



# Kindergarten Cuties

## Ms. Mastropasqua, Ms. Walsh, Ms. Kambouris and Ms. Restrepo



### Parent Newsletter – April 2017

#### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

##### **Reading**

We will read fiction books about the weather. The books we will read are **Come On Rain** by Karen Hesse, **A Snowy Day** and **Peter’s Chair** by Ezra Jack Keats, and **Curious George Rain or Shine** by H. A. Rey. We will be looking at beginning, middle and end of the stories, problem and solutions and character reaction and feelings.

We will look at the big idea of changes for characters we read about and changes for ourselves.

Readers will identify and compare characters, settings and major events in stories.

Learners will explore content to identify reactions and make close observations of change.

##### **Writing**

We will continue to use pictures and words in a sequence to tell a story. We will continue to describe events, tell the order in which they happened and tell a character’s reaction. We will continue to write sentences to add to our writing. We will use a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and a period at the end. Please encourage your children to use sight words in their sentences and the mini word wall sent home as a tool for writing.

Students should make sure their sentence matches what the picture portrays. When doing writing homework with your child, encourage them to stretch their words and write the sounds they hear. Continue labeling their pictures. Practice reading and writing sight words with your child. These words are important tools for the beginning reader.

##### **Math**

We will be working on Chapter 8 in the beginning of the month. In this chapter, will be representing, counting and writing the numbers 20 and beyond. We will use ten frames to model 20 and the hundred chart to count beyond. Children will be looking for and using patterns on the hundred chart as a tool to help them count higher order numbers. We will then begin working on Chapter 9. In this chapter we will be identifying and describing two-dimensional shapes. If your child continues to have trouble writing numbers, please have them practice writing them at home. You can use a yellow marker to write the numbers and have your child trace over the yellow with a pencil. Then your child can try writing the number on his or her own.



#### What’s New in Music and Art?

Ms. LaMorte: Students will be working on solo/pitch matching work, coins, studying songs for upcoming Fashion and Graduation, and self-evaluation.

Ms. Eliot: As the weather gets warmer, we’ll be moving outdoors with our songs, exercises, and activities! Please be sure your child is wearing comfortable footwear that they can run in on their Movement day!

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

4/6 – Rain Date for Spring Egg Fest

4/7 – Science with Dr. Ortiz

4/7 – Elementary Spirit Week t-shirt forms due

4/10-4/18 – Spring Recess – No School

4/25 – Parents as Partners Workshop “Preparing for First Grade Writing”, 2:30 pm

4/26 – PAWS Awards, 6:30pm

4/27 – PTA General Membership Meeting

#### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Be sure to check your child’s homework folder every night and take out papers and notices on the keep home side.
- We do allow the children to have a healthy snack in the afternoon. Pretzels or a piece of fruit are good options. You can also send in a juice box. Please try to keep the snack peanut free.



##### PTA News

We are looking for parents to run for positions on the 2017/18 PTA board and also for the SLT (school leadership team). Please let us know if you are interested. New people are welcome and appreciated.

Rock em not Sock em event has been postponed.

Our April PTA meeting is Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Save the date:

We are having a Mother Son bowling event May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm at Showplace Bowling. Please look for an updated flyer in your children's folders.

The Kindergarten Fashion Show is Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Spring Fair will be held Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help as always. Contact the PTA if you are interested in helping us.

#### A Note From Ms. Caccese



Dear Families,

Spring is finally here and we are heading into the last third of our school year. Our children have grown in so many ways and they continue to make us proud each day. Our upper elementary students had a chance to “SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW” on the New York State ELA exams last month and our younger students continue to practice becoming better readers, writers and math problem solvers...everyone keep up the amazing work!

We will continue to host opportunities to engage with our parents and work together to ensure the success of our children. We encourage you to volunteer your time at The Petrides School during upcoming special events!

Sending happy wishes for the upcoming Spring Recess...enjoy the ones you love!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Caccese



As part of our ongoing efforts to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing of all students we are sending this important information about Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to all parents this month.

Many parents are aware that ADHD is a common childhood mental health condition, and most parents recognize the importance of staying focused at home and at school. Parents should also understand that it is perfectly normal for children to show inattention, distractibility, impulsivity or hyperactivity at times, this is part of every child's healthy development. However, if you are concerned that these behaviors are impacting your child's performance at school or creating problems at home you should consider seeking professional help. Recent surveys show that approximately 11% of children have been diagnosed with ADHD and the average age of diagnosis is 7 years of age. Studies have also found that students with ADHD had persistent difficulties that resulted in lower average grades, more failed grades, more disciplinary problems, increased dropout rates, and a lower rate of college undergraduate completion. Several approaches have been shown to be effective for treating ADHD including behavior therapy and medication. Recent advancements in behavior therapy mean that many children, especially young children, can make significant improvements without medication.

Please see below for common signs and symptoms that can help you identify if your child is experiencing ADHD as well links to some additional online resources. As always parents are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult in the school with any concerns about their child's mental health. We are all here to help and we can connect you with local treatment providers when needed.

Common signs and symptoms of ADHD:

- Is easily distracted
- Doesn't seem to be listening when spoken to directly
- Has difficulty following instructions
- Has trouble organizing
- Avoids or dislikes sustained effort
- Is forgetful, always losing things
- Fidgeting or squirming, trouble staying in one place or waiting
- Trouble playing quietly
- Extreme impatience
- Always seems to be "on the go" or "driven by a motor"
- Excessive talking or interrupting, blurting out answers

Additional online resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control ADHD website:](#) Includes basic information about ADHD such as common symptoms, statistics and treatment recommendations
- [Mayo Clinic ADHD Health Information page:](#) Patient friendly information about ADHD including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and Self-management
- [NYC Well:](#) Local resource where you can chat with a specialist and get a referral to a local specialist who can provide treatment