* Please remember to check the GREEN ALLIGATOR folder daily and return it to school. Remove anything in the “Keep at Home” side and check the “Return to School” side for important notes/info.
* Homework is sent home at the beginning of the month. It is optional to do. It reviews all the concepts that we are working on in class. Keep the packet at home until it is completed and send it back to school at the end of the month.
* If your child’s transportation changes (even if it’s for the day), please send a note in in their alligator folder letting us know.
* A permission slip for our field trip to the pumpkin farm was sent home last week along with information explaining what we will do on this field trip. The field trip is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21. It costs $14 per student. Please send back the permission slip and money ASAP. If you would like to be a chaperone on this field trip we would love to have you join us. A signup genius was sent out and the link is on our classroom website. Chaperones need to be a registered volunteer through the school. The cost for chaperones is $10.
* Before track-out I sent home raz-kids information. I strongly encourage you to let your student use this program at home. This will help them in learning how to read.
* Please remember to send in a healthy snack with your student each day for our snack time.
* Our classroom gets chilly throughout the day and we do not have control of the room temperature. If you could send a sweater for your student to wear when they get cold it would be appreciated.
* Please send a water bottle in with your student each day for recess. It gets hot out there!
* Book orders were sent home last week. I will be placing the order on Monday, October 5. If you visit [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com), our “book club” class code is: N8ZZF.
* We are still working very hard each day on following the classroom rules and expectations. Please know that it is still normal for students to come home on yellow or red this time of year and it won’t be until about midyear until the students have a pretty good hold on this. We are learning about self-control and when it is the right time to do certain things. If your student comes home on one of these colors, please talk to them and discuss why they received that color and what they could do to make better choices. As long as we continue to work together and stay consistent the students will have great success with this.

# Reminders/Further Information

**Literacy:** Our Guided Reading groups are up and running and going pretty well! Students will continue to work on developing independence during Literacy centers. This week we will be focusing continuing our focus on the difference between fiction and nonfiction. We will continue to review concepts of print during shared reading time, when students are introduced to engaging “big” books and poems. Through these activities students will practice tracking words from left to right, top to bottom, page by page and begin to understand that words are separated by spaces in print.

**Phonics:** We are continuing the next section of our Letter Land phonics program. We are focusing on a letter a day and doing different activities to help the students remember the letter and the sound it makes. We will also practice identifying the difference between letters and words. The children will participate in a sorting activity using letters, words, and sentences.

**Writing:** This week we will continue to work hard on saying the words we want to write slowly and recording the sounds we hear….also known in our class as “Being a Smartie Speller”. We each have a new mini Word Wall chart and alphabet chart to refer to during Writing Workshop time. Once the word Wall Words have been introduced, we hold students accountable for spelling those words correctly when writing their stories. This week’s focus will continue to be: “When you use your alphabet chart, you can write anything!” Our Kindergartners are really working hard on applying their letter/sound knowledge to the writing of words and sentences.

**Math:** Every morning we work on calendar concepts during our morning meeting. In Math class we will continue practicing counting by ones and tens using a hundreds chart. During centers this week, students will be looking at two groups of numbers and determining which group has more or less. As we continue working in small groups during centers, students will practice staying on task, using a quiet voice, and working cooperatively with others.

**Handwriting:** We will practice writing lowercase letters formed in similar ways**.**

**Science:** We will continue talking about our five senses and what they are used for. The 5 senses unit will prepare the children for our Investigating Properties Unit coming up next quarter! During our Science Units I will be having experiment Fridays with the class. They will be safe simple experiments where the students can be scientist! This coming Friday we will be using our 5 senses to examine gummy worms. (If you do not want your student to eat the gummy worms, please let me know).

Monday: Art

Tuesday: Guidance

Wednesday: Science

Thursday: Music

Friday: Media

# Specials

* 9/28 – Ms. Dodson out at a training
* 9/29 – Picture Day
* 9/29 – Johnny Appleseed Day
* 9/30 – Report Cards will be sent home

# Curriculum News

Ms. Dodson’s Classroom Newsletter

**Have a wonderful week!**

Ms. Dodson

**ddodson@wcpss.net**

# Important Dates

### Alston Ridge Elementary

Cary, NC

Week of 9/21/15 – 9/25/15

Kindergarten is a Hoot!

