

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 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.** The children need their familiar spot to keep completed work. Returning the folder helps their routine and encourages them to be organized.
- 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 have helped spread mulch and weeded in the garden after completing their essentials. We also have hummingbird feeders and are looking forward to watching the hummingbirds as they come to feed.

Each year the children embroider napkins that they use at lunch for the year. We will start this project shortly with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year group and add other groups as the 3<sup>rd</sup> years finish.

We have had several geography lessons so far this year. Children are learning (or refreshing their memories) on the continents, oceans and seas. There have been several beautiful maps completed already! Land and water forms are next on the agenda.

This year's year-long project will be the study of birds. Our "bird-of-the-month" for September is the cardinal. Along with learning facts about the cardinal, we will listen to the cardinal's song, write stories, poems, etc. Don't be surprised if your child comes home imitating this bird!

#### Upcoming Events:

**September 10:** Parent meeting. Come meet the Providence staff and find out how you can be involved in committees at school.

**September 27:** F.A.A.B. Bash! 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 "birding" so any kind of bird-related item will be appreciated. The office will be sending more information about when to start bringing in items and where to leave them. Details about the Bash will be in 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.

- Encourage independence. A few examples - Let your child walk in by him/her self, carry his/her own lunch, etc.
- 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 (to be started after Labor Day)
- 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*