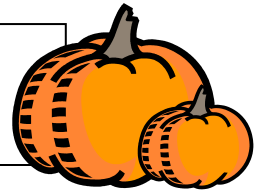


# October News



Ms. Stanley's Class

October 19, 2011

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR** - The new plan utilizing student sticks and green, yellow, & red boxes has worked wonders! The behavior I targeted to diminish was *speaking out without raising a hand*. Since beginning this plan, only a handful of students have had to move their sticks at all. Your children have done a marvelous job remembering to raise their hands.

**PENMANSHIP** - The students' handwriting is coming along very nicely. I hope you have noticed the improvement too. Here are two areas to focus on at home:

- Students should be using the headline, mid line, and baseline to achieve the proper size.
- When making the letters a, Cc, d, Gg, Oo, Qq, students should begin with a "c". This helps students remember to make backwards circles when writing these letters. All students can make a C correctly, but they often begin the other letters incorrectly.

*Thank you for your attention to penmanship during these early weeks.*

*It will make a world of difference!*

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS** If you would like to assist a small group of students at centers, please contact me. The time commitment is less than an hour, including set up, completing centers, and clean up. On your scheduled day, please check in at the office to get a visitor's pass before coming out to the portable. If you remain until the end of class you are welcome to drive your child home with you. Morning Class - arrive at 10:15 Afternoon Class - arrive at 2:00

**ACADEMICS Reading** - Last week we added two new sight words, to and a. This will be our second week with these 6 sight words; I, am, the, little, to, a. Please review these words with your child every day. If they can read them easily, have them copy the words, spell the words orally, write the words from memory, or use them in a sentence. Last week our featured letter was Mm. We ended the week by making and eating Mini Monster Muffins! This week we are concentrating on Tt. Make a game of naming words that begin with M and T! Last week's Reading selection featured a naughty and nice pig, Julius. Ask your child about some of his bad habits! This week, our story is Dig, Dig, Digging. This book depicts 11 different "work trucks" and uses a rhyming and repetitive text to describe the jobs they do and the sounds they make. Ask your child what all the trucks are doing on the last page of the story.

**Math** - We continue to represent "number plus one" problems using the rods, to work on recognizing numbers through 30, and to practice forming numbers. We have gone up to seven with our visual clusters (arrangement of shapes on playing cards.) This helps students immediately recognize the value of these clusters, without having to count each shape.

**CENTERS** – Last week's **Writing Center** was "My monster munches \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_." This week's writing center page is "Two tasty treats I take with my Tea are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." Both of these pages will be compiled into class books. Last week at **Art Center** students made a pig with hearts for Julius and his owner, Maya. This week students are making hanging bats and beginning a Halloween coloring contest page. **Word Work and ABC centers** introduced a game we'll play all year called Roll the Word. We have giant dice with sight words on them and students fill out a graph as they roll the words. Students completed "must do" pages for upper and lower case letters, new sight words, and a fall leaf page using *the* and *little*. **Math Center** is our pumpkin version of creating visual clusters and a dice game matching numerals to the dots. In **Reading Centers** our Cat and Dog books feature words beginning with M's and T's.

**SCHOOL HAPPENINGS** - Last Wednesday the PM class visited Mrs. Moore's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom to sing them a cheer on their final day of NECAP testing. I thought the children might get stage fright, but they performed beautifully. I admit that it brought tears to my eyes! Our guidance counselor, Mrs. Gloria Eno, was able to join us and view the performance, too. Plans are in the works for our two classes to become book buddies! Once a month the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will visit either the AM or PM class and spend time reading with our kindergarteners.

**Make a Difference Day** - This week the school is collecting non-perishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul's food Pantry. A list of suggested foods is available at [news.sau81.org](http://news.sau81.org). Children feel good about themselves when they are able to help others in need. Please consider donating.

**BOO FEST** - Thursday, October 27 from 6:30 to 7:30. This is a first time event at our school. Students and their whole families are invited to dress up and come trick or treating through the halls of Nottingham West. Admission is a non-perishable food item. Teachers in costume will be passing out the treats! Read more at [news.sau81.org](http://news.sau81.org)!

**CLASS HALLOWEEN PARTY** - Monday, October 31. Students will wear their costumes to school (no weapons, real or plastic, are ever allowed at school). We'll snack on healthy foods and play some games. Volunteers are welcome, just let me know if you would like to help out. Thank you to all who offered to donate items! Contact me if you would like to provide an item that is still needed.

**AM**

cheese & crackers - Aiden & Abby

Fruit plate - Carissa and **1 needed**

Veggies & Dip - Lindsay and **1 needed**

24 holiday napkins - AJ

24 small holiday plates - Adriana

24 mini water bottles - Alexander

**PM**

Cheese and crackers - **2 needed**

Fruit plate - **2 needed**

Veggies & Dip - Hailey and **1 needed**

24 holiday napkins - Natalie

24 small holiday plates - **still needed**

24 small water bottles - Elle