



**Hello Trotter & Bronco families!** We hope you all had a great holiday season with a lot of love and family time. We cannot believe that it is a new school year, and now the remaining days will go by so quickly. We as a class, have a lot to work on to get ready for the events that are to come such as parent/teacher conferences, Week of the Young Child, and Pre K graduation to name a few.

This upcoming month we will have conferences. Since your child has entered our room, we have been working on letter, number and shape recognition as well as letter sounds. We have also been learning about compound words, rhyming, and punctuation. During conferences, we will talk about what your child has learned, and this will be the time to ask any questions or voice concerns.

One topic we will be excited to learn about is insects. A fun activity we will do is go on a bug hunt. We will venture out in the playground to see if we can find any bugs and try our best to draw them. After we are done, we will make a bug book to share with others. Another subject we will work on is problem-solving. The teacher will give the class a “What is missing?” problem, and they will try to figure it out. At the same time, the Trotters will learn about grids, columns, and rows. By doing this, we will see if the children can solve matrix problems through classification.

One subject we will continue to learn about is using our imagination. The Trotters & Broncos are continuously using their imagination as they play and learn daily. But this time we'll take it to another level. We will read different versions of The Three Little Pigs and attempt to make our own structures to investigate which is the strongest. We will also use different shapes to see what sort of things we can create from them.

As we near the end of our school year, we will be getting ready for graduation and discussing moving up to the “big kid school” they talk so much about. We are so thankful and grateful that you have given us the opportunity to teach and spend time with your children every day.

## KINDERGARDEN READINESS

At this wonderful age, self-regulation is something that we are teaching the children daily. Self-regulation is a skill kindergarteners need to allow them to listen, to wait, and to react calmly to things they don't want to hear. It's a skill that even we adults need to calm down and react calmly and peacefully. There are many ways to help a child with self-regulation, but the one we have found that is more effective in class is teaching them breathing meditation. When a child does need help, we ask him/her to put a finger up and to pretend to blow out the candle. It does help a lot and distracts them from the initial problem. A couple things to keep in mind, give your child ample empathy and consistent praise for their efforts and progress. Your child will learn these skills gradually. If you do want to learn more about the subject, let us know and we can provide more information on that.