Monday February 2, 2015

Dear KB Families,

Happy Groundhog Day! Willie didn’t see his shadow today so apparently we are going to have an early spring. It sure doesn’t feel like it today! We spent the day doing a variety of groundhog activities – shadow writing, groundhog math, groundhog crafts, groundhog tag, and reading about groundhog homes and hibernation. Some kids even made a groundhog burrow. It was a fun, cold, day! Several things are coming home today that we wanted to draw your attention to. See below for details.

* We are sending home **portfolios** today with your child’s January work. Please remove your child’s work, celebrate his/her accomplishments, and return the folder as soon as possible so we can start collecting February work. Thanks.
* Our **February class calendar** is coming home today. Please post it somewhere handy so you can keep track of our changing library days this month as well as spirit days, skating days, and various celebrations (Valentine’s Day, Chinese New Year). ASES Winter Fun Day will be on February 20 – please add this to your calendar.
* Our **class photo** is coming home with your child today.
* An important **note from the TLDBS Early Learning superintendent** is coming home today with regards to an upcoming developmental screen (EDI) that we will be completing for all SK students. Please read it carefully.
* **Milk order envelopes** are coming home today. In order to reduce waste, we are only supposed to send envelopes to those families who ordered milk during the last round. If you did not get an envelope and wish to order milk, please let us know with a note in your child’s Note Tote. Please talk to your child about whether or not they drink their milk at school. We throw a lot of milk away every day. We will send you a note if your child throws their milk away on a regular basis.
* We are also sending home **Number Practice Booklets** today. We have been learning about numbers and focusing on how to print numbers at school. To help students remember how to form their numbers correctly, we taught them a rhyme for each number. We also sing songs to remind the children that “*we always start our numbers at the top*”. And we showed the students how to use their *‘left hand’* to help form numbers in the proper direction. If your child prints with their left hand, they use a cut-out of a left hand at school to help them remember proper directionality. You could make one at home for your left-handed child. The booklet we are sending home today contains the number rhymes and the ‘left helper hand’ instructions we use at school. Over the next while, please help your child practice their numbers at home. They can trace the numbers using all the colours of the rainbow and when they have practiced each number numerous times and can form each number correctly on their own, they can return their booklet to school for a treasure box prize. The left helper hand instructions are yours to keep. We appreciate your assistance with this extra practice at home. Your child should be able to recite all the poems for you and show you what we’ve learned and practiced at school, but extra practice is key for retention.

If your child is missing spare clothes at school, we will send home a reminder notice in your child’s Note Tote. Thanks you for including an extra pair of socks and mitts in your child’s backpack – they have come in handy several times. Please remember to check your child’s backpack for wet or soiled clothes and if your child’s spare clothing bag is in their backpack, it means it needs to be restocked.

**Tomorrow is Library.** Thanks for using the blue cloth bags for your child’s library book. They are working really well.

☺ The KB Kinder Team (Ms. Ferren, Ms. Hewitt, Ms. Bain)