

**BEAR**

**FACTS**

 August 31, 2023

Teaching children of God the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, worshipping and caring so that the world sees Jesus in them.

Dear Parents,

Greetings as we begin a long weekend—at least for your child. **Your child will not have school tomorrow. Teachers have a Professional Development Training.** Of course, Monday is a day off for **Labor Day.** Welcome to September.

This week our Jesus Time moved us to a “study” of prayer. We are learning some prayers, so we discussed the correct prayer posture—having hands folded and heads bowed. We know that this isn’t the only way that Jesus hears our prayers, but it is a way to help us concentrate on the “conversation” with Jesus, without looking around, or using our hands to play with something. At the end of this Bear Facts, you will find the two prayers that we have pretty much mastered saying so far. We’ll be adding to this repertoire of prayers. You could use these at home.

We started the alphabet this week. Have your child tell you about Alexander Alligator. He is one of our many puppet friends that will visit us from time to time. He talked to us about the letter “A” and some of the words that begin with “A”. We learned some facts about alligators from Alexander. See what they can tell you about the alligators eye lids (he has 3), and ask about the sound that a baby alligator makes. A mom lays as many as 60 eggs at a time. Your child should be able to sing a song about Apple Auntie, and even tell you a story about her. Thanks for helping your child get the letter paper in on time. The papers were great, but fortunately, “B” things are easier to find. I have never set a certain number of pictures that are required on the papers, but in order to get benefit from these, I would like to see AT LEAST between 3-5 pictures. Some letters are easier to find pictures that your child is familiar with. If it isn’t something they are familiar with, you might want to help them find something else. Those papers will come home on Tuesday. Please remember that your child needs to know what the pictures are, and words should only be used if your child knows that word. You might want to ask your child what was in the Sound Box--that might give some ideas for finding things beginning with the letter. Reading the page in the ALL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN booklet might be helpful to you. I fully understand that most of the children already KNOW the alphabet. Our work is working more on the sound that the letter makes, and also working on making the letters correctly.

We’re working on practicing writing our name “The Kindergarten Way”, watching the letter size, watching how we hold our pencil, and making sure that our letters start at the top and come down (I’ve made a dot where they are to start. I sent home a practice sheet. Please have your child trace the dotted lined name, and then practice on their own on the lines with a star. Guidance on this will be helpful since we’ve just begun. We’ll be doing more practice here also. PLEASE RETURN THIS PRACTICE SHEET.

The Happy Sacks will come home next Tuesday with **Zoey, Simone, Savannah,** and **Rylee.** There is a “strip” attached that kind of explains it, but these children will be looking for something special to them that begins with the letter “B”. This is like a SHOW AND TELL BAG. It will need to be retuned any day BY FRIDAY. Thanks!

Our math begins SUPER EASY. We’re working on those beginning numbers. We’ve done a quick test, and I believe that we’re pretty much all recognizing these numbers, but we’re also working on writing them correctly. That is more of a challenge for many of us.

Congratulations to the following who have turned in their first book list this week—10 books—**Kennedy, Jackson, Charlie, Zoey, Rylee, Dominic, Akosua, Jada, and Jamour.** WELL DONE! I know that this program helps children to develop a love for reading, and helps them with some beginning reading skills. I’d like to see at least one book read per day. We now have 9 more glittery stars on our Chart for Books Read.

The Apple Book is one way that we’re getting better acquainted with each other, and is making its way through the classroom. If it hasn’t come to your home yet, it’s coming.

Next week we’ll do some activities with the letter “B”. To “celebrate” the completion of “B” week, I’m asking each child to bring in a stuffed bear, ON FRIDAY. If you don’t have one and there isn’t one to borrow, then another stuffed animal will do. We’ll be doing some graphing on size, color, those wearing clothes, those not, etc. so keep that in mind. It’ll be fun going to school with the bears—FRIDAY, please.

\*\*In the Friday Take Home folders, please remember the SERVICE HOURS. Please fill this out each week. It is best for you to use just **one line per week**—just a brief explanation of the service, and the time spent. This needs to remain in the folder, please. ALSO, please remember to record Church and Sunday School attendance. If you haven’t gone, please mark “N”, but please don’t simply leave it blank. It also needs to be signed or initialed by you. This is not just kindergarten, it is to be done school wide.

I’m hoping that your child told you about our SECRET STUDENT. We have many children who are really working hard to listen and follow directions. Each day, ONE student is surprised with the award of SECRET STUDENT. We had 4 Secret Students this week. They are pictured on the Web Page—

atonementbb.com. If your child hasn’t been the Secret Student, and you’re sure that they are good listeners, and cooperative, hang in there. If you think there might be a listening problem, speak to your child and encourage them to work toward Secret Student.

I hope that you had time to check the class Web Page last week—www.atonementbb.com. Every child is pictured at least once. I hope that you can maybe get to know some of the classmates through this. Share the site with grandparents. The pictures change weekly.

There is a Book Order form in today’s folder. This is a good way to get some inexpensive books. The books are ordered online, using the code **HT68V**. Orders must be in by NEXT FRIDAY—Sept. 8.

Happy 6th Birthday to **Ryland.** His birthday is actually tomorrow, but we will be off school. God’s continued blessings to you, Ryland. He is featured on our web.

The blankets are sent home again today to be laundered. PLEASE make sure to return it on Tuesday. If the weekend doesn’t coincide with your laundry day, please have a spare blanket. They MUST have that.

It is helpful if you keep the Discipline Bears (Good Behavior Bears) at home, or at least put them in a baggy or envelope. It’s difficult to see if TODAY was a green bear day. THANKS!

REMINDER—the kindergartners will be screened by our speech and language therapist—starting Wednesday. In case your child mentions it, that’s what it was all about!

**Prayers used in the classroom—so far.** A good meal time prayer to use—God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food. Amen. We use this prayer at the end of the day, but it would also be a good bedtime prayer—Jesus Savior wash away, all that has been wrong today. Help me every day to be, good and gentle more like Thee. Amen

Have a nice weekend—No school tomorrow or Monday. PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHAPEL OFFERING EACH WEDNESDAY. We have collected $223.66 so far. We have 6 items collected that we will be adding to stockings for the children of Military children. Let your light shine, and let others see your love for Jesus by helping others. We love to add to our amount, but most important is for everyone to participate, so that they feel a part of things. THANKS!

Blessings~

Doris Eggers