



# The Tools of the Mind Connection

A newsletter connecting home and school environments

FALL ISSUE # 1

Welcome to kindergarten! We hope you had a terrific summer and are excited about the upcoming school year! Your child is special to you, and to us, and we hope to form a partnership with you as the year progresses.

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

The Arlington Public School Calendar can be found at the link below:

<http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/calendar/pdfs/apscalendar.pdf>

Twice a month, you will be receiving this newsletter designed to give you information about what we are doing in school and give you ideas of activities you can do at home with your child. We will highlight some activities and key ideas of the "Tools of the Mind" curriculum to give you a picture of a day in the life of your kindergartner.

Studies show that the best foundation for children is to use **play** as the activity to 'spark' learning. When you ask your children what they did in school, their answer will most likely be 'I played', and they will be absolutely right as much of what they learn in September will happen through games and play. A part of this newsletter, titled "**What are we doing in school?**" (below) will tell you what theme the

## WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SCHOOL?



Theme: Fairy Tales – *3 Little Pigs; Billy Goats Gruff*

### **SCIENCE:**

- Huff and Puff Houses
- Can you build a boat that floats?

What's happening in centers: We are acting out the fairy tales we read to learn about story sequence and characters. We are practicing taking turns and changing roles. We are learning to use the comprehension strategies we have learned to act out our roles.

What Reading & Writing Skills are being practiced? We practice visualizing or making a picture of the story in our minds. We are learning to think about character empathy or how the characters in the story feel. We also talk about story grammar or the beginning, middle and end of the story. We write plans before we play and write about the story grammar. As the students do all this writing they will be learning about letters and sounds.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES:**

- Generating class rules and expectations
- Getting to know each other

### **EXTENSIONS AT HOME:**

- Draw and write about your favorite part of a story.
- Practice counting how many spoons, forks, etc you need for dinner.

