



Dear Pollock Parents,

Are we really at the end of the school year? We can't believe it and we are not sure we're ready. We have had an amazing April and May, but there's still so much we want to do.

**Music** - The children have loved having Julie Troum in the classroom for music. They still ask for her. A favorite song was the rock and roll alphabet song. We wish you could have seen your children sing this song. They were really rocking! They have also loved the musical instruments that our classroom gained with the annual fund. We have tapped rhythm sticks, shook bells and banged the drum to many different beats.

A couple of favorites: Ms. Hinkle's Mosquito song and the story of The Lion and the Mouse, (told with the drum and shakers)

**Reading** - The book fair was an exciting time for the children and we are so appreciative of all of the books that were donated. Every time we read a book, the children ask..."who's it from"....they were all very thankful.

Our readers in the classroom have been moving through the phonetic and non phonetic books at a pace that seems astounding. Kindergartners are taking turns reading to the classroom at the end of the day line time. They really command attention and will only read if everyone is quiet. They can be quite authoritative.

**Math** - A new addition halfway through the year was a brand new bead cabinet. This has many of the children skip counting and squaring...we encourage you to count by 2's, 5's and 10's with them.

In addition to skip counting, our kindergartners are adding in the thousands using an abacus.

**Science and Culture** - The children have been busy researching many different animals. They are classifying animals, learning what they eat, where they live and how big they are. This led to a great opportunity for measuring. Did you know that the King Cobra can be 18 ft. long! The Anaconda can be 30ft. long and an African lion 9ft. long? While this is impressive to the children they also really want to know if these animals can eat them! This led to a great discussion on prey and predators.

While we don't really wish natural disasters on others, the events of this year have given us some great learning opportunities. Not only are the children interested in how earthquakes and volcanoes happen but how the people of Haiti, Chile and Iceland are affected. By the way, did you know that volcanoes can throw off ice chunks?

Lastly, I would like to say that sadly our kindergarten class this year did not get to participate in the Read to Feed program through Heiffer International. In late January we tried to order our kit and received information stating that at that time Heiffer was not accepting any applications for the program. While we diligently checked back for a time they were accepting applications, it wasn't until the end of March and we are currently still waiting for our materials.

## **Kindergarten Focus**

Kindergarten pod has come to an end. We erupted the volcano, which, as always was a hit. 😊 We finished off the math pod learning about money and have also had a few social studies Pods where we have learned about America and our flag. For Language Pod we have worked on punctuation and capital letters. They have also been introduced to the grammar symbols they will be using in their elementary classes.

We have loved watching our Kindergarteners grow and learn over the years. This is a bitter sweet time for us as we prepare to say goodbye. Although we will miss them, we know they are ready for bigger and better things.

By the end of May all of our kindergarteners will have visited the first grade. They are excited to move on. Don't worry parents, we will make sure the transition is smooth and you will have happy FIRST graders! 😊

We are wishing you all a wonderful summer and hope to see many of you in the summer camp program.

Thank you for a wonderful year.

With Friendship,

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