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# Kindergarten Times

September 11, 2017

Dear Families,

**Back to School Night** is this Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning promptly at 6:30pm in the Church Hall. Following the general session, parents will be directed over to the school to visit the classroom. We know it must feel like you were just at Kindergarten Orientation a short time ago, but there are a few new things to tell you about. If you have any questions about the happenings in kindergarten, this would be a great time to ask. Also, please stop by the Parent Teacher Organization table in the hall on the first floor. The PTO is a great way to become involved with the school community. See you there!

Our first week of school was very successful. The children are feeling more comfortable with the schedule, knowing our routine, and transitioning more quickly from one activity to another. We are very excited about this. Now we can focus more attention on learning activities.

Morning jobs went extremely well last week. We started our star chart on Tuesday and everyone earned a star every day. Mrs. Ventura and I are confident every child will have no trouble finishing their jobs and earning stars every day! Treasure chest, here we come!

Thanks to the wonderful support we are getting from home, most children were able to place their snacks in the crate and find their snacks quickly during snack time without any confusion. **Just a reminder:** please put your child's snack in a separate plastic baggie or container **with their name on it** so they can clearly identify what is meant to be their snack and not eat their lunch by mistake. **Please do not put this bag in their lunch box in the morning.** If you intend to give your child a drink with snack, put the drink in the same

snack bag. As we are rotating from table to table in the morning, children are getting their snacks from the crate independently. If you would like them to recycle their baggie, they are able to put it back in their backpack or lunch box when they are finished. We truly do appreciate your understanding and help in this matter. It makes the learning time more productive if Mrs. Ventura or I can stay at our tables and not have to look for snacks during morning rotations.

Several parents have asked if it was all right to bring in treats to celebrate their child's birthday with the class. We have found that single-serve cupcakes, cookies, etc., along **with napkins**, are best. **Please remember, we are a nut and tree nut free classroom. If you are bringing in store bought items, it must say peanut free.** If you would prefer to bring in trinkets (pencils, erasers, etc.), instead of food, that would be fine. We have 16 students in our class. **The Safe Snack Guide is attached to this newsletter.**

Please remember to review the proper dress code in the Parent and Student Handbook. Black or brown belts are required for boys and their shirts must be tucked in. **Last week, we noticed some boys were having a very difficult time tucking in their shirts. Please practice this at home so they can do it independently.** Thank you in advance for your help.

Please **write your child's name** on the tag of his/her school sweater or gym sweatshirt. It is almost impossible to tell whom it belongs to without a name. Also, writing your child's name on their lunchbox is very helpful. Thank you again.

We will continue to review name writing, both first and last names, on the sign-in sheets. The class is doing a great job with this new activity. Within a few weeks, you will be seeing great improvement in the use of upper and lower case letters! We are sending a handwriting sheet home this week for you to keep. It shows you the proper way to form both uppercase and lowercase letters using the Zaner-Bloser Method. We have noticed that many of the children are writing letters from the bottom to top, instead of top to bottom. In order to correct this, consistency is very important. Your help at home is so appreciated to help reinforce the writing skills we teach at school.

The **reading lesson** for the week will focus on rhyme. We will be using Nursery Rhymes and poems: *Jack and Jill*, *One, Two, Three, Four*, *Pease Porridge Hot*, *Colors*, and *To Market, To Market*, to identify rhyming words.

This concept will be carried out throughout the year. When we begin to blend sounds and study word families, rhyming is key. As you travel in the car, it may be fun to play rhyming games, such as, "What rhymes with stop, and you use one foot?" If you are reading a rhyming story to your child, you may ask, "Can you tell me the words that rhyme?"

We will also begin talking about syllables, explaining that words are made up of parts. The children will be counting the number of syllables in words and learning to blend these syllables together.

**Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd**, and **Ee** are the letters of the week. We will practice writing these letters correctly, learn these letter sounds, and identify words that begin with these letters.

Chapter 1 in our **math** book concentrates on sorting objects. We will be working on sorting by color, shape, size, and design for several weeks.

In religion, the children are learning The Sign of the Cross, Grace Before Meals, Our Father, and Hail Mary. If you could please review these prayers at home, we would truly appreciate it. They are long prayers to remember, and we would like to be prepared for our first school Mass in October. The first lesson in religion is the

introduction called "Welcome!" This lesson explains how each chapter will be taught.

Last week, we began to use our reward system for good listening and behavior. The children collected stickers for following the classroom rules. Once they have gathered 25 stickers, they will be able to go into the treasure chest. One of the class rules we will be focusing on is having good listening skills. When a teacher or student is talking, everyone should be listening carefully and respectfully. We will also be concentrating on keeping "your hands to yourself," especially while in line going to special classes, the bathrooms, lunch, or recess. This reward system is a great way to encourage everyone to work hard and stay on task.

After the children finish their lunch, they are allowed to purchase an **ice cream treat** from the ice cream machine. The cost is \$1.50 to \$2.50, depending on the treat. If you would like your child to purchase an ice cream, please put the money in their lunchbox or a baggie so they can bring it to the lunchroom. The children will be able to buy their ice cream after they finish or almost finish their lunch.

St. Cecilia School will continue to participate in the Box Tops for Education program. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school buy what it needs. Box Tops are each worth 10 cents and they quickly add up to real cash. To help our school, just look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school in a baggie. Please label the baggie **Kindergarten** so we can get credit for our class. The class that brings in the most Box Tops every month will be receiving a free dress down day! **Go Kindergarten!**

**Lifetouch** will be taking photos at St. Cecilia School next Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Students wear their school uniform for this photo, as it will be used for the school year book and class picture. An informational flyer containing available packages went home last week.

Have a great week!

Thank you,  
Mrs. Lucier and Mrs. Ventura