KINDERGARTEN WEEKLY PLANS  March 12, 2018  TEACHERS: Ms. O’Leary, Mrs. Helm, and Mrs. Crane

Virtue:  Honesty
Saying:  “March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb”
Psalms:  15 and 34: 11-14
Songs:  March (calendar song), Sing a Song of Sixpence, Duke of York, Old King Cole, Queen of Hearts,
Poems:  Thumpity Thump, by Teddy Slater

Dear Parents,
Just as reminder please review the attached school dress code details from the Crossroads Student and Parent Handbook. Encourage your child to help you choose an outfit each day that has a collared (dress code) shirt, structured pants, and appropriate footwear for PE days (Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays). Be sure that your child wears clothing layers are in all in dress code for if s/he becomes warm inside. Also, the arrival time for children in the Lower School begins from 7:40-7:55 AM each morning. Children who come to school from 7:40 -7:55 AM get an additional play time outside! After 8:05 AM your child would be marked late to school. We wouldn’t want your child to miss the important morning activity time that helps young children transition to school. Take Home Folders come home each Monday/Tuesday. Please read over the class newsletter and parent letters with your child and use the detailed information as a springboard for a wonderful discussion about happenings in kindergarten. There also may be student Take Home sheets pertaining to units we are studying. If you decide to have your child complete the Take Home activities, please help your child bring the completed sheets back to school (at any time). Your child will receive smelly stickers (very popular) for each activity s/he completes (emphasis on effort). Some weeks there may be different activity sheets that your child has completed in the class. Many of the crayon marks are from a teacher (usually myself) who may write on a student’s activity page are in order to individually help to your child review and/or reteach the directions and/or skills. Please refer to the kindergarten marking system letter that I sent home last month (and also have posted on my teacher page). The goal of kindergarten to have your child continue to make academic, social and emotional progress over the course of this year. Young children at this kindergarten age need lots and lots of opportunities to practice new skills tend to show progress over time.

In character education, we began discussing this month’s school virtue, honesty. We read books about the value of being honest. In Writing Workshop the students wrote and illustrated reflections about the meaning of honesty and examples of honesty from their personal experience. Ask your child to tell you how to “tell the truth” and what makes honesty important to him/her.

In language arts, we continued learning more consonant digraphs or “letter teams.” Keep in mind that with the addition of digraphs, decoding has become more complicated for
emerging reading students. The students are learning to apply an either/or strategy. They are learning to be aware that each letter they encounter could either stand for a single sound or could be part of a digraph. As they read, students need to be able to separate the letters into word groups of one or two and then match each group with the appropriate sound. Although skilled readers do this effortlessly, even unconsciously, this more complex decoding is a challenging new skill for the beginning reader. We will continue to practice solidifying the most common digraphs during this month. In order to practice reading and writing the consonant digraphs /sh/, /ch/, and /th/, the students worked on different sound sorts, sound packets and partner games. Ask your child to tell you about playing Race to the Top and Bingo games to practice sounding out words with initial and final consonant clusters and consonant digraphs. In the weekly Take Home Folder, your child has a “wiggle cards” mini booklet to practice reading phrases with the consonant digraphs sh, ch, and th. Encourage your child to sound out the phrases and then illustrate the meanings on to the booklet. Enclosed are also the class picture icons for each of the consonant digraphs that we are learning in class.

In math, we continued the unit on comparing sets. We reviewed ordering numbers and comparing using one-to-one correspondence to facilitate counting on up to twenty using fingers or a number line. Encourage your child to review counting on and counting back from a number up to 20 which helps build a stronger number sense.

In history, we continued learning about kings and queens. After reading many books describing what a king or queen does, and the royal family, the children learned the nursery rhymes, Sing a Song of Sixpence, Queen of Hearts (abridged), and Old King Cole. The students illustrated and labeled in words “What is Royal?” diagrams that identified and described royal objects associated with a king or queen and the royal family. After learning about some of the architectural features of a castle in Europe, the students eagerly designed their own castles in art using oil pastels and watercolors. Ask your child about the royal crowns and colorful robes in the classroom for dramatic play activities and the folktale, King Midas and the Golden Touch (see story in Take Home folder). If anyone in your family has traveled to Europe, please email photos or artifacts if you’d like to share your experience in this beautiful continent of the world with the kindergarten students.

Enjoy the beautiful spring snow!
Liz
DRESS CODE

The dress code at Crossroads Academy is a natural extension of the school’s academic standards and goals. While dress does not determine behavior, there is ample evidence to suggest that it affects attitude and school spirit. In dress, tone, and deed, the attitude we wish to foster is that school is a special place, that learning is a distinctive and important enterprise, and that enterprise requires our best efforts. The dress code is a symbolic recognition of the importance of each child, the value and dignity of his or her efforts, and the collective worth of the school. Our dress code is designed to create an environment conducive to learning. To that end, we ask parents to support us by making sure their children’s appearance is non-distracting. We have adopted a sensible dress code, one that allows for comfort and personal taste but simultaneously encourages children to think of school as a place where they do their best and are their best. The following principles should guide parents in helping their children make considered decisions about clothing:

- Clothing should fit, be clean, neat, without words or images, and in good repair. x
- Shoes must be low-heeled and securely fastened; sandals and clogs should have backs or straps.
- Shirts must have collars and be buttoned; turtlenecks are acceptable as well. x The hemline of skirts, shorts, skorts, and dresses should be longer than fingertip length.
- Clothing should not expose the torso or underwear during typical school activities.
- Denim that is clean, in good repair, and regular fit (no skinny jeans) is an acceptable material for school clothing. The following types of clothing are unsuitable for school: Athletic and exercise wear. This includes gym shorts, sweatpants, hooded sweatshirts, biking shorts, T-shirts, tank tops, etc. Hats may not be worn indoors. Tight or form-fitting clothing worn as pants including running tights, leggings (if not worn under skirts or dresses), yoga pants, and jeggings.

EXCEPTIONS

- Students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade may wear well-constructed pants or fingertip length shorts with an elastic waistband.
- Girls may wear solid-color or printed tops under a jumper or with a skirt.
- Leggings are acceptable only if worn under skirts or dresses.
- PE class requires clean, dry sneakers and dress appropriate for physical activity. Girls are encouraged to wear shorts or pants on PE days.
- Wednesdays are “Spirit Days.” Students may wear Crossroads spirit gear with our logo (including sweatshirts and t-shirts) on Wednesdays to show their school spirit.

Students must come to school with outer clothing appropriate for the weather. Rain and snow clothing, including snow pants, boots, hats and gloves, are required for students to play outside in inclement weather. Kindly label outerwear with your child’s name.