



Kindergarten Newsletter

Dear Kindergarten Families,

We hope that you had a great summer and are ready for an exciting year in kindergarten at Woodlin. Each day is full of new experiences. We are learning new rules, making friends, and adjusting to new schedules and routines so that we can all have a happy time at school.

Here are some ways you can help your child adjust and have a great year in kindergarten.

*Please label everything. Children often have the same backpacks, lunch boxes, and even clothing. It helps your child to be responsible for his/her things if they are labeled.

*Be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for active play and art activities. We try to play outside every day, so please provide the necessary outer wear.

*Your child will be receiving homework this year. Your child will need certain items at home in order to complete the homework. Please be sure your child has a pencil, child-sized scissors, a small box of crayons and a container of glue.

*If your child is planning to go home with a friend or needs to change his/her departure routine in any way, we must be notified in writing. Without written permission, we are obligated to send your child to his/her regular after school destination. Please put these notes in your child's take-home folder. If you are picking your child up from the classroom, you must first sign out in the office and the office will call your child to meet you there.

*Bus Procedures – Children are escorted to the buses in the afternoon by an adult or a patrol. There must be an adult waiting to pick up the child at the bus stop. If you or your child care provider cannot be there because of a last minute crisis, please make alternate arrangements so that your child is supervised when he/she gets off the bus. We have told the children that if no one is waiting for them at the bus stop, they should inform the driver and return to school where we can help them to get home. If this is unacceptable to you, please have an alternate plan and discuss it with your child.

*Please let us know if your child has any allergies. We do not want to unknowingly expose a child to something that he/she is allergic to.

*A child who is ill or has symptoms of some illness should not be in school. Illnesses like flu, strep, chicken pox, and pink eye are extremely contagious so please help us avoid exposing others to them. If your child does become ill at school, we will contact you to pick him/her up. This is one important reason why we must have an up-to-date address and telephone number (home and work). We must also know whom to contact in case of emergency. Please inform the office of any changes in this information right away.

*We will be cooking and doing craft activities throughout the year. We would appreciate a cash donation to provide for these activities. Please send cash or a check payable to your child's teacher.

*Please check your child's folder and backpack every day. There are often important notices, permission slips, and other communications, not to mention your child's precious work which needs to be shared and displayed when possible.

*We will be having two special parties – Halloween and Valentine's Day. Room parents will coordinate these activities. If you are interested in becoming a room parent, please indicate this by emailing your child's teacher. If you wish to volunteer for room parent or to assist in the classroom, please arrange a time with your child's teacher.

*Due to our early lunchtime, your child may need a snack later in the afternoon. (Snack is optional.) Because we are unable to store food overnight, we ask that

you provide a small snack for your child daily. Recommended items include a small handful of cereal, raisins, pretzels, cut-up fruit or vegetables. We ask that you send no candy or sugar drinks.

*Please feel free to send us a note or call the office (301-650-6440), if you have any questions or concerns. We will return your call as soon as possible. Whenever your child is absent, please send a note explaining the absence. This is MCPS policy.

*Please be sure that your child wears clothing that he/she is able to button, snap, zip, etc., so that they can go to the bathroom easily. Clothing that is difficult can cause bathroom accidents.

*We do celebrate birthdays at school during lunch. If you want your child to celebrate a birthday by sharing a treat, please call ahead or send a note several days in advance. Treats should be individual servings and store bought, such as cupcakes, cookies, doughnut holes, ice cream cups, etc. Please send any necessary paper goods or utensils as well. We will celebrate July and August birthdays in June.

Games and Electronics

As a reminder, no games, toys, or other electronic devices are permitted to be brought to school. We have had a few incidents in the past year where students brought these items to school and they were lost or misplaced. In addition, we have noted some students have brought "shocker" pens to school. These too are not permitted. The school staff cannot be responsible for lost or damaged games or electronic devices. Please remind your children that these items should be left at home. Thank you!

Emergency Notification System

Schools may be closed early due to weather or other unforeseen emergencies. Parents are responsible for making sure they have access to updated information about emergencies and early closings. Please use the following resources to obtain information about emergencies in MCPS.

<http://mcps.k12.md.us/info/emergency/procedures/sources.cfm>

The following resources are recommended:

1. MCPS Homepage: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/>
2. MCPS Newsfeed: <http://mcps.k12.md.us/info/newsfeed/>
Newsfeed is a free service which parents can subscribe to and sends real time messages to parent email addresses.
3. MCPS Quicknotes: <http://mcps.k12.md.us/info/quicknotes/>

- QuickNotes* will provide you with up-to-date news and information about the school system through the convenience of e-mail
4. MCPS Call Line: Call 301-279-3673 for recorded information

Parent Guides 2009-2010

Parent Guides were distributed at Back to School Night for all grade levels. These guides will give you an overview of the grade level program and explain what your child will be learning in reading and language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The information in these guides will assist you in providing support for your child throughout the school year. These are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, and Korean.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/elementary/parentguides.shtm>

We appreciate the very special children you have entrusted to us and feel that, with your continued support, 2009-2010 will be a great school year!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

Dates to Remember

September 7 – No school – Labor Day

September 28 – No School – Yom Kippur