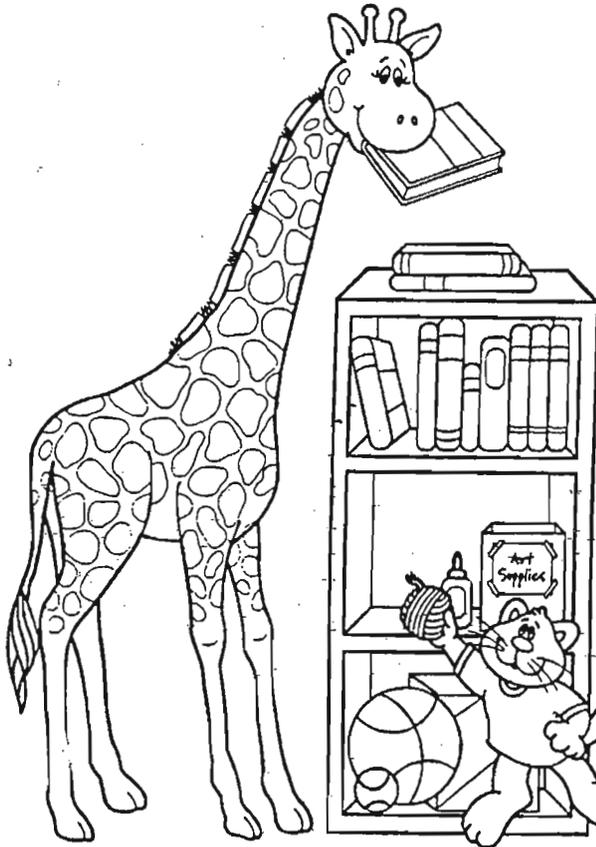
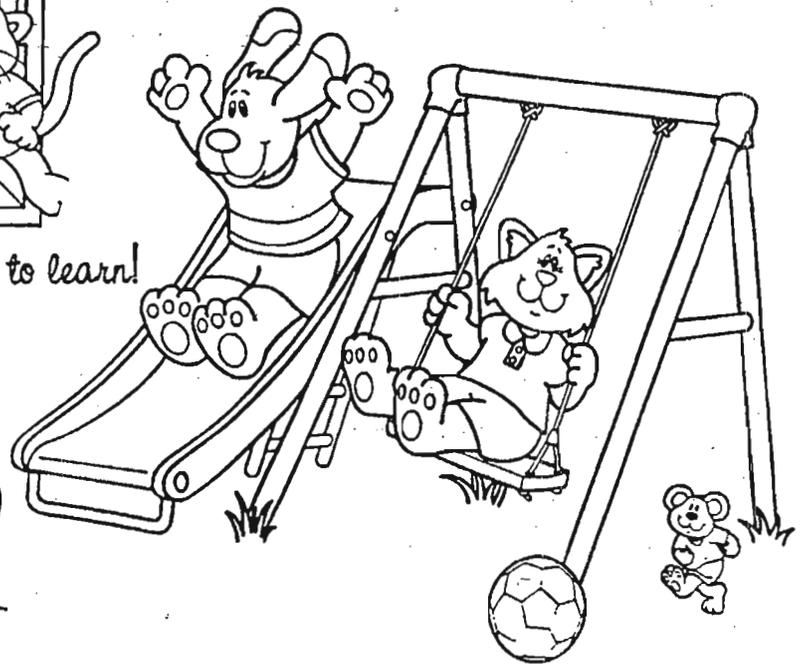
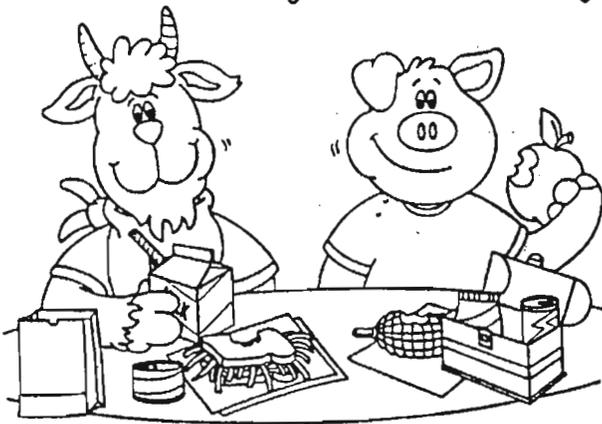


What Do We Do In Young Fives?

