

Mrs. Smith's Smidgens

Issue #4

September 11, 2026

Number Writing

We have begun writing numbers the "TCA way" in our Book of Numbers. class! Parents, you have (or will have) the rhymes we say in class while we write the numbers with your handouts from the Parent Spalding Class.

Please only practice numbers 1 and 2 at this point. Once the strokes are learned, the rhymes may be shortened or no longer used. Our numbers always sit on the baseline.

Initial Kindergarten Assessments

Initial Kindergarten Assessment Reports will be sent home on Monday, Sept. 14th.

Look for a bright yellow ½ sheet in your student's backpack. If you have any questions or need clarification on any item, let me know. Otherwise, we will be discussing your child's progress on these and other skills at our October Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Spalding Phonogram App

1. Search for "Phonograms Spalding" in the Apple App Store.
2. Download the "Phonograms by SEI" app to your mobile device.

Curriculum

Math: This week's topics included Recognizing the numbers 1 to 5 as well as counting and matching. We also began our number books and have written 1 and 2 the "TCA way."

Core Knowledge: We continued Our Five Senses unit. Focus this week was touching and tasting. The touch bucket game was a favorite activity as well as tasting and graphing apples snacks.

Phonograms: I introduced g (2 sounds) and s (2 sounds) this week. Next week I hope to teach qu (1 sound), b (1 sound), e (2 sounds) and h (1 sound).

Language Arts: We focused on writing "clock letter" phonograms o, c, a, d, f, g and s, letter naming, practicing phonemic awareness skills, reciting nursery rhymes, learning about narrative writing and making CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words with our phonogram cards.

Read Aloud Books: One by Kathryn Otoshi, The Five Senses: Using Your Senses by Rebecca Rissman, Ten Apples Up On Top by Dr. Suess and Apple Picking Time by Michele Slawson

Important Dates

Tues., Sept. 15th – Thurs., Sept. 17th
Sound in a Sack Begins

Thurs., Sept. 17th
Grandparents' Day
AM Program 10:00 am
PM Program 2:00 pm

Thurs., Sept. 24th
Mother Goose Day

Thurs., Sept. 29th
School Picture Retakes
Must wear TCA uniform

Thurs., Oct. 8th and Fri., Oct. 9th
Parent/Teacher Conferences
(by appt.)

Mon., Oct. 12th – Fri., Oct. 16th
NO SCHOOL
Fall Break

Fri., Oct. 23rd
Catamount Institute "In School" Field Trip All AM and PM students will attend from 8:15 am – 12:15 pm. Watch for more details.

Thurs., Nov. 19th
Thanksgiving Feast

Mon., Nov. 23rd – Fri., Nov. 27th
NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

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Taught Phonograms

o, c, a, d, f,
g and s

Week of Sept. 14th Sound in a Sack

"a"

Thank You, Parents!

Thanks to the parents who attended my Parent Spalding Training sessions this week. PM parents, if you were unable to attend, I'll be sending home the handouts in your student's take-home folder next week. AM students' handouts were sent home on thursday.

Sound in a Sack

Our Kindergarten version of "Show and Tell" called "Sound in a Sack" will begin on Tues., Sept 12th! A letter with all the details and the student sharing schedule was sent home in your student's take-home folder a few weeks ago. Our first week will be objects that begin with "a," any of the 3 sounds.

Mother Goose Day

Mother Goose Day is Thurs., Sept. 24th! It will be the grand finale to our nursery rhyme unit. Students will be reciting a favorite nursery rhyme and have the opportunity to dress up as a character from or something that represents their nursery rhyme. I will help and encourage your student with their recitation as needed. Parents are invited to join us from 9:30-11:30 for AM Class and from 12:15-2:15 for the PM Class. No siblings allowed. Our very Special Guest will be Mother Goose!

Nursery Rhymes

We have already enjoyed 3 weeks of Nursery Rhymes. Nursery rhymes are great tools to teach pre-reading skills. Some of the skills we practice when saying nursery rhymes are rhyming words (or course!), phonemic awareness, beginning sounds, vocabulary, sequencing events, and opposites. Each day in class, students are busy doing some kind of activity which will go into their Mother Goose Book that will go home at the end of our unit.

Some Things to Ponder

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

"The apple never falls far from the tree."

"One bad apple can spoil the whole barrel."

"Don't upset the apple cart."



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