

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Discovery Preschool! We have a wonderful year ahead and I cannot wait to get to know you and your children!

Every month I will email you a newsletter to keep you informed of our activities in and out of the classroom. I also post the newsletter and calendar to our website. The first week of preschool we will be getting to know each other and exploring our classroom.

This preschool year is going to be like our previous year. If you had a child in preschool last year, you know what to expect. If this is your first year, or you are returning after a break away, there are several changes to our routine, so please read on below. We have taken many steps and have made many changes to help ensure that your little ones stay healthy, but I promise it is still going to be lots of fun!

I will always come to get you when we are ready for class to begin. **Unless you are the parent helper, please wait outside the building until I or a parent helper comes to get everyone.** Parent helpers and I will be helping children to their lockers and into the classroom. **If you are the parent helper for the day, please ensure to come 15 minutes earlier than our start time. You will need to wear a mask, sanitize your hands when you enter the building, and complete the survey by scanning the QR Code posted just inside the doors.**

I will be giving each child a colored dot sticker that corresponds to the colors of our tables which will be on their name tags. That is the table that they will have table time at, do crafts, and eat snack. It will change week to week, and they will not always be at the same table with the same students.

We do try to go outside everyday if weather permits. After the first day, we will be starting our days outside first, and then will be coming into the school to finish our day. **Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for outside play. I would also encourage you to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack just in case, accidents do happen!**

We celebrate every child's birthday. They get to wear a birthday crown and we sing Happy Birthday at snack time. **These are the ways we celebrate birthdays, so please make sure you read below...**

**Firstly**, we will be celebrating with something called "Birthday in a Bag". I will be sending home a little paper bag with a note attached. In the bag, you can put a few little things for your child. I find most people spend between \$5 and \$10 total. On the day that we celebrate their birthday, they will get to open their bag at snack time when we sing happy birthday. **Please do not send treats for the class, food sharing is not allowed at this time.**

**Secondly**, for celebrating summer birthdays, July and August dates, we will celebrate your child's halfway birthday at school, including the birthday bag. I don't want anyone to feel left out just because we are not at school during their birthday month. I will be emailing you if your child's birthday falls into these days.

I have attached the information for the Birthday in a Bag as well. **DO NOT** worry about printing it off. I have done that already and will tape it onto the birthday bags that I will send home.

**Parent Helper:** Unless you have bought out as parent helper, you are required to sign up to come into the classroom once a month. Even if the days are full with one helper, you still need to sign up and I welcome having 2 helpers on a day. That being said, **please do not sign up on a day with someone else if there are still days with no helpers.** Sign up is posted on a private Facebook page that has been sent

out to everyone. Please keep in mind, siblings will have to stay at home if you have signed up as a parent helper. A parent helper duty list is also posted in the classroom. I have attached it as well to this newsletter.

**Field Trips: Although right now I am still trying to find out what is available for field trips, I am looking at what we can possibly do, so I will still provide some information...**

If we do go on field trips, it requires parent helpers in order to go. I will post to Facebook dates and times of field trips in the classroom. Some trips will have bussing, some trips that are close to the school, I will ask that you drop your child off there. There are **NO REGULAR CLASSES THE DAY OF A FIELD TRIP.**

**Signing up for a field trip helper does not count as your monthly helper duty, it is in addition to it.** And please keep in mind, younger siblings will have to stay at home if you have signed up as a parent helper on a field trip.

**Snacks:** We are a nut free school, so please be aware when packing your child's snack for the day. In addition, if there are any other serious allergies, I will ask that class not to bring that type of food to school. Children are discouraged from sharing snacks, but to keep little ones who don't quite understand allergies yet safe, we limited certain foods if need be.

Please try to limit the amount of food you are sending for a snack. We typically spend about 15-20 minutes to wash up and have snack. Some children eat quickly, or only eat a portion, and are off to work on puzzles, but some children feel like they must finish everything in their lunch or can be slower eaters. There are many times that I have to ask students to pack up their lunch and finish the rest at home because we are just out of time.

Also, please **no juice, juice boxes, milk cartons, or pop.** A reusable water bottle with fresh water is all that is required for the short time that we are at school.

The school has a "Pack In/Pack Out" lunch model in an effort to reduce waste and encourage recycling, composting, and reusing at home. Everything that you send in your child's lunch bag will be sent back home, including garbage, wrappers, peels, etc.

**IN ADDITION, FOR THIS YEAR: Please make sure all your child's snacks are already open, or easy to open for them. We want to limit any handling of food as much as possible. So, if your child cannot open a granola bar, cheese string, or banana, please open it at home or do not send those types of items. Please also ensure they can open any containers that you send.**

**Recycling:** I am always looking for craft items, so if you have something, come and talk to me. If you have something that is no longer working and you would like to donate, please let me know

**Handwriting Without Tears:** This program introduces letter and number recognition through music, movement, building and multi-sensory activities. I will be using this program throughout the year. The preschool level of this program introduces capital letter recognition, therefore all the children's name tags, etc; will be written with capital letters. I have attached an excerpt from the Teacher's Guide to help give a better understanding as to why capital letters are the focus.

**School Supplies** - Backpack, running shoes (kept in backpacks), a paint shirt (in a ziploc bag kept in backpack), a Lunch kit with reusable drinking bottle (for water only), and re-useable food containers

In addition, this year, instead of asking for a specific item that is shared in the classroom (glue, soap, markers, etc), the preschool has opted to have each family give \$5 to go towards supplies as they are needed. This can be handed in to Mrs. R.

**Scholastic Book Orders** - Scholastic is still offering book orders this year. I will be sending out paper flyers, and your books will be delivered directly to your home instead of school. This will be sent out every month. They are full of great books and great deals! And every time you order, it helps to get free stuff for our classroom! You are not obligated to order. If you have any questions, please let me know!

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Sept. 7-10 - First Week of School, Staggered starts** - Just a reminder that your child will only be attending 1 day this week according to the staggered start list.

### **Sept. 13-17- First Week of Regular Classes**

I am in the classroom every morning typically by 8:30am and will leave typically by 12:00pm on MWF, and by 4:00 on TTH. Do not hesitate to come and see me with any questions or concerns. You can also email me or call me as well.

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Mrs. Renauld