

**BEAR**

**FACTS**

 August 25, 2023

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

Happy First week of Kindergarten! WE MADE IT! There are a few papers in todays RED WEEKLY FOLDER. You may keep the graded papers, but please make sure that you fill out the form on the left side of the folder—indicate Church/Sunday/Neither. Then, initial, sign or write a brief note. Also there is a SERVICE HOURS booklet in the folder. This is a School Wide program that all students are expected to participate in. The kindergartners are to have 30 minutes of service hours per week (less than 5 minutes per day). They can do things like empty the bathroom trash can, set the table, make their beds, empty the silver ware basket of the dishwasher, helping you or a neighbor pick up sticks from the yard, etc. The book is designed to use one “row” per week. You can put the total minutes, and a brief description of what the “chore” was. Please keep the booklet in the folder so that we can record these minutes. This is in conjunction with our accreditation.

Our Jesus Time was basically learning a little bit about Jesus. We know that He loves us very much and that He is with us always. Our Bible words were **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.** We have begun to learn a couple of songs, and some prayers. We’ll practice another week, and then I’ll tell you so that maybe they can say/sing for you at home.

The papers done this week, may look super easy to many of you. I mentioned that we start out doing work similar to Pre K. work. It gives the children confidence—starting out with things that they are familiar with, and it also gives me a better idea as to where the children are in their academic level. This also helps us to learn how to do Kindergarten papers—name on paper, etc. Thanks for being patient as we work our way up. The work WILL become more challenging.

On Monday, an Apple page came home. Those are to be returned on Monday, as we get to know each other. Also, if you haven’t gotten started, NOW is the time to get going on the Books Read to Me sheet—also sent home on Monday. At least one book per day would be a super goal! Some of you have asked about your child reading the books to you. Absolutely acceptable. HOWEVER, it is most beneficial for you to also read to your child so that they hear some reading with expression—voice inflection. Also, if your child is “into” chapter books—you can count each chapter as a book. Just indicate that on the list.

The Book Buddies made their first trip home on Thursday. Please enjoy, but keep them out of the way of very young children and pets, so that we can keep them as nice as possible. You can find additional information about the Book Buddies in the ALL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN BOOK. You may add this book to your Books Read list. Please make sure that the books and the buddy are returned in the bag no later than Tuesday, so that they can be sanitized before the next trip home. Enjoy!

Next week we’ll begin the alphabet—even though most of the children know the letters—we do this in conjunction with our phonics series. It will help us to “perfect” our writing of the letters, help us with sounds, and blending of the sounds. On Tuesday, there will be our first alphabet page to come home. Check ALL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN—under Homework. I have magazines to share if you’d like. The internet can be used when you can’t find a certain picture, but not as valuable of a learning experience as actually LOOKING for pictures. They can also draw a picture—it helps to label it, in case the child forgets what they’ve drawn. Remember, if you glue a “real object” like an angel or an army man, please glue it to the RIGHT side of the paper—the left is where it will be bound into a booklet. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD PUT THEIR NAME AT THE TOP FRONT OF THE PAGE. Thanks!

We had a fundraiser assembly to “kick this off” today. The APTO is a big supporter of our school. They do wonderful things for the children and the teachers of ALS.

Thanks for sending in the Letters of Love. The smiles from the kids were priceless. You will get these back, but not immediately. We were delayed a bit—they didn’t all get read on Monday. It wasn’t possible time wise. I believe they’ve all had theirs read—if sent in.

Your child came home on Wednesday with a cut little owl clipped to their book bags. This was a gift from the members of Atonement Lutheran Church. Our thanks to them.

**Alana** is our first Kindergarten Kid. She is featured on the bulletin board right outside our classroom. She is also featured on our web site--atonementbb.com. There will be several pictures from our week. Every child should be represented, but I can’t promise you that they are all the exact same number of pictures of each child. It’ll be different each week. Also, a big congratulations to **Alana** on being our first Kindergartner to have **10 Books Read**! Keep up all of you hard work!

A speech form came home from Atonement’s speech therapist. All kindergartners will be screened starting soon. You will receive the results.

Chapel envelopes will come home again on Tuesday (attached to the “A” letter paper). We appreciate any way that you can help us, as we raise money for the military families passing through the St. Louis airport during the Christmas season. This will be through the USO.

Ms. Kern has asked that Pre K. and Kindergartners begin to walk to the classroom by themselves next week. Please !

The blankets came home today for laundering. Please make sure that they are returned on Monday. Some of you have sent extra things during the week. We really don’t have room for pillows, 3 blankets, etc. Pre K. had a special “Nap Room”. We do not. Please—only the small blanket. We simply don’t have the space, and they aren’t napping for more than 30 minutes—really a quiet calm down time.

Thanks for your cooperation this first week. We’ll do a little more settling each week.

Our Fall Spirit Week begins on Monday—crazy dress each day. On Monday, we are asked to dress representing our favorite Disney/Marvel Character. I will try to remind you each evening, but I hope that kindergarten can be represented.

Blessings,

Doris