

June 2017 Newsletter

Important Dates:
Mon., June 5th- Zeiterion field trip (Pete the Cat)

Tue., June 6th- Field Day- Remember to have your child dress for an active FULL day outdoors! (Field Day T-shirts will be handed out that morning.) Apply sunscreen and bug spray BEFORE leaving for school, and don’t forget a hat and water bottle labeled with their name. If your child has not ordered a hot dog lunch please pack an easy to eat, utensil-free lunch. The school will provide popsicles for our afternoon snack.

Wed., June 7th- 12:20 dismissal day; Lunch will be served but we will not have snack

Wed., June 14th- Flag Day ceremony- 9:00 am. (please help your child select red, white and blue clothing for today!)

Sun., June 18th- Happy Father’s Day!
Wed., June 21st- last day of school. We will NOT have snack and lunch will NOT be served in the cafeteria, however, a pizza party in the classroom is planned before the 12:20 dismissal.  Keep your eye on your email for more information on the pizza party. I will show a slideshow of photos taken throughout the year following the pizza party--you are welcome to join us for an 11:30 viewing. If you would like your child to leave with you at the end of the school day, PLEASE put that in writing on or before that morning. This makes dismissal go much smoother on an already emotional day.

Classroom Clean Up- I am looking for help to organize, clean, and pack up the classroom beginