



The Tools of the Mind Connection

A newsletter connecting home and school environments

FALL ISSUE # 4

We are now fully into our chapter book, *The Knight at Dawn*. The children are very engaged in acting out various roles from the Medieval era. We are learning to dramatize the adventures of the book's main character in our centers. Students continue to plan their roles and work together to recreate scenes from the era and the story.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

* Please refer to the Arlington Public Schools website and the Hardy website for important dates and reminders



Spotlight Activity: Elkonin Boxes

Elkonin Boxes are a series of activities that provide practice in hearing sounds in the order they appear in a word. This is a very important skill for reading. In the first activity children jump on a spot for each sound while saying the sounds, helping the children get the rhythm of phonemes (sounds) in words. In the second activity we move to pushing chips to represent each sound.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SCHOOL?



Theme: Medieval Times – The Knight At Dawn

Science:

- Simple Machines – Pulleys and Wheels
- Catapults

What's happening in centers: We are dramatizing roles from medieval times and acting out events from our Magic Tree House story. We are using an ever expanding vocabulary in our play.

What Reading & Writing Skills are being practiced? We are now using our writing skills to write chapter summaries. When we finish a Magic Tree House story, each child will bring home their own version of the book. Phonemic awareness, letter sounds and names, and segmenting sounds are the focus of our small group literacy games.

Social Studies:

- * Having a castle feast
- * Buying/Selling at a medieval market

EXTENSIONS AT HOME:

- Count everything. Talk about who has more or less of something and how you know.
- Read your chapter book summaries to someone at home.

