



The Tools of the Mind Connection

A newsletter connecting home and school environments

FALL ISSUE # 3

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Be sure to check out the Hardy School website for Hardy Happenings

We are changing our focus in Literacy. We have moved from Fairy Tales to a series of books called *The Magic Tree House* series. In each book, the title characters Jack and Annie, travel to a different place and time. We will spend the first week of the theme building background knowledge about the time period and culture Jack and Annie will visit in the story. Week 2-3 of the theme will be spent covering one chapter of the story each day. Children will read and write about Jack and Annie and learn Science and Social studies concepts related to the geographic location and time period the books takes place in. Children will also use the background knowledge and story events they learn about to dramatize the story in centers.



Spotlight Activity: Story lab with Chapter books

Chapter books are used in Kindergarten increase the complexity of play and encourage play that continues and evolves over time. The Magic Tree House series was chosen because of the interesting storylines, complex plots and ties to nonfiction topics.



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SCHOOL?

Theme: Medieval Times – The Knight At Dawn

SCIENCE:

- * Force and Motion using catapults
- * Fall observations

What's happening in centers: We are making props to help us dramatize. We will learn about castles, moats, castle feasts, jesters and minstrels.

What Reading & Writing Skills are being practiced? We wrote facts we learned instead of center plans this week. We are continuing Small Group Literacy Games and will continue Elkonin Box activities to learn more about sounds in words. We will also continue to have shared writing experiences to work on concept of word and including more sounds in our words.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- * Life in a castle
- * Buying/selling at a market
- * Feast

EXTENSIONS AT HOME:

- Read your fact book to someone or teach someone about medieval times!
- Talk about a prop you made in centers. How did you do it?

