

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 9 new first-years and all but one returning second year. The returning children have been helpful in orienting the new children to the classroom. As is customary at the beginning of the year, the children generated rules that they felt would make this a peaceful classroom. Each child has agreed to follow our classroom ground rules.

A Few Notes and Reminders:

- It is **very important** that your child arrive at school by 8:30 for our morning lesson. Since mornings are often the most productive work time, please try to schedule appointments etc. in the afternoons.
- **Please do not send extra supplies to school such as back packs, pencil grippers, erasers, mechanical pencils, binders and folders with pictures on them, calculators, etc. We also do not allow toys, electronic games and other electronic gadgets. These items are distracting and often cause problems.**
- The snack list was sent home last week. Even if you don't get the snack bag as a reminder, please send snack on the assigned day. We request only nutritious snacks and no drinks. Be aware that pre-packaged "fruit" snacks are generally full of artificial color and flavorings, sugar and preservatives. Examples of healthy foods are fruits, vegetables, dips, crackers, bagels, pretzels, popcorn, etc.
- We love to celebrate birthdays with cookies or a special treat after a healthy lunch. We are requesting that you **NOT SEND** anything with artificial colorings or flavorings. Some children in our class are sensitive to the purchased treats that have artificial food dyes. We simply cannot serve them.
- You are always welcome to come eat lunch with your child. We would like to know ahead of time so our lunch crew can honor you with a special place setting.
- We have a microwave oven in the classroom to reheat cooked food. Consider attaching a note so your child will know the amount of time the food item will need. We request that you not send food in tubes (e.g. Gogurt, applesauce, pudding, etc.) These 21st century "tube foods" never fail to create messes! Also, since we only supply plates and napkins, **send plastic utensils if your child will need them.** You may also provide a cup for milk, thermos and/or water bottle. Thermos lids should not be screwed on too tightly. **Have your child practice opening the thermos so that he/she can be independent while eating lunch.**

- Dismissal is at 2:45 p.m. It is helpful if you will remind your child each morning whether they should go to dismissal or the after school program. If they are in dismissal and you arrive after 3:00 p.m. children will go to the after school program. Please strive to be prompt picking up your child; it causes anxiety when you are late.
- "Take-home" folders will be sent home periodically. The folder should be returned the next day so the children can begin collecting other finished work. Some work is in notebooks and will come home when the notebook is full.
- October 13th is the conference day reserved for students that are new to our classroom. 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.
- Your child should wear tennis shoes/sneakers and comfortable, loose fitting clothing on Wednesday, P.E. day.
- A new school security policy is now in place. If your child needs to leave early for any reason, you will need to sign in at the front office and then come to the classroom to pick up your child. Be sure that one of the classroom teachers sees you and knows that you are taking your child.
- We can always use parental volunteers for photocopying, paper cutting, material repair and various other tasks. If you have a few free hours, we welcome you to come and help. Also, if you have a special talent or background that you think the children would be interested in and you would like to share with the class, please let us know by either calling us or sending a note with your child. Thank you!

We are excited about the start of the school year and look forward to working with your child. If you need to email us, our addresses are as follows:

Amy.richardson@providencemontessoriky.org

Marywbarry@yahoo.com

We will respond as quickly as possible.

Amy and Mary