

September, 2017

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten!!

Throughout the year, students will develop their skills as readers, writers and thinkers across the curriculum. This letter will describe the focus of the first literacy unit and what you can do at home to support your student's learning. You will receive a similar letter before each unit.

### **Focus**

This first unit will focus on beginning the journey of readers and writers including Students will discover *why* we read and write, as well as *what* we read and write. Students will listen as many different texts are read aloud. As readers, they will begin to retell stories and informational books with each other and with support from their teacher. They will also develop early reading behaviors and their reading identities. As writers, they will begin to explore how writing is used to communicate. This will include writing to tell about their own experiences and writing to teach others.

### **Home Support**

You can help your child at home in several ways:

- Read to your child every night.
- Talk with your child about what they read and write. Ask about:
  - Characters, setting, and problem (or situation) in the story
  - How is the character the same and different from characters in other books?
  - Topics and information learned in a non-fiction book
  - What's the same and different about the information on a topic?
- Look at the work your child brings home. Praise your child for his/her hard work!
- Encourage your child to engage in writing activities (e.g., making lists and signs, etc.)

We're looking forward to a year of discovery and new learning!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team