

# Kindergarten Cuties

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

Parent Newsletter – March 2017



## WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

### Reading

We will continue reading fiction books about animals and their homes. The next two books are, **Come Along Daisy!** by Jane Simmons and **Are You My Mother?** by P.D. Eastman. We will be looking at beginning, middle and end of the stories, problem and solutions, and character reaction and feelings.

We will continue to look at the big idea of homes and environment. Readers will understand that there is a relationship between illustrations and words. Learners will understand that home is an important concept to all living species.

### 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. Students should make sure their sentences match 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 7. We will be representing, counting and writing the numbers 11 to 19. Our young learners will practice the numbers 11 to 19, expressing each number as the sum of 10 and more, and record the number words. We will be placing counters in two ten frames to show a number as 10 and some more to model these two digit numbers. We will look at place value, tens and ones, and the position of a digit representing its value. 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 and beat competency work, identifying/applying proper use of rhythm instruments, and learning 2 dances.

**Ms. Eliot:** Students will identify and demonstrate movement elements and skills (such as bend, twist, slide, skip, hop) with music and dance.

## \*IMPORTANT DATES

3/8 – Report Cards Distributed

3/8 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 5-8pm

3/9 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:20-2:20pm – Half day of school for students

3/10 – PTA Annual Basket Auction – You will have to be in it to win it!

3/15 – PTA Meeting, 7pm

3/16 – Jazz Night

3/17 – Happy St. Patrick's Day – Wear Green!

3/24 & 3/25 – Spring musical, "When in Rome"

3/31 – Spring-Fest hosted by the Ng Family

## 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

Our Annual Night of Chances will be held on Friday, 3/10.

Raffle ticket bundles are now on sale. We are still collecting \$5 donations from Petrides families to help purchase baskets.

Save the date for our Rock em Sock em fundraiser on 3/31

## A Note From Ms. Caccese

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are already in March...time flies when you're having fun at Petrides and we sure have been having a lot of it!! 100th day activities brought lots of joy to lots of classrooms, we had a movie day experience right in our own auditorium and many thanks to the families who participated in the PTA's Thank Heaven for Little Girls Dance! These are the things that make Petrides such a special place.

Something else that should be highlighted are the many awesome events that took place during Respect For All Week here at Petrides. Students took an anti-bullying pledge, wrote out hearts of encouragement to classmates and spread happiness all around the building with our Share a Smile Campaign. We encourage our kiddies to spread the love all over the world that starts here at Petrides...let us all take time to share a smile in our communities, in our homes and in our

Warm Wishes,  
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