A day, week, month in the life of a Y5!



Learning to love and loving to learn!



Bottom Line:

We have a terrific time learning about ourselves
and the world around us!

"We Tell
It Like
It Is."

Our Class News

Special
Edition

VOLUME #

PRICELESS

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

...to our incoming Young Fives and their families!

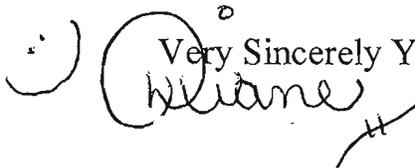
Y 5's is a wonderful place to begin a great foundation that will help your child meet their potential academically, as well as help them grow socially, emotionally, and physically strong. I truly believe that children who are happy and feel good about themselves, learn so much better; thus your child will experience:

- ❖ An environment that is encouraging, loving and nurturing--filled with smiles, praise, attention and hugs.
- ❖ An extremely creative, fun and safe room environment, that offers children many choices; a very special "home-away-from-home".
- ❖ One-on-one close contact and involvement.
- ❖ Specific, firm and clear expectations with respect, structure, consistency and follow-through.
- ❖ An interesting, exciting and fun curriculum with many hands-on activities!
- ❖ Lots of music, movement, art and exploration.
- ❖ Awareness that children's self-esteem, and feeling good about themselves is most important.

We know that it is when there is truly a cooperative partnership between the home and the school, that the child's educational potential is most successful. I look forward to working with you as a team, in establishing and maintaining a good school-home relationship.

I know you are very interested in what your child is learning and doing in school! Hopefully this handbook will help. I keep families up-dated via a weekly newsletter as well; this goes home every week in your child's Thursday/Friday Folder. Please feel free to contact me at school or at home with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

