

# Classroom II Newsletter

September 2008

## Welcome Back!

We are so pleased with your return to school. It is always exciting to meet new families and to reconnect with returning families. The atmosphere in classroom II is ripe with joy, love and excitement.

## Classroom Parent Help

We are searching for one parent from the morning and afternoon programs to help organize classroom volunteers. We will train these "classroom parent helpers" to prepare materials (cut paper, collate booklets and supplies, laminate, copy...). Additionally, these helpers will organize volunteers to assist in these tasks and other occasional activities. If you are interested, please send a note or leave a message with the office staff and we will call to arrange details. Thanks!

## Gratitude

We wish to thank the following people for donations of their talent, time and treasure to classroom II:

Kendal Baughman

Jenny Hesseldenz

We appreciate your thoughts, efforts and supplies which help to maintain, create and update the children's environment.

## Reminders & Important Information

As we are becoming oriented and reoriented to the arrival and dismissal we ask that you remember the following carline details. Please pull to the top of the circle (practically to the flag pole) before stopping to let your child out of the car in the mornings. If you experience difficulty separating from your child, please park and walk your child to the covered porch or front door.

At dismissal time please remember to keep the carline safely and consistently moving to alleviate traffic congestion in the neighborhood and school. As a courtesy to others in the carline, please pull into the parking lot to continue conversations once your child has been brought to you.

Children's birthdays are recognized in the classroom with a short ceremony. You may send in a brief "story" of your child (an easy template is attached). We will share the story with the children and sing our birthday song. Special treats are welcome to share, we simply ask that sugary foods be avoided for our children's health. Some suggestions are small wholesome muffins, your child's favorite fruit, fresh bread... Also, birthday invitations will not be distributed at school, unless each child is a recipient, and the invitations are not addressed (fill in the "from: \_\_\_" portion but, leave the "To: \_\_\_" portion

blank). If you wish to mail invitations the office will be sending out a school wide address list within the next few weeks.

## **Snack recommendations**

Thank you for sending healthy snacks for your children to share. Fresh fruit and vegetables are always a favorite among the children, and we hope to see them as the majority of snacks. If you choose to send in grains, please send in whole grain snacks with the words whole wheat or whole grain as a first ingredient. (Triscuits, Graham crackers, Cheerios, pop corn...) If you choose to send dairy products look for low fat as these are still a good source of calcium and vitamin D. At snack time, the drink for the children is water. Your child has been given lessons in serving themselves as much or as little water as they desire. This adds no calories or sugar and promotes proper hydration for their developing brains. Remember to avoid sugary items. Check the label and please help us to provide positive contributions to your child's diet.

## **Conferences**

Due to the need to allow time for both morning program and afternoon program conference times, Classroom II sets aside two days for conferencing. This is not listed on the school calendar that you received during the summer. There is no school or child care provided on these conference days. The conference dates for Classroom II are:

First year conferences:	Friday, October 03, 2008 (morning program)
	Friday, October 10, 2008 (afternoon program)
Second year conferences:	Friday, November 03, 2008 (morning program)
	Friday, November 10, 2008 (afternoon program)
Third year conferences:	Friday, February 06, 2009 (morning program)
	Friday, February 13, 2009 (afternoon program)

## Fieldtrips & Special Events

Classroom II has several special events and fieldtrips scheduled throughout the year. There are two plays from the Lexington Children's Theatre, two fieldtrips and an open house.

### Fieldtrips:

**Arboretum**– October 09, 2008, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (both Morning & Afternoon Program attend)

**McConnell Springs** – April 17, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (both Morning & Afternoon Program attend)

### Plays:

Classroom II **afternoon students** are invited to attend these plays accompanied by a chaperone.

**Katerina the Clever** - November 17, 2008, 9 a.m.

**Jack & the Wonder Beans** – February 23, 2009, 9 a.m.

### Open House:

**Winter Open House** – December 19, 2008, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (both Morning & Afternoon Program attend)

## Curriculum News

Initial lessons have been heavily focused on the classroom ground rules. Some examples of our classroom rules are: using walking feet; using quiet voices; tucking in your chair; placing your work choice on a table or rug; returning your choice to the shelf upon completion, in good order; choosing materials that you have had a lesson on or asking a teacher for a lesson before taking them from the shelf; washing hands after bathroom time, after blowing your nose, before snack; one trip to the snack table and one serving of snack that is provided; sitting quietly for lesson and story time; helping each other and ourselves work by respecting concentration, workspace; saying please, thank you or no thank you...

We will return to this focus on ground rules in detail periodically and it remains a constant base in all that we do in the classroom for the benefit of the whole community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Sincerely,

The Teachers and Children of Classroom II