

October 2013 Newsletter

The Little Years School



Program

Your children have been very busy at school learning new routines, schedules, friends and teachers! They have spent time discussing the rules of the classroom, the structures of the program and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Our science centres focused on BUGS last month but will move to leaves, trees and FALL items this month.

We are planning ORANGE DAY for classes on Wednesday, October 30 and Thursday October 31st. This is a special event for our programs that is in lieu of Halloween and its costumes. This includes all cultures and beliefs. Please dress your child in ORANGE if you so choose as part of this fun day!

By this time in our programming you should have received a class list with all children's names in some form or other (artwork, printed list, etc.). Please do not ask teachers for phone numbers or addresses of classmates. We are unable to provide this due to confidentiality reasons. In the event of an emergency of any kind, each teacher has an emergency tree and will contact all families as soon as possible.

Thank you to all families for taking the time to take your children down the hall to use the washroom and wash their hands before class. We appreciate this as an integral part of helping to keep our students healthy. This way, the children can avoid as many germs as possible and attend our wonderful program as many days as possible. If your child demonstrates signs of illness, we ask that you respectfully keep them at home until the spread of germs is no longer a concern.

With ECCERS in place, the teachers have established a new approach to teaching printing skills. We will be following the Handwriting Without Tears philosophy therefore our letters of the week will not follow alphabetical order. We will be providing a handout for parents about HWT as soon as the children have become practiced with our daily art - painting, colouring, cutting and gluing skills. The teachers are currently observing and documenting each child's progress.

Snack

Please remember that no baked goods are allowed for snacks. We want to ensure that all children with allergies are kept safe and this will help us to monitor ingredients.

Reminder that any snacks with the first ingredient listed as SUGAR will be sent home. We strive to have the children recognize and appreciate healthy food choices.

Also, all grapes must be cut in half lengthwise to avoid the possibility of choking.

We have discovered a number of KIWI allergies in our program, so we have adopted a NO KIWI policy in all classrooms for this year.

We encourage parents to provide water for snack as it can get fairly dry in our classrooms. Water is always a healthy, easy idea for snack time!

We are unable to serve any snack items that contain nuts of any kind. Please check ingredients before you send them to school.

Thanks You

Thank you to the parents who have offered to make play-dough for the classrooms - Peyton's mom, Theresa and Nathan's mom, Jennifer. We are always looking for volunteers for this job, so let us know if you are willing to help out in this area!

Also, thank you to all parents/families for remembering to use the parking area as a loading zone area only! It is fantastic to see so many families using the loading zone for quick trips in and out of the school. Reminder...if you are choosing to stay and chat with other parents or allow your children time to play at the park - GREAT! Just be sure that you have parked at the community club as there are absolutely no limits on time in that lot.

Also important to note is that there is a crosswalk in the back lane and drivers should be VERY CAUTIOUS nearing that area. This is a school zone and speed limits are in effect. As you may be aware, the government is considering lowering the speed limits in school zones to 30 km/hr, so please drive slowly in and around our school building especially in the back lane which is 20 km/hr.

Thank you to all of the parents that attended our AGM and members from our previous Board. Your attendance was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time, efforts and expertise to join our Board of Directors for the 2013/14 academic school year. Welcome Aboard!!

Chairperson - Jacqui Kroeker

Co-Chairperson - Paula Becker

Treasurer - Donovan Henzel

Secretary - Sherry Fast

Public Relations - Shari Ransom

Fundraiser - Lesley Vogelsang

Fifth Member - Carrie Ekosky

Director - Olga Wiebe

We are looking forward to a fantastic year! The new programs with the Enhanced Grant are very exciting and we thank all families for their support. Thank you to all the terrific teachers, Sabbina McLennan, Desiree Morris-McLeod, Christine Witiuk and Olga Wiebe, for providing a bountiful program to the young children.

Scholastic Book Orders

Thank you to all families who placed Scholastic Book Orders in September. This book order system allows our facility to earn free books to complement our programming. We are looking forward to ordering some new culturally diverse books as well as some new French books for our brand new afternoon French program!

October Scholastic orders will be due October 9th and 10th depending on what day your child attends.

Reminder

Please be sure to read your Parent Policy Manuals. Many of the questions you have about our program or routines may actually be answered within the manual. Of course, if there are further questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher at any time. If you have not yet received a copy of this Parent Policy Manual from your child's teacher, please let the teacher know.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child in the program, please always approach your child's teacher first or any other teacher you may have had a

concern with. If you feel your concern has not been resolved, then feel free to contact the Director by email littleyearsschool@yahoo.ca. If, in the rare occasion, the Director is unable to address your concern, she will bring it directly to the Chairperson and the Board of Directors as per your request. The Chairperson as the representative of the Board of Directors will address your concern to find an appropriate solution. If you have a concern that you would like to direct to our Chairperson rather than the Director, you may go onto our website www.littleyearsschool.com and find an email link to our Chairperson. The teachers and the Director hope to be able to address all your concerns and questions as approaching us first is the method of open communication we'd like to foster at our nursery school. Thank you.

Arrival and Departure

We apologize for the errors made in the September newsletter and the parent letter sent out in the summer regarding arrival and departure. As per The Little Years School safety policies and Ralph Maybank School policies, teachers will buzz open the school doors and then open their classroom doors at the start times below:

MORNING CLASSES - 8:50 am

AFTERNOON CLASSES - 12:30 pm

Please do not arrive at the school prior to these times.

At pick up time we ask that you arrive 5 to 10 minutes before dismissal to greet your child at his/her classroom. This helps minimize any anxious feelings your child may have to building a safe and trusting school experience.

MORNING CLASS DISMISSAL - 11:00 - 11:10 am

AFTERNOON CLASS DISMISSAL - 2:40 - 2:50 pm