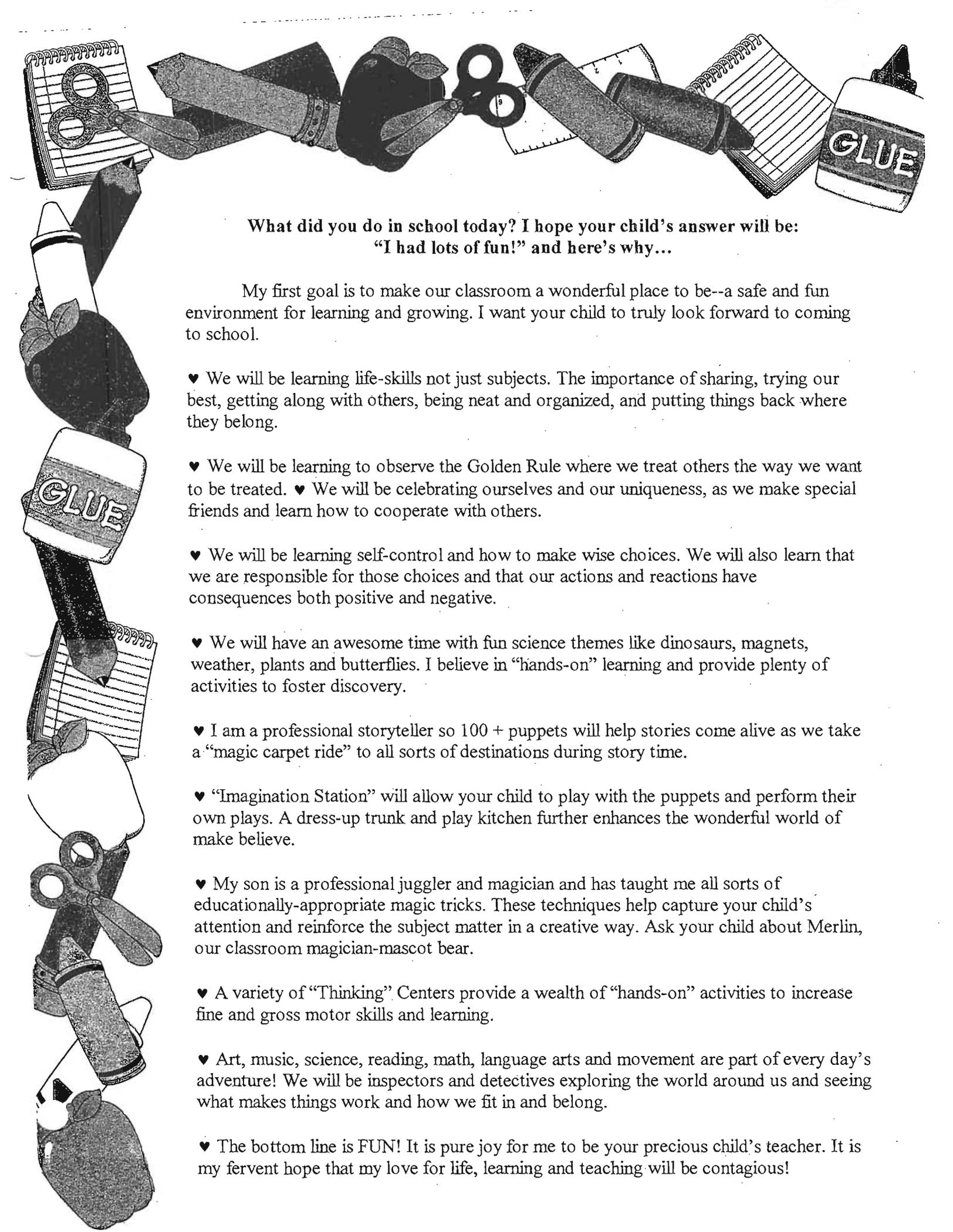
Very Sincerely Yours,



What's the Scoop? Classroom Extra!

Studies in Writing

Reach for the Sky



**What did you do in school today? I hope your child's answer will be:
"I had lots of fun!" and here's why...**

My first goal is to make our classroom a wonderful place to be--a safe and fun environment for learning and growing. I want your child to truly look forward to coming to school.

- ♥ We will be learning life-skills not just subjects. The importance of sharing, trying our best, getting along with others, being neat and organized, and putting things back where they belong.
- ♥ We will be learning to observe the Golden Rule where we treat others the way we want to be treated. ♥ We will be celebrating ourselves and our uniqueness, as we make special friends and learn how to cooperate with others.
- ♥ We will be learning self-control and how to make wise choices. We will also learn that we are responsible for those choices and that our actions and reactions have consequences both positive and negative.
- ♥ We will have an awesome time with fun science themes like dinosaurs, magnets, weather, plants and butterflies. I believe in "hands-on" learning and provide plenty of activities to foster discovery.
- ♥ I am a professional storyteller so 100 + puppets will help stories come alive as we take a "magic carpet ride" to all sorts of destinations during story time.
- ♥ "Imagination Station" will allow your child to play with the puppets and perform their own plays. A dress-up trunk and play kitchen further enhances the wonderful world of make believe.
- ♥ My son is a professional juggler and magician and has taught me all sorts of educationally-appropriate magic tricks. These techniques help capture your child's attention and reinforce the subject matter in a creative way. Ask your child about Merlin, our classroom magician-mascot bear.
- ♥ A variety of "Thinking" Centers provide a wealth of "hands-on" activities to increase fine and gross motor skills and learning.
- ♥ Art, music, science, reading, math, language arts and movement are part of every day's adventure! We will be inspectors and detectives exploring the world around us and seeing what makes things work and how we fit in and belong.
- ♥ The bottom line is FUN! It is pure joy for me to be your precious child's teacher. It is my fervent hope that my love for life, learning and teaching will be contagious!

