the children will see the Friendship Web they've created.

Jack Be Nimble

The children will each get a turn jumping over the candlestick as the class recites "____ be nimble, ____ be quick, ____ jumped over the candlestick!" They will insert the name of each child who is jumping.



September Science Experiments

During science time the children will turn into "Scientists"! These are the steps that the children will follow for each experiment:

1. The teacher states the Problem/Hypothesis. She holds up the Question Board that is a board that has been separated into two columns with the question at the top. On the top of the left side column, the word "YES" will be written, and on the top right side "NO". Week 2 of September the question is "Can fruit float/Can people eat leaves?"
2. Our scientists make predictions and form a **HYPOTHESIS**. If they think the answer to the question is "Yes" they will clip their personalized clothespin on the left side and if they think the answer is "No" they will clip their clothespin to the right side. The class will tally the votes and determine which side got the **MOST** votes, and which side got the **LEAST**. So many skills are reinforced during this step: taking a risk and making a prediction, understanding what a question is and then responding to it, the

development of fine motor skills clipping and placing the clothespin, and math skills of counting and determining the MOST and the LEAST.

3. Now the fun part- doing the experiment! The children will put different fruit in a large bowl to see what will float and sink. Apples, bananas, lemons, oranges, pears, and zucchinis will **float**, while avocados, potatoes, and mangos will **sink**.

4. When everyone has done the experiment, the children gather around the teacher and she will state the question again. Now the children will have their findings and answer the question with the facts.



September Reading Readiness Activities

Our goal for our Cardinal classes is that by the end of the school year the children will recognize and print the 26 letters of the alphabet both in upper and lowercase, identify initial consonant sounds, rhyme, and begin to recognize simple sight words. We do this by:

1. Using a program entitled *Alphabet Stories*. Every letter of the alphabet is introduced with a puppet and an 8 part adventure story. As the children listen to the puppet's adventure, they will see the letter and hear the letter sound carefully interwoven throughout the story. The puppets are not introduced in alphabetical order, they are introduced from the easier initial sounds to more difficult sounds. In September, the children will meet Ff for Friendly Frog and Ee for Enor the Elephant.
2. Using a program entitled *Alphabet Rhymes*. This is a fun activity because the children are "reading" a simple rhyme. With each letter the children will put together an Alphabet Rhyme book. These simple rhymes reinforce the letter of the week, sight words: "is, for, on, my" and a picture clue for the last word.

3. Using a program entitled *Sounds Abound*. This program will begin in January and the program teaches rhyming through games.
4. Making a Picture Dictionary: The children will make pictures of things that start with the letter of the week. The teacher will save these pictures up until January in a designated binder. In January the teacher will send home the binder and then weekly the Pictionary pages for you to add in.
5. The teachers continually review the letter and letter sounds through games, poems, handwriting and songs.

**We are looking forward to a wonderful year with you
and your children!!**

