



CALENDAR:

October 15 th	End of Term 1 -- report cards go home
October 18 th -22	Fall Break - NO SCHOOL
October 25 th	Beginning of Term 2
October 26 th	Professional Development EARLY DISMISSAL -- Only AM & Full Day attend 8:30 – 11:30 (NO PM SESSION)
October 28 th	Picture Day
October 29 th	Ms. Buell's classes: "Show What You Know" Program AM Class: 8:30 am sharp PM Class: 12:00 sharp
October 29 th	Ms. Saguilan's class: "Show What You Know" Program Full Day Class: 8:30 am sharp
November 9 th	Veteran's Day
November 19 th	Parent Teacher Conference - NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER BUILDER'S THEME:

Our Builder's Theme for October is "I AM A BUILDER WHEN I AM PERFECTLY HONEST". We are helping our students understand that sometimes it takes a lot of courage to be honest. Honesty can mean you don't say things about people that aren't true. It means you admit your actions when you are wrong. Everyone makes mistakes, that is how we learn and grow. We see many ways our students are doing what is right, being fair, and truthful.

READING UNIVERSITY STORE:



This week we hosted our first Reading University (RU) store. The students were excited to participate and proud of their accomplishment! Thank you to our wonderful parents for completing your student's RU log and helping this activity be such a success.

Our kindergarteners are always excited to share fun details of books they have read the night before! As you read with your child, please continue to record the books on your student's RU log.

REPORT CARDS:

Your student's report card was sent home today with their learning plan. As this is your first kinder report card from APA, we want to give you a little information. The purpose of report cards at American Prep in kindergarten is to communicate with parents regarding the academic progress and work habits development of their student. You will note there are letter grades on the report cards. This is unusual for kindergarten - meaning at most schools, report cards in kindergarten will use "grades" such as "satisfactory" or "needs to improve". We feel those labels are subjective measures (at best) and not very helpful to parents. We feel it is best for parents to have solid information about their student's progress, so we use letter grades on all our report cards.

If your child receives an "A" or a "B" in a subject, you can be confident that we have been able to gather sufficient data through observations of student performance that indicate the student is "at mastery" in the level they have been placed in. If your child received a lower grade, it means either they are not yet at mastery at their level, or that we are unable to determine mastery. Sometimes we are unable to definitively say if a student is "at mastery" at this young age because students have limited ways to demonstrate that mastery. Sometimes we need more time to observe and work with a student before we can determine mastery.

Also, you are probably aware that we place students at their achievement level for reading and math. So, the grade your child received reflects their level of mastery at THAT level, not at "grade" level. You will also note a grade in work and study habits and citizenship. These are important measures of a student's progress as well.

Our view on grades in kindergarten is that they are primarily for communicating with parents regarding a student's progress. Kinder report cards are not something that parents should react to emotionally - with frustration, anger, worry, etc. If there were something to be worried about, we would have contacted parents directly and held a meeting with you. Report cards can be used as a positive, motivating tool when they reflect good progress. If they don't yet reflect that, the report card should be viewed neutrally with regard to emotion. It is inappropriate for parents to use kindergarten grades to punish children.

We schedule parent-teacher conferences after report cards have been issued so you will have an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have with your child's teacher. Using a positive attitude with your child's first report card will imprint their view of school!



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS:

With Halloween approaching, we wanted to remind our parents of our holiday celebration procedures. We typically do not celebrate holidays, although we do acknowledge some of them (see below). We do not have class holiday parties, but instead we have fun culminating activities that go along with our units of study in history and science. Students often dress up, have food, and play games at these activities.

Birthday Celebrations—Teachers will most likely mention a student’s birthday during the school day of their birthday and have a special way of acknowledging that student. Parents may bring non-food items for class members. This is not something that needs to be done, but if parents choose to that is acceptable.

Invitations to parties outside of school

Birthday parties and other parties held during the year are an exciting event for the child hosting the party and those who are invited. It can be a very disappointing time for a child who has not been invited to the same party. Out of respect and consideration for the feelings of all students, please do not distribute invitations to birthday parties or any other personal parties at school—before, during, or after—unless an entire class is invited. If only a portion of the students in a class is invited, please use other ways—outside of school—to contact those students and parents. We appreciate your consideration of others and appreciate the modeling of respectful behavior.

Halloween—It is important to remember that we don’t celebrate or acknowledge Halloween.

Thanksgiving Day—We talk about being grateful (in word and deed) the whole month of November.

Religious Holidays (Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Easter)—We will talk about these holidays as part of the curriculum and to help students understand what others in our school are doing and experiencing. We may sing songs from any of these or other similar holidays in our choir classes as part of the curriculum.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

Sign-ups for parent teacher conferences will be available shortly through Sign up Genius. Teachers will be emailing parents notifying you of this opportunity.

PICTURE DAY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Picture day is coming up on Thursday, October 28th. Packets and information was sent home today with your student’s report card and learning plan.

KINDERGARTEN CORNER:

Teacher was wearing a nice green dress at school.
Student: “You look like the tastiest piece of celery”

We hope you enjoy your fall break with your fabulous student! We look forward to seeing them back at school on Monday, October 25th.

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