

# KINDERGARTEN NEWS

West Riverview School

April, 2015

## Language Arts

### Reading

The students continue to work hard on their reading. We are seeing big gains in their independence at this time of year. Thank you for taking the time to read with your child each week. This practice time is invaluable and is a big component of building confidence and independence!

Some things to consider as you read with your child at home:

- Chunky Monkey - this is typically a good time to begin to help children recognize those chunks that can be found inside longer more complicated words. We are working on this strategy at school and the students are using this skill more and more. Below are some examples of the kinds of 'chunks' children are beginning to notice in their words.

**king**

**brush**

**stand**

**chip**

## More and Less

In math, the students are beginning to work on the concept of more and less. This is a large concept that ranges from students being able to identify groups that have more/less to being able to solve problems using their knowledge of this concept. For example, students

may be asked to figure out a scenario like the one below:

"Ally invited 9 children to her birthday but she only has 6 cupcakes to give out. How many more cupcakes will she need?"

Every day tasks around the home can be used to help children

practice this skill. Consider not bringing enough forks to the dinner table and asking your child to help you figure out how many more you will need. Situations like these are a great first step into this skill because there is a strong visual to help them figure out the answer.

### Writing

In our last newsletter we discussed our focus on using 'meatball spaces' between our words. This continues to be a strong focus in writing however, we would like to share a strategy with you this month that may help your child expand his/her ideas when writing. We are beginning to strongly encourage students to *write more than one sentence* about their topics. Here are some tips to help you support your child in this area:

- Remember "If you can talk about it, you can write about it". Get your child talking about everything and anything. Oral language is important for early writers. Encourage your child to share their ideas with you in an organized fashion. Using transitional words can help with the organization of ideas (i.e.: first, next, then, last).
- Try telling a story 'across your fingers'. Put up three fingers and touch each finger as you tell a detail about your topic:



I went to the dentist.



He cleaned my teeth.



I got to pick a prize when I was done.

### You and Your World

This month, we will explore spring changes. We will also be exploring ways that we can help take care of our Earth.

