

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to report that the school year has gotten off to a great start. With each day the children are getting more independent with their daily routine.

We have a lot of new faces in our classroom this year. Our new parent orientation meeting was very well attended and we appreciate your taking the time to come. Below are a few quick reminders:

- Please be sure your child arrives at school by 8:30 to be present for our morning lesson.
- Please do not send extra supplies to school such as pencil grippers, mechanical pencils, binders and folders with pictures on them, calculators, etc. We also do not allow electronic games, other electronic gadgets or toys. These items are distracting and often cause problems.
- Mark your calendar with your snack day. The children really miss it if snack is forgotten.
- Send utensils and a cup if needed at lunch time.
- We appreciate notes for any change in your child's schedule - Doctor's appointments, going home with another child, extended absences etc.
- If your child is sometimes in dismissal and sometimes in after-school, please remind him/her of where they need to go when class activity is over.
- Dismissal is at 2:45. Children not picked up by 3:00 will go to the after school program.
- Take-home folders should be returned the next day. These folders need to last the entire year.
- Although regular conference days are in the school calendar, conferences can also be scheduled any time during the school year if a concern arises. Just call the office and leave a message. We will try to call you back during school hours.
- Wednesday is indeed a "wacky" day. Please be sure your child wears tennis shoes/sneakers and comfortable, loose fitting clothing for P.E.

Classroom Happenings:

We are blessed with gardens and play areas that provide a wonderful Outdoor Classroom. Several children found a praying mantis last week. They loved building a micro-habitat and just observing this beautiful specimen. Several will be doing research and presenting a report on the praying mantis. Just yesterday, the hummingbirds were enjoying the nectar in the trumpet vine in the garden. Watching the hummingbirds was quite a treat for all of us.

Each year the children embroider napkins that they use at lunch for the year. We started this project yesterday with the 3rd year group and the others are "chomping at the bit" and ready to begin their own napkin!

We will be telling creation stories later this week. The children enjoy hearing stories that various cultures have made up and passed down through the ages. The stories often trigger their imagination so that they invent their own ideas of how the world was formed.

Upcoming Events:

There are several activities planned during the month of September:

September 16: Class Party! You and your family are invited to a swim/pizza party at the Radisson Hotel from 6-8 P.M. on Tuesday, Sept. 16. We are asking each family to bring an item to go in our class "basket" that will be raffled off at the F.A.A.B. Bash. Our basket theme is gardening so any kind of gardening related item will be appreciated. Also bring drinks for your family to go with the pizza. This is a great opportunity for families to get to know one another and have fun.

September 23: Field trip to Falls of the Ohio State Park. This is an all-day field trip, leaving school at 8:45 and returning at 2:45. We will watch a short movie, view the exhibits and then explore the outdoor fossil lab. The children will be able to investigate the variety of rocks and fossils on the river bank and see evidence of ancient sea life on the fossil beds. Please check your calendars to see if you can help drive. A request for drivers will be sent home later.

September 28: F.A.A.B. Bash! This is where our gardening basket will be raffled off. There will be other baskets and fun activities for the whole family. Details are in the Thursday Mail.

Ways You Can Help

Since we don't have regular homework, we ask parents to help their child at home in several areas.

- Many children struggle with tying their shoes. Please take the time to work with them to hone this skill. They feel so much more comfortable at school if they can tie their own shoes.
- Help your child become familiar with the clock and how to tell time. Here again, your child's independence and self-confidence will be boosted if they can look at the clock and determine for themselves if it's 10:30 yet, for example, or how long until lunch etc.
- Practice handwriting
- Review for spelling tests
- Shared reading
- Learning math facts

We are excited about the start of the school year and look forward to working with your child.

Amy and Mary