

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents,

Jana and I are looking forward to a fabulous year ahead with your family. Below you will find information regarding the logistics of our classroom. Please contact me with any additional questions that may arise after your review this information.

Schedule

We start our morning work time promptly each day. **Students are marked tardy if they arrive after 8:30.** Please drop your children off no later than 8:15, so that they are in the classroom and ready to get started on time. Our morning work time runs from 8:20 until 11:00, when physical education begins. After time in the gym, we will have time to gather as a group for read aloud, singing and presentations. Lunch starts at noon, followed by recess.

Afternoons include work time, jobs and quiet reading and time with our specialists. Cultural enrichment activities are something that the children really look forward to throughout the week.

- Art with Alison Hoffman will be every Thursday. She will offer open studio time for research project related art during the mornings and present group technique lesson in the afternoons. She will be hosting a Thursday art lunch as well.
-
- Amanda Igra will be working with the children on Thursdays. **The children need to bring their ukuleles on Thursdays.**
- Senora Kathy Malone will be joining us on Monday and Wednesday at 2:45 pm for a group Spanish lesson, as well as providing us with follow up materials for work during our regular class time.
- The children will have a turn once a month in Della Terra with DiAnn Service. By participating monthly, they will be a part of the entire cycle of the garden from the very beginning stages of planning to the harvest.
- The children will also have three weekly rotations in the Kitchen Classroom with Brenda Lijewski over the course of the school year. During their Kitchen time, they work on snack and lunch prep, menu planning and learning culinary skills.

Trips

We will visit the Leelanau Outdoor Center twice this year with a day visit September 13th and an overnight trip May 27th and May 28th or the third years and May 28th for the first and second year students. Most other outings will be small group trips or “going-out” experiences that are an important part of the Elementary curriculum. Students in this age group are developmentally ready to expand their horizons and reach out to the community around them to pursue subjects of interest. The students are responsible for arranging their outings and the success of their outings requires both willing drivers and community contacts. Please consider participating and indicate your willingness on the

attached volunteer form.

Spelling Tests and Math Fact Sheets

Lots and lots of repetition is the best aid for memorization so please support your child with their weekly work in math and spelling. Each Friday a spelling and math list for the upcoming week sheet will come home in your child's home folder. Please practice with your child at home over the course of the week. Spelling and math tests will take place on Thursday mornings. If your child has not gotten at least 80% on their tests, the material will be repeated the following week so you will see the same sheet coming home again.

Observations

We encourage you to observe your child in the classroom setting. It is an accurate way to gain an understating of your child's life at school. During the first six weeks, we ask that you wait while the class settles in. We are eager to have you join us for the upcoming Parent Visiting Days, please mark your calendars now for our first date, Wednesday October 16th at 8:30.

Lunch/ Allergies

We are eating lunch in our classroom. A microwave is available to reheat food, please send food in a microwavable container. Because of the popular use of the microwave, please send foods that only need a quick reheat. We have a student who has a severe shellfish allergy as well as a nut allergy in our class. **Please eliminate any shellfish from your child's lunches. If your child has any peanut or tree nut products in his/her lunch, make sure to label them. All birthday snacks must be peanut and tree nut free.**

Snack

The school will be providing a daily morning snack for all elementary children. Please keep any other snacks for home.

Personal Belongings

Please label all of your child's personal belongs on the tag of the clothing item. This aids our effort in helping the students keep track of their things and minimizing lost and found items. Many children end up having the same or very similar items and labels are helpful!

If your child has something from home that they would like to share with classmates, they will have an opportunity during "Show and Tell" on Fridays. Please help us limit items to the following: something from nature, photographs, something they have made or something from another culture. Please keep toys at home.

Birthday Celebrations

Your child will celebrate his birthday or half-birthday during the school year. Your child will bring home a letter detailing the celebration prior to the big day. Each student brings

in a poster of photographs (please no digital frames). The photos can be of themselves, people and or places that are important to them and there should be **one picture from each year**, for example, a favorite shot from when your child was one years old, two, and so on. We encourage your child to write captions to help them present their story. Children enjoy bringing a snack on their birthday. Please remember to keep the snack a healthy choice and save cookies, cupcakes and other sugary treats for home.

Home-School Communication

Each student will have a “home folder” that comes home every day and should return to school every day. This folder is used to send papers and for you to send notes / forms to school. Please help your child to keep track of it and to get in the habit of bringing it to school daily.

During the school day (8:20 - 3:40), the person at the front desk will forward your calls to my voicemail. If you have a message regarding something that I need to know over the course of the day, such as an early pick-up, please notify the person at the front desk and they can let me know directly. I am available between 8:00 -8:20 for phone calls and again at 3:40 until 4:00 (often later). If you would like to meet with me in person let me know so that we can set up an appointment. Please know that I am available to meet anytime the need arises, not only during the scheduled conferences. Email is another great way to communicate; my address is Nadine@traversechildrenshouse.org Please keep in mind that during the days I am engaged with your children, not at a computer, which means that you will not hear back from me via email immediately, but always within a 24 hour time period (with a possible exception on weekends). If you have immediate information to get to me, it is best to leave a message at the front desk.

Swimming

Our class will be participating in swimming instruction during the school year. We will travel to our lessons on a school bus and return back to school in time for regular dismissal. Further information will be available as the date draws nearer.

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead and feel so fortunate to be sharing my days with your children.

Warmly,