Overview of Young Fives Curriculum

Each month has Themed Units. Every unit incorporates the following:

- ❖ **Math:** shapes, counting, patterning, sorting, measuring, identification of order [Ordinal numbers: 1st, 2nd, last] more than/less than, size relationships [small, medium, large], simple graphing, comparing/contrasting.
- ❖ **Hands-on Science:** With: experiments, data collection, & observation.
- ❖ **Health/hygiene:** Familiarity with our body and how to take care of it.
- ❖ **Art:** (We use a huge variety of mediums!) Great for developing fine motor skills, muscle strength and building self-esteem.
- ❖ **Reading:** Sequencing, verbal recall, getting used to reading from left to right, familiarity with letters, words and sentences, plus puppets and children's theatre. I use **interactive** storytelling as an introduction and reinforcement for our units.
- ❖ **Language Arts:** Name/letter recognition-identification, writing name, proper finger grip, top-down motion, increased finger dexterity and coordination.
- ❖ **Music/movement:** Gross & fine motor skills, finger-play, dancing, exercise, puppetry, balancing, skipping, hopping, jumping, rhythm, singing, & performance.
- ❖ **Life Skills:** Oral sharing, following directions, showing self-control, getting along, taking responsibility, following rules and regulations, sharing, good sportsmanship, the importance of telling the truth and observing the Golden Rule; building independence: lacing, tying, stringing, zipping, snapping, & buttoning.
- ❖ **Geography:** Seasonal & multicultural celebrations. USA, Mexico, China, Ireland, and the Arctic.
- ❖ **Cognitive Skills:** Calendar, imagination skill building, puzzles; Identification of: colors, opposites, size relationships, similarities & differences.
- ❖ Daily **Spanish:** (colors, counting to 10, hello/goodbye, thank you/you're welcome, Happy birthday, I love you, My name is ___)
- ❖ **Some sign language.** Culminating in a "Singing and Signing Through the Seasons" Pageant in June.

"We are all capable of climbing so much higher than we usually permit ourselves to suppose."



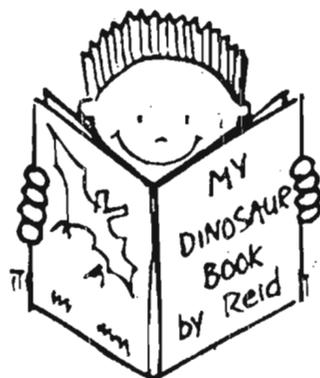
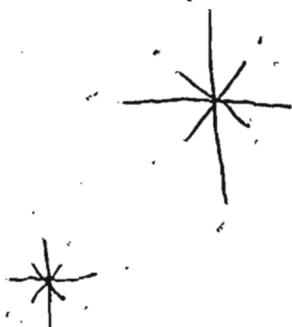
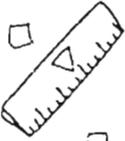
Specific Goals:

- ❖ To make learning relevant, interesting and fun--providing a firm foundation on which to grow.
- ❖ Creating a safe, creative, fun home-away-from-home, where children will want to come, and truly enjoy learning.
- ❖ Making new friends, getting along, celebrating our unique selves.
- ❖ Learning appropriate life & social skills.
(*A great start makes a successful finish!*)
- ❖ Building confidence and self-esteem.

Themed Activities For Each Month:

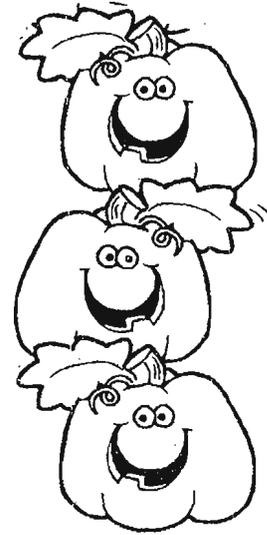
August / September:

- Getting to know you, Making friends.
- Rules & Routines
- Developing a positive *Can-Do!* attitude with *The Little Engine That Could* train-theme. I know I can! I know I can!
- Dinosaurs/fossils/extinction/endangered species
- Building Self-Esteem. I am special! I am me. I am part of a family.
- Apples
- Where I live: Country/State/City
- Proud to be an American
- Leaves, autumn/fall
- Things that grow, parts of a plant, 3 things a plant needs to grow.
- Numbers 0-10 (Becoming aware of bigger numbers by counting the days to the 100th day of school celebration.)
- Colors
- Shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- Recognizing similarities and differences, ABAB patterns
- Learning to hold a pencil
- Learning to write their name
- Learning how to hold a scissors and cut
- Learning how to get along with others
 - Obeying rules, Following the "Golden Rule".
 - Taking responsibility.
 - Learning to share.
 - Learning to show self-control / patience and that actions have consequences.



