

## 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.

I will always come to get you when we are ready for class to begin. **Unless you are the parent helper, please wait outside or in the boot area by the gym until I come to get everyone.** I have a message board in the entrance by the boot rack every day. Please take a few minutes to read it with your child to find out what we will be doing for that day and important reminders.

At the beginning of the year, We always start our day with table time, so ensure you direct your little one to the tables, not the rest of the classroom.

### **WhatsApp and Facebook**

A WhatsApp group will be set up and I encourage everyone to join their respective class. I use the group to send out last minute messages or reminders about upcoming events.

A Facebook group will also be set up for parent helper sign up. This group is used for parents to sign up for their monthly helper day in the classroom.

Once we have settled into our routine, we do try to go outside everyday, first thing, if weather permits. **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!**

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 this year, 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. I will ask that you do not send treats for the class.

**Secondly**, for July and August summer birthdays, we will celebrate your child's half-way 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. June birthdays will be celebrated in May.

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 will be through the Facebook group that will be set up by a board member. 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:** We go on a number of field trips throughout the year and require parent helpers in order to go. Sign up will be through the Facebook group as well with 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

**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 have to 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.

In addition, the school has gone to 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.

**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 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.

**Toy Wash/Laundry/Play dough-** sign- up sheets will be posted in the classroom. If you are able to help out, please sign up, it is greatly appreciated.

**School Supplies** - Backpack, Indoor running shoes, a Lunch kit with reusable drinking bottle (for water only), and re-useable food containers. I also ask for additional supplies from each class as follows:

- **Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning students:** 2 bottles of white glue
- **Tuesday/Thursday Morning students:** 1 box of kleenex/facial tissue

**Scholastic Book Orders** - Every month I will be sending home book orders. 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:**

**September 2 - Labour Day - No classes**

**September 3-6 - 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.

**September 9 - First Week of Regular Classes**

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> - Show and Tell**

Children are welcome to bring anything they would like for show and tell that they are willing to have other children touch (but please try to keep it to 1-3 items so we have enough time for everyone to share). Please keep their show and tell in their locker, show and tell is the last thing we do in the day. Please be mindful of sending breakable items. I do my best to ensure that nothing happens, but cannot guarantee it, and items have been accidentally broken in the past as everyone gets an opportunity to look at each item so, please be mindful of this.

There will be no outside play on Show and Tell day.

**September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – Picture Day** – Pictures are taken during regular class time in the school library. There will be no outside play on these days.

I am in the classroom every morning typically by 8:30am and will leave by 12:00pm. 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