

What a great first week of Kindergarten we have had! It's hard to believe that just one week ago your young ones began kindergarten, some a little fearful or shy but all eager to learn and make new friends. We are already becoming a family and having lots of fun learning together.

We've found a few ways to make our days go more smoothly. First... when your children arrive in the morning, they should go directly to the gym with their backpacks and jackets. They will then come to the classroom together where they will put their red folders on a table then take their backpacks to their lockers. They will have a short exercise to do at the tables while we get lunch and milk requests for the day. We assume all children are having milk with the afternoon snack (Tuesday through Friday) and with lunch brought from home. If not, please let me know so we don't order for them.

Please remember that our school is a "no peanut" zone and do not send any lunch or snack items with peanuts or peanut butter. We do have a peanut allergy in our class. Thanks!

Enclosed are this month's book orders. They are due by next Friday September 4. Please make one check to BHCS, NOT to Scholastic. If you ever want the books to be a surprise, just note that on the order.

There has been some confusion about the gym shoes for PE class on Tuesday and Thursday. The children do not need separate gym shoes but they do need to wear gym shoes on gym days. I prefer they are worn to school and not brought separately if they can't put them on themselves. "Dress" shoes are not safe for running and other gym games.

Our first day of school brought lots of fun as we read "The Kissing Hand" and followed Chester the raccoon's clues throughout our school. We finally found a treat in our room, including cookie dough so we could bake "kissing hand" cookies for our snack. (If your child is ever a little sad in leaving you, a kissing hand can help!)

This week our theme has been "Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom" where we listened to the story read and on CD, moved to the chant, made coconut trees with the letters of our names climbing up the trees, and a letter practice game. Friday we'll make a counting book, taste coconut and graph if we like it or not, and make coconut trees for snack.

We've also begun our reading, math, and social studies series as well as "specials," daily helper jobs, and story time. Next week we'll begin Success Lab, time in the computer lab daily.

Perhaps the highlight for me each day has been our religion time first thing in the morning. The children are so eager to learn and sing about God. We are learning the sign language to "Jesus Loves Me" and have learned to sign the Bible verse from Joshua 1:9 (God is with you wherever you go.) Ask them to say it to you and with a beginning prompt, I'll bet they can do it as well at home as at school.

Thanks for checking the red folders daily and returning them each day. We're all off to a GREAT year!

Norma Morrison
August 27, 2009