October:

- Spiders
- Leaves changing color
- Pumpkins
- Bones/skeletal system/my body and its parts
- Will it SINK or FLOAT? Science experiments
- Fire Prevention Month
- 911, phone number, address
- Fire, Home and Halloween **Safety**
- Strangers
- Sweetest Day/the importance of kindness
- Christopher Columbus, Ocean, Globe, (Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria)
- Halloween Activities/making a parody book
- Fieldtrip: Apple Orchard/Pumpkin Farm Market.



November:

- Manners, blessings, being thankful
- Caring/Mel Trotter Ministries
- Scarecrows
- Turkeys
-
- Popcorn
- Owls/nocturnal animals
-
- Multicultural: The world around us
- Native Americans
- Pilgrims/Mayflower
- Geography: Past/Present, Ocean/Globe
- Changing seasons
- Reinforcing Life Skills:
 - learning how to zip, tie, button, lace, string and snap
 - learning the joy of independence



December:

- Multicultural Christmas Celebrations
- Sights, Sounds, and symbols of Christmas
- Gingerbread theme
- Christmas crafts. Making gifts and reinforcing the importance & excitement of giving.

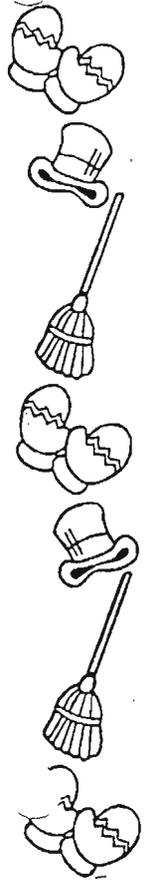


SCHOOL

HAPPENINGS

January:

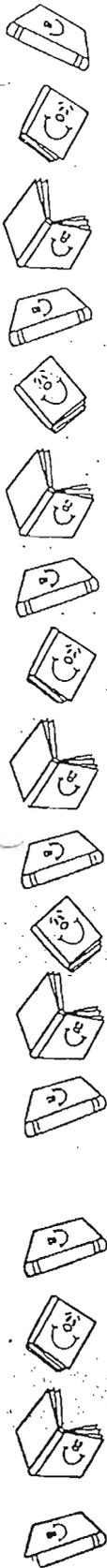
- Winter is "snow much fun!"
- Multi-cultural New Year's Celebrations
 - China/dragons
 - The difference between real and pretend
- Winter: Snow, Snowman/snowflake theme
 - Snowflake Bentley (Microscope photography.)
 - Cold weather/thermometers
 - Friction (How to warm your hands)
- Ice (solids & liquids)
- Bowling Fieldtrip
- A.A. Milne's birthday-Winnie the Pooh celebration
 - Stuffed animal sleepover/pajama day
 - Different kinds of Bears
- What animals do in the winter: hibernation/migration
- Black American Heritage Month
 - Martin Luther King
 - Prejudice/celebrating our uniqueness
 - Civil Rights/Peaceful solutions
 - Dealing with Feelings: Anger/Frustration
- Cooking with Kids/National Soup Month ...*Stone Soup*



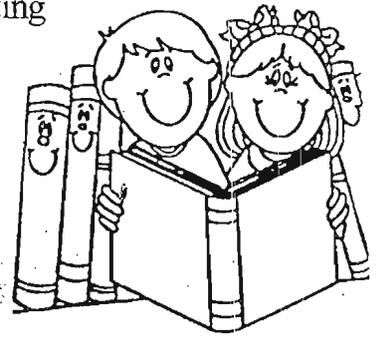
February:

