Happy Friday Everyone!

We have had a busy week in kindergarten and have made some real progress. Just as the bulbs are popping up in the garden, the children are blooming and showing their brightest colors! Each morning, I ask the class to take out their writing folders and they look it over critically, deciding what task they need to tackle next. I write their initials on the white board chart, and off they go. They work independently and fairly quietly, most of the time now. A hand will go up from time to time signaling the call for assistance. Their spelling is still invented much of the time but that is as it should be. A confident writer will try to solve the sound puzzle in the words they want to write. Mrs. Piper and I circulate, providing guidance and encouragement on an individual basis. Simply marvelous to behold! You can be very proud of your children.

Our study of plants has been wonderful as well. The children came in Monday to find the seeds planted last week are sprouting. The seeds planted in baggies are hanging on the closet door and the peat pots on the window sill have good sprouts. And how great was it to have Heather Galpin, a biology teacher at HCC, in as our parent helper to guide the observation and discussions about plant growth and development during our Work Board rotation that day!

We had a tremendous class discussion about what plants (and other living things) need to grow healthy and strong. We even started our flower pot books with sentences about our learning. We will continue to observe and report on the plant growth using the new vocabulary as part of the reporting piece. Now our plants are really growing and will need transplanting, probably this coming week! This is what they looked like today, Friday.
Next Friday, we will return to the vernal pool to observe changes there. As mentioned in an earlier communication, we will be joined by Ms. Audrey Morse and Mrs. Debbie Zacarian of the Collaborative for Educational Services (previously called HEC.) The film will focus on English language learners and will illustrate sheltered instruction. This type of instruction is helpful to all students. Making a personal connection between the living things in our classroom and the real world will enrich the understanding.

Have a wonderful weekend with your children.

Regards,
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