

# CLASS NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

## MATERNITY LEAVE

This upcoming week (September 26-September 30) will be my last week before my maternity leave begins. Ms. Scheller will start with students in the classroom on **Monday, October 3rd**. She will be in the classroom periodically next week and is looking forward to taking over. Please let either of us know if you have any questions. We will continue talking with students about the transition early in the week.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for coming to the Back-to-School night last week! Ms. Scheller and I appreciated the opportunities to see everyone again and for students to share what we have been learning in the classroom. During Parent-Teacher Conferences in November, you will have the chance to talk more in-depth about your child's progress. Conference reminders will be sent home in November. If you haven't had a chance to sign up for

a conference, we will contact you soon to schedule a time to meet.

## GRANDPARENT'S AND SPECIAL FRIEND'S DAY

Please mark your calendars for Grandparents/Special Friends Day on Friday, October 21st. Look for invitations and more detailed information to come home in the coming weeks!

## UPCOMING DATES/INFO

- Monday, October 3rd: Ms. Scheller starts in the classroom
- Wednesday, October 5th: International Walk and Bike to School Day
- Monday, October 10: PICTURE DAY
- Wednesday, October 12th: Volunteer Training (see below)
- Friday, October 14th: NO SCHOOL (Statewide Inservice Day)
- Wednesday, October 19th: 2 Hour Late Opening (School starts at 9:50)
- Friday, October 21st: Grandparent's and Special Friends Day
- Friday, October 28th: The Big Boo

## Volunteering

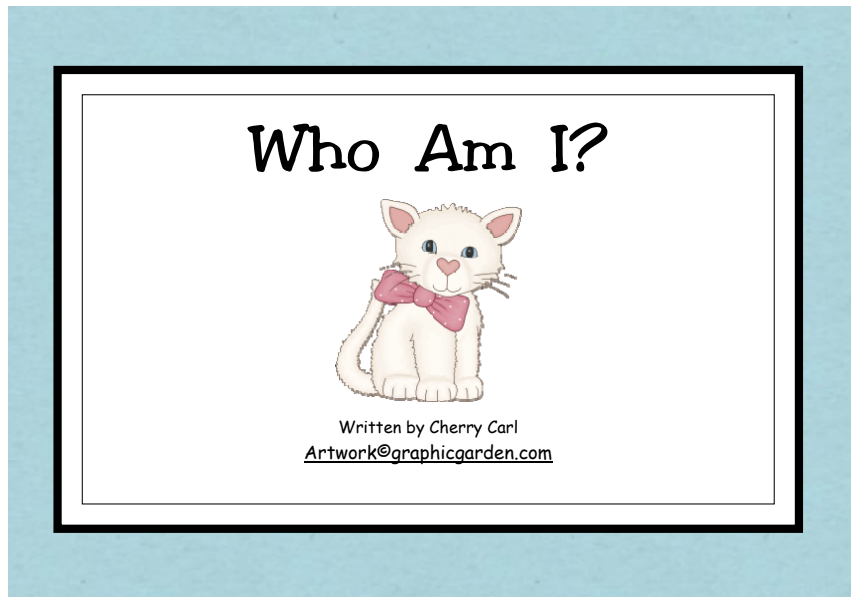
We have scheduled a volunteer training for Wednesday, October 5th. There will be a brief Kindergarten session from 5:00-5:30, prior to a school-wide volunteer training at 5:30.

We will have parents sign up according to classroom at the Kindergarten session, indicating your preferred days of the week, times, etc. We will also ask for Room Parent volunteers at this time who help to coordinate class parties throughout the year. If you are not able to attend, please email me with your availability. All volunteers must complete an Application to Volunteer form which you can get in the office. We anticipate volunteers will start in the classroom in late October.

## Morning Messages

...

We are continuing to read our Morning Messages everyday in class and students have been working hard on the Kindergarten Puzzles the past two weeks. These Puzzles often make comparisons using rhyming, opposites, numbers, or the first letters of a word. Please encourage your child to share their answers to the puzzle with you when they bring their morning messages home on Mondays and Wednesdays.



## Literacy

...

We continue to learn new songs, games, and poems focusing on developing phonemic awareness, the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words. Currently we're working on rhyming, identifying and generating words with similar ending sounds. Also, each week, we will focus on learning a letter, its corresponding sound, and creating word lists to build vocabulary. Students will practice saying the sound, writing the letter, and reading a class generated list of words.

We are also working on learning and identifying high frequency words (also called sight words), the most common words in print. We have

learned these words from our first mini-books, I Can! and Who Am I? : I and am. When the mini-books come home, you will find these words circled to help students to identify and read the words without sounding them out. At home, have your child find these words when you are reading a story to them. Every week we will work on learning one new high frequency word.

Please continue to have your child read nightly from their "I Can Read" envelope. The re-reading of poems, morning messages, and mini-books will build confidence, fluency, and reading skills.

## Art

We have been busy with our art the last few weeks including exploring with watercolors, pastels, colored pencils, and construction paper. Our self-portraits, sunflowers, and name flowers were up at Back to School Night. Next week, there will be an illustrated picture that will accompany "I Am" sentences we wrote. This will eventually be turned into a class book. Look for some of this art to appear in the Art Show later this spring!