- Groundhog Day
 - Shadows
 - Why is there day and night?
- The post office, stamps/addressing an envelope-mailing a card
- Fieldtrip: Visiting the Kent City Post Office
- Valentine's Day Party
 - Friendship/love/caring/kindness theme
 - The importance of manners
- The Arctic (penguins & polar bears)
- Presidents
 - Lincoln, pennies and Log-cabin learning
 - Washington
 - The importance of telling the truth
 - Past and present what it was like then and now.
 - Washington D.C./The White House
- Health: Dental hygiene





- Health: Studying the heart and being Heart Smart (healthy eating habits, exercise, keeping smoke and drug free)
- Clifford's Birthday Celebration



March:

- Wind/weather/kites
- Weather & Rainbows
- Benjamin Franklin / electricity
- St. Patrick's Day/Ireland
- Lions and Lambs
- Riddles and recall
- Very special activities for *March is Reading Month:*
 - Camp Read Away
 - A celebration of Dr. Seuss

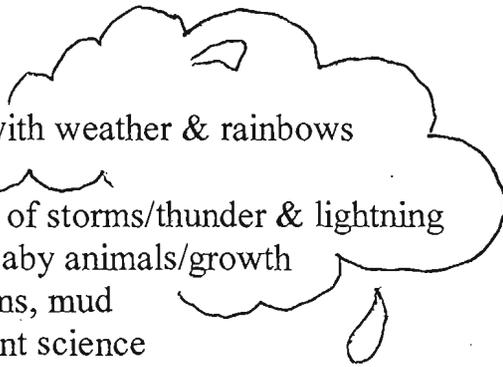


Read! Read! Read!
It's FUN-damental!

-Bob the Builder Day / Introduction of the ruler/measurement

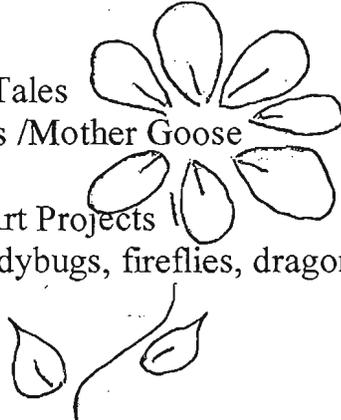
April:

- Spring
- Continue with weather & rainbows
- Clouds
- Rain/kinds of storms/thunder & lightning
- Bunnies, Baby animals/growth
- Earth worms, mud
- Revisit plant science
- Easter Activities
- Eggs
- Secretaries' Day Gifts
- Conservation: Earth Day Celebration and activities
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - Arbor Day
- Caterpillars & Butterflies (Hatching our own Painted Ladies!)
- Celebrating Kindergarten Day/visiting the K classrooms



