

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! We are anxious to get our projects and activities going and are looking forward to working with all of the children. We anticipate a fun and rewarding year and with your cooperation, we will have one.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know what we will be doing in our rooms this year. You will also be receiving monthly newsletters at the first of each month to keep you posted on current activities. It is our hope that you will read each letter carefully, keep it in a safe place for the month, and act promptly if a response is necessary. Your support with our newsletters will help your child to achieve at his/her fullest potential.

It is going to be a big year for your kindergarten child. To help boost self-esteem and create a positive self-image, we have a special V.I.P. in our classroom each week. Following is the information you will need to know about our kindergarten V.I.P. activities.

On Monday of each week one child from kindergarten will be chosen as our V.I.P. We will send an information sheet home with your child when it is his/her turn to be the V.I.P. Please fill out the information sheet and return it to your child's teacher. The information you return, along with a few pictures provided by you (child, family, pets, hobbies, vacation, etc.) will be displayed on our special V.I.P. board in the classroom for one week and then returned to you in good condition. To culminate your child's special week on Friday the class will make a special picture for them. On this celebration day, you may send a treat to share with the class if you would like to do so (the State Board of Health requires that this treat be store bought-no homemade treats). **WE WILL NOTIFY YOU** of your child's special week the week before his/her turn so you will have time to get the necessary items together. Please wait until you have been notified so your child will not have to share his/her special week and Friday with someone else. Thanks!

Occasionally we will be sending home book Club notices for books that are mailed to your home and billed to you at that time. It is your choice whether you wish to join these clubs or not. However, even if you wish not to join, please fill out the slips completely and make an "X" in the "NO" box. Then return the slips to school with your child. These slips, marked either "YES" or "NO", help us earn nice educational gifts for our classroom FREE of charge.

in addition to book Club notices, we will also be sending home a SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDER form approximately once a month. The books on this order form are inexpensive and are a good way for you to begin or add to your child's at-home library. These books are paid for when you order by sending the order form and a check (made out to the company) or money order to school with your child by the deadline date on the back of the order form. The teacher then fills out a master order form, mails it and the checks/money orders to Scholastic Book Company, and in about three weeks the books arrive at school. The teachers then sort the books and pass them out to the children who ordered them and your child brings his/her books home at that time. An additional letter of information concerning the Scholastic Book

Orders will be attached to the first order slip we send home.

Many times we hear the comment that since a child is “only in Kindergarten” it would not hurt for them to miss school in order to go on trips, go shopping, stay with grandma a few days, or just stay home with mom or dad for a day. If this is your feeling, please let us urge you to reconsider. The academic kindergarten alone makes it very important for your child to be in school. A reading and math lessons will be covered every day, along with handwriting practice as well. Besides these subjects, arts & crafts, P.E. music, media center skills, computer skills, and monthly units relating to science and social studies are taught. Although some paper assignments can be made up, lessons and hands-on learning experiences cannot. Therefore, please see to it that your child is in school unless illness or emergencies prevent it. (10 days of absents without notification, student is dropped and their class spot is filled. You may not get your same teacher back when you re-register)

Units we are planning to cover this year include: self-awareness and self-esteem, animals, shapes & colors, safety, school and neighborhood helpers, nutrition/exercise and healthy lifestyles, Pilgrims/Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving, Family traditions, the five senses, weather, patriotism/America, and seasons. Calendar skills and coordination skills will be practiced throughout the year, and we will do activities related to the holidays as they arrive. If you find you have any items that go along with our units and studies, please feel free to send them to school during the appropriate time. We are also always happy to schedule you as a resource speaker if your occupation or hobbies relate to our studies. Our monthly newsletters, will always let know what we are learning and when we are learning it.

Parents sometimes ask if they can donate anything to the classroom which we, as teachers, purchase out of our own pockets. This help from our parents is very much appreciated. Every year we purchase things for the class not available from our regular supply catalogue/budget. Each month in our monthly newsletter we will mention things we could use for that month. Thank you in advance for anything you feel comfortable donating! This month we could use: healthy mid-day snacks to serve 26 or so (crackers of all kinds, fruit, cheese, granola bars, fruit drinks, etc.) boxes of kleenex, hand sanitizer, reward/motivational stickers, reward treats, beans, buttons, dry noodles any shape, glitter, miscellaneous small candies.

We are looking forward to an exciting year. Let us know any time you feel confused about something at school or feel there may be a problem we need to discuss.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

Watch for our Sept. Newsletter coming soon.

Suggestions for a Good Start

1. Be sure your child gets plenty of rest on school nights and a good meal before school each day.

2. Do not send your child to school more than 10 minutes early. He/she not only gets bored and wound up before school begins, but he/she is unsupervised during this time and it could be a dangerous situation.

3. Please place child's name with tape or permanent ink in All of your child's coats, hats, mittens, boots, and school bags. This helps us to identify them and keep them from becoming lost.

4. Some type of book bag, back pack, folder, or even empty plastic grocery sack is very helpful in transporting books, papers, and notes to and from school. They keep things cleaner and are more reliable than hand-carried papers (especially on windy/stormy days or when we have a lot to send home.)

5. If your child is to be excused from school early, the person excusing the child MUST GO TO THE OFFICE FIRST to check the child out. A designated staff member at the office will then let your child's teacher know your child is to be excused early and your child will be sent to the office to meet you there. (Early is any time before the bell rings) This is a safety issue and no exceptions will be made. Your child should also be reminded often not to get into strange automobiles, to go straight home from school (not to go to a friend's house without prior permission), and to learn proper traffic safety procedures in regards to getting to and from school.

6. If your child is tardy to school (any time after the tardy bell rings), he/she is required to check in at the office with a note from a responsible adult explaining the reason for the tardy before he/she can be admitted to the classroom.

Again, thank you for your help and cooperation. We know that working together in the best interest of your Child will assure us all of a happy and successful school year!

