

HALL STREET HERALD

BRINGING YOU THE NEWS
FROM 114 HALL STREET
SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Welcome to the first issue of the 2009 – 2010 Hall Street Herald. I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I had a very relaxing summer and spent a lot of time with my family and my puppy, Ryley. That said, I am delighted to be back and see my students and their families!

Two weeks ago we had our annual Back-to-School night. We had a great turn out. Please feel free to make an appointment or send me an E-mail if you have any questions or issues regarding the topics covered that night or if you were not able to attend. I'm happy to answer questions or bring you up to date.

Current Studies:

This year holds great fun and great learning. In Social Studies, we have been working on our unit on Ancient Greece. We are all enjoying it and learning lots. Ask you child about Knucklebones, Sparta and Athens, and the life of the Ancient Greeks. We will continue our studies with the Greek Gods and the Olympics. Our next unit be our first Science unit of the year. We will be studying Sound, another fun topic.

For writing, we are writing small moments. To help ease the children back into writing, we are drawing our moments with lots of detail to help us write better small moments.

Reading is going well. We are learning strategies like checking for understanding. When we Buddy Read, the children take turns reading to each other and check to make sure they both understanding what they read. This is one of the most important reading strategies. Without understanding, we are just word calling.

Our first read aloud is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It introduces the children to rich vocabulary as well as what good behavior and bad behavior looks like through the characters of the children who win a trip to the chocolate factory.

Skills has been really fun! We have reviewed vowels and consonants. The children have learned what syllables are and how to count them. They can tell you when a word begins with the 'K' sound whether to begin the word with the letter 'C' or 'K'. Right now we are focusing on the suffix -y and when to double the consonant and when not to.

We have learned many games for free time. We have also been doing puzzles when the children have accurately completed their class work. We have a collection of Word Searches, Crossword Puzzles, Soduko, Figure It Puzzles, and Calculator Cards that the children can choose from. These puzzles build and reinforce skills in many areas and are highly motivating.

All in all, we are off to a terrific start and I'm so excited for the rest of the school year!

On a final note, Mandianne Berg (Sofie's mom) is our classroom liaison and she is coordinating volunteer opportunities for this year. Her email address is: mandianne@Comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Ms. Belitz

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Available for appointments after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.