**Young 5s and Kindergarten**  **September 11, 2017**

**What we’re learning!**

**Phonics**

**Whole class**: Last week, we began learning about the letter A and its sounds. Students really enjoyed singing A songs and sorting pictures that began with an /a/ sound or not. This week, we’ll focus on the letter B and sort pictures based on if they begin with the /b/ sound or not.

**Kindergarten**: Students will sort upper and lowercase letters, recognize and write their names, and put class names in alphabetical order.

**Y5:** Students will practice identifying their letters and letter sounds.

**Reading:** We’re practicing identifying the parts of book and making personal connections to fiction stories.

**Handwriting**

 We’re practicing how to hold a pencil and a crayon to strengthen our grip. Last week, we practiced tracing and writing ‘Aa.’ This week, we’ll practice tracing and writing ‘Bb’ as well as our names.

**Math**

**Whole class:** The class really enjoyed playing math games last week in which they had to match numbers to quantities. We also made a graph about how we felt on the first day of school.

**Kindergarten:** Students will match items of the same length, identify pattern blocks, play counting games, and identify numbers in our school.

**Y5:** Students will sort big and small items, explore pattern blocks, play counting games, and go on a ‘number’ walk.

**Science:** We will learn what it means to be a scientist and how to make observations. Kindergarten and Y5 students will begin their science units soon!

**Social Studies:** We’re learning how to build community within our classroom. The class did an excellent job listing ways we can be respectful in and outside of the classroom. This week, we’ll begin to learn how to handle bullying.

**\***I can’t wait to begin another great week with our students! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me: **vansteel@aaps.k12.mi.us.**

**Tips/Strategies**

\*I highly recommend that your child spends at least 10-15 minutes a night reading with you. Ask your child to identify letters and words on each page. Your child can listen to you read, take turns reading with you, or reading to you. This will help them become a strong reader.

\*I also suggest that you practice counting 1-20 with your child and asking them to identify letters and numbers in the world around them.

**Sight words to review:**

*Coming soon!*

**Important Dates**

* **September 12** is **Curriculum Night**! The **Y5/K** class session is **from 7:45-8:15pm**.
* The **Principal’s Session with Specials Teachers/PTO** is from **7:05-7:40pm**.
* **Picture Day** and **Count Day** is **October 4.**

Owl Aboard!

Ms. Van’s Newsletter