Hi 4’s parents,

We had a great farm week.  It started off in a very exciting way, with our visit to the Settle’s house to see their chickens.  We got to feed the chickens, gather some eggs, and see the coop.  The chickens have a special area where they sleep and a box they go to lay eggs.  They also had a very BIG rabbit.  The rabbit has its own area to sleep at the bottom of the coop.  We fed the rabbit carrots and apples.  The chickens were very friendly and the rabbit was very mellow.  It was a perfect day for a walk.

At circle, we read the book “Little Pig, Biddle Pig,” about a pig who is clean and beautiful, but she is lonely because all the other pigs are playing in the mud.  In the end, she decides that she would rather be with her friends, so she jumps in the mud with them.  At the easels, we made our own pigs in mud.  We spread brown finger paint on pink cutouts of pigs.  They look really cute and are hanging on the walls in our classroom.  We also sang a song about pigs to the tune of “Five Green and Speckled Frogs.”  It goes like this:

Five pigs so squeaky clean,

The cleanest you have ever seen,

Wanted to roll out in the mud.  Oink! Oink!

Mama Sow said, “You’d better not.”

But one piglet did not stop.

Now there are four pigs so squeaky clean.

We continued to sing until we got down to no pigs.

We painted a farm scene at the easels with watercolors, and we painted another pig, adding a circle nose and diamond-shaped eyes.  A diamond (or rhombus) is our shape of the week.  At creative arts, we colored pictures of roosters and glued feathers on it.  We stamped five pigs and the number 5 (our number of the week) inside a barn.  We used a variety of materials in the color pink to decorate a picture of a pig.  We also colored a picture of a hay wagon.

At the toy table, we played with the Fisher Price farm and all the animals.  We played the Farm Families game, in which we put an animal on the board and pressed down.  The animal made its sound.  Then we put a hay bale on and pushed down.  We tried to get a matching sound.  If we matched, we opened up the hay bale to see the animal inside.  We had a cow, a horse, a chicken, and a sheep.

At the challenge table, we had a piggy bank full of pennies.  We took the pennies and counted them out onto pig cutouts with numbers on them from 3 to 7.  We also had chicken coops with upper case letters on them.  We found eggs with lower case letters and matched them to the coop with the same letter on it.  This was a good review for us of the letters A through G.  We also worked on patterning with pictures of different vegetables.  We said the pattern out loud, and then circled the one that came next.  We were given three different vegetables to choose from for each one.

The sensory table was filled with corn, bottles, funnels, and scoops.  We had a lot of fun scooping the corn, filling the bottles and then pouring out the corn.  We had farm animal blocks, and the big trucks were out to load produce to take to market.  Home Living was a Farmer’s Market this week.  We took turns as customer loading our baskets with produce and as the farmer ringing up and bagging the sales.

On Wednesday, we made pretzels.  We rolled pretzel dough into a long snake and then we formed the first letter of our name out of it.  Some of us had easier letters than others!  We sprinkled them with salt and baked them.  We ate them for our snack – they were really good.  On Thursday, we filled a jar with whipping cream and passed it around the circle, with each of us shaking it five times.  We kept shaking until it turned into butter!  We had bread for our snack and put the butter on it.  It was so yummy!  This is really easy to do if you want to try it at home.  (I recommend adding a little salt to the whipping cream.)

Our other books this week included “Before We Eat,” which told the story of how our food gets to us from the farm, and “Anywhere Farm,” a sweet story about how a farm can be in almost any place.  We also read “The Little Red Hen,” before we made the pretzels.  We wanted to make sure we all helped with the pretzels so we could all enjoy them!   We read “Little Blue Truck,” and we were each assigned an animal or truck sound to make during the story.  We sang the songs “Old McDonald’s Band,” which we accompanied with instruments, and Laurie Berkner’s “I Know a Chicken,” with which we used egg shakers.  It is a really fun song.

Next week, we look forward to celebrating Halloween.  We will have our parties on Thursday, and we will go trick or treating up in the church office.  You and your family are invited to come to the Pumpkin Patch in the back parking lot to see our Halloween parade and our program of songs.  We will start about 15 minutes after drop off.  If it is raining, we will hold the program in the church sanctuary.  I will let you know the night before.

**We are finding that we need to change students’ masks as they get wet during the day.  If you can send in an extra mask in their school bags each day, we would really appreciate it.  Thank you!**

Have a great weekend!  Maybe I will see you at some of the activities here at the church on Saturday!