PRINCIPAL’S NEWS:

Greetings,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a Happy New Year and had the time to reconnect with family and friends! The first part of the year went by quickly and I anticipate that the second half will go just as quick. New Year’s Day is usually a time of promise and renewed hope. Usually, it involves something personal and is focused on what we can do improve ourselves. This year, I made a resolution to be supportive of my kids. What can I do to help them succeed, academically and socially? My New Year’s Resolution is to be more involved with my kids – to help with homework, communicate more with their teachers, and to provide experiences and dialogue to help them critically think, explore, and wonder about the world around them. What do I plan on doing?

- Talk with my kids. I’ll ask open ended-questions and ask them to explain to me their thinking
- Learn how to support them in the classroom through partnerships with their teachers
- Provide unique learning experiences that come from their questions and interests
- Spend time with them and having fun!

Your site as well as the Early Childhood program have different events planned for the next 5 months. This include site celebrations, Literacy Night for the Early Childhood program, and other events. I hope you'll be a part of our events at your Early Childhood Center as well as our program. If you’re looking for additional volunteer opportunities, maybe you'll consider participating on our Policy Council. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 11th. Information for Policy Council can be found on our website: http://www.thompson.k12.co.us/Domain/3111. Our sincerest wishes for a wonderful 2016 for you and your family!

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator
By encouraging various kinds of play activities using money, you’re not only helping your children or students with learning coins, but you’re also providing them with the opportunity to practice other important skills like sorting, counting, and even letter sounds. And the best part- all you need is a bunch of coins!

Do you have a change jar or piggy bank full of coins at home? If so, you can easily set up some fun math activities for your child.

Sorting Coins

Lucy and her friend started by sorting coins. As they were sorting we practiced naming the coins and describing how they looked and felt. They also practiced one-to-one counting by counting how many coins they had in each pile.

Easy Sorting Coins Game

Next, we played a game with the coins. We took one handful of coins. Then we created a line graph with the coins by lining up all the like coins. We compared the coins, figuring out which we had the most of and which we had the fewest of. The coin we had the most of was the winning coin! The girls enjoyed playing this quite a few times!

Coin Play for Young Children

Even little children can learn so much with playing with coins. Theo loved lining his coins up and making his cars drive over them- great fine motor practice! (Reminder: Coins are choking hazards.)

Exploring Coins Using Paper

Later I taped some drawing paper to a little table and the girls traced the coins. We listened for the beginning sound as we said the name of each coin and wrote it’s first letter inside the circle.

Learning Patterns with Coins

When it was time to clean up, we all took turns putting the coins back into the coin jar. We made different patterns while doing it: Lucy’s turn, Theo’s turn, Lucy’s friend’s turn, Lucy’s turn…and so on. The kids would suggest different patterns to try!

It was so fun listening to the kids questions and comments as they explored the coins. “Look how many pennies I have!” “The quarters feel rough on the sides, but not the pennies.” And all the while they were practicing counting skills, coin recognition, sorting, patterning and letter sounds.
GETTING BACK INTO THE ‘GROOVE’

Post-holiday readjustment takes longer for some children than others. You know your children best, and are aware of their typical recuperation time. After a routine has been re-established in the home, stress-related behaviors should lessen within two weeks, (perhaps a month for children with more difficult temperaments).

Now that the celebrations are over, the parenting challenge is to get back to basics. Below is a list of suggestions to lead the way. The sooner your household schedule and routines get back on track, the sooner your kids’ typical behaviors will, too.

• Re-establish regular family routines, whatever they may be. Before- and after-school or child care routines and rituals are especially important for promoting children’s sense of security and stability.
• Facilitate healthy eating with reliable and consistent snack and meal times. Eat together as a family in your home at least once a day, no less. More often is better if your family schedule allows it.
• Make sure kids get daily indoor and outdoor play and exercise.
• Watch less television and videos. Play games together for leisure instead.
• Arrange for adequate sleep with dependable bedtimes.
• Take time to reconnect with children at bedtime using reliable rituals, like singing a lullaby or reading a bedtime story together.
• Expect chores to be done in the usual manner.
• Create quiet times for regular homework activities.
• Plan for at least weekly one-on-one time with each child.
• Re-institute once a week family meetings to air differences or make leisure plans.
• Re-commit to using positive guidance techniques.
• Be patient as everyone gradually gets back into the swing of things.
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

If you haven’t already checked out the new and improved Loveland Library, January is a great time to see what they have to offer. The Library is celebrating their new look on January 4th from 4 – 6 pm. They will have refreshments, free giveaways, crafting, face-painting, and activity booths. The address is 300 N. Adams, just west of The Chilson Center.

Preschool Storytime – Tuesdays at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, and Wednesdays at 11:00 am.

More Than Storytime – Saturday, January 9 from 10:00 – 11:00 am – storytime, followed by an activity about Shapes, for ages 2 - 5.

Play Group – (for ages 0 – 5,) Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 am.

Tumblebooks – go to the library website and click on the Tumblebooks icon to access stories for your children, available in English and Spanish.


You can check out book/activity bags, movies, music, and books on tape.

The library also offers free computer classes to adults, both on-line and in person, such as Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Gmail.

If you don’t already have a library card, you just need to bring a picture ID and proof of address. Take some time to check out all that our wonderful Loveland Library has to offer. You won’t be disappointed!

Julie Lindsay
Family and Community Partnership Coordinator – (970) 613-5053

Follow us on FaceBook:

Get fun ideas, information on school events, and sometimes just a nice message to help your day go well.

We are also on the web at:

http://tinyurl.com/thompsonec