

# Pre-Kindergarten News

Somerset Academy

January 2018

## Learning Language Strategies and Vocabulary through Sharing Traditions

In December, we learned ways that we are alike and different through many activities. As it is a month of celebrations, we shared many ways that our families celebrate, and compared similarities and differences of those traditions.

These activities, including our annual Songfest, gave many opportunities for children to learn new language. We shared items we use at home to celebrate with our families, such as books and decorations. In the Pretend Play area, we reenacted familiar ways and made up new ways to celebrate birthdays and holidays. We learned new language and practiced writing new and familiar words as we created signs and decorations for the Songfest. Even the songs the children sang combined the new and familiar as we learned a song we already knew in a different language, created new verses to a familiar song, and learned a different way to communicate, and sing, through sign language!



**(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Language and Early Literacy Development: 3. Spoken Language: Expressive)**10. Children show progress in learning alternative communication strategies, such as sign language.

## Curriculum

Based on the children's recent interest in creating their own books and stories, we will begin the new year together with a project on books. Our focus will include learning about the roles of authors and illustrators, the parts of a book and how books can be made, book handling concepts, differences between fiction and non-fiction books, and much more!

**(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Language and Early Literacy Development: 1. Emergent Reading) C. In concepts about reading:** 2. Children understand print and book handling concepts including directionality, title, etc.; 5. Children develop an understanding of the roles of authors and illustrators.

## Resource Corner

### Understanding and Using Questions

As we begin a new year together, we will also start a new classroom routine: Question of the Day. Beginning January 22, you will find a question posted in the hallway. Please support your child in reading the question and then using his/her small group colored name card to post his/her answer.

**(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Habits of Mind: Reasoning-Problem Solving-Reflection5.2)** Children show an increasing ability to (understand and) ask questions appropriate to the circumstance.

Some useful tips on supporting your child's development in asking and answering questions at home can be found here [https://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/110\\_WH\\_Questions.pdf](https://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/110_WH_Questions.pdf).

# January 2018

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Number of the Week: 0</b>	8 <b>School Resumes</b> Spanish am	9 Spanish am	10 Spanish pm	11	12
<b>Number of the Week: 1</b>	15 MLK Jr. Day <b>No School</b>	16 Spanish am	17 Spanish pm	18	19
<b>Number of the Week: 2</b>	22 Spanish am	23 Spanish am	24 Spanish pm <b>Show and Tell</b>	25 <b>Show and Tell</b>	26 <b>Show and Tell</b>
<b>Number of the Week: 3</b>	29 Spanish am	30 Spanish am	31 Spanish pm <b>Parent meeting 6:30-7:30</b>	2/1	2/2

## Announcements and Reminders!

- There will be **NO SCHOOL** for children on **Monday, January 15** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The teachers will be reporting for an in-service day.
- **Show and Tell, January 24, 25, and 26: A Favorite Book.** To support our Book Project, please help your child in bringing their favorite book to share for Show and Tell.
- **Kindergarten information and Handwriting meeting:** Join us **Wednesday, January 31** from **6:30 to 7:30** for a **parent meeting on preparing your child, and yourself, for the transition to Kindergarten** as well as information about the **Handwriting Without Tears program** that we **will begin** with the children in **February**.
- **Number of the Week will begin in January.** We will feature and focus on a number each week, beginning with zero.
- **Field Trip:** Our next field trip will take place late January or early February. More information will be available soon!