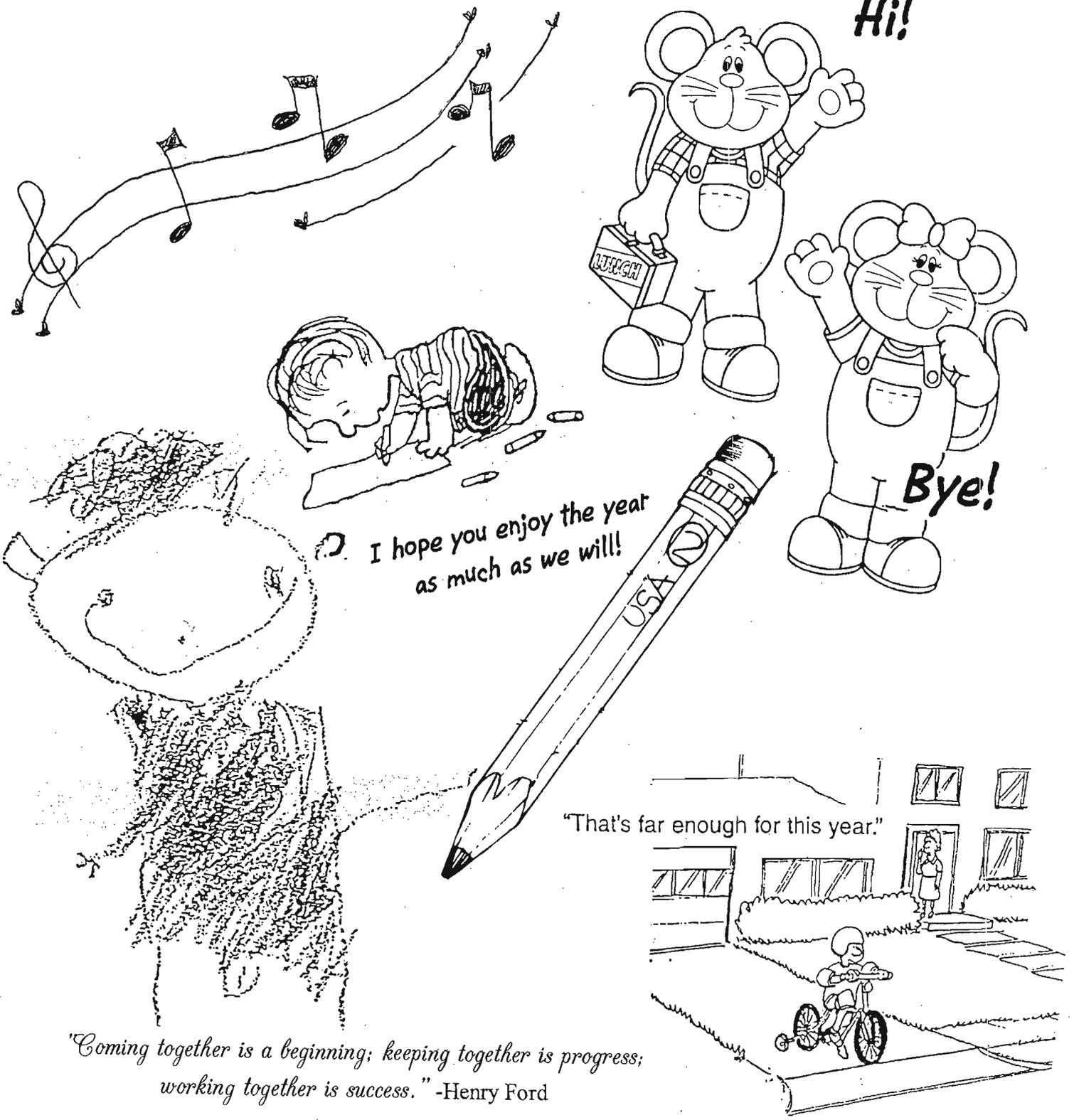
May:

- Fables & Fairy Tales
- Nursery Rhymes /Mother Goose
- Flowers
- Mother's Day Art Projects
- Insects: bees, ladybugs, fireflies, dragonflies



June:

- Frogs/tadpoles (Look who's leaping into kindergarten!)
-
-
- Summer, the sun/stars
- Father's Day gift
- Look how we've grown! Comparison/Contrast
- Saying good-bye. "Sweet summer dreamin' pillowcase."
- The year in review with a Picnic in the Park Pageant: "Singing and Signing Through the Seasons."



I hope you enjoy the year
as much as we will!

"That's far enough for this year."

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;
working together is success." -Henry Ford



Just Playing

When I'm building with blocks,
please don't say I'm "just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
About patience, balance, and how things work.

I may be an architect someday.
When I'm getting all dressed up,
setting the table, caring for the baby dolls,
don't get the idea I'm "just playing"

I may be a mommy or daddy someday.
When you see me up to my elbows in mess and paint
or molding and shaping clay,
please don't let me hear you say, "He's just playing."

For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I just might be an artist or teacher someday.
When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or "playing" at my school
please don't feel the time is wasted by doing so.

For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate,
I'm learning self-control and waiting my turn,
I'm learning to share...all important life skills I'll need someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
please don't think that because I enjoy it, it's just play.
I'm learning about measuring, math, & following directions

I may be a cook someday.
When you see me learning to skip, hop, run, and move my body,
please don't say I'm "just playing" For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I'm learning how my body works.
I'm exercising, gaining coordination, and keeping myself healthy.
I may be a doctor, nurse, or great athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today,
and I say, "I just played."
Please don't misunderstand me.

For you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.

For today, I am a child and my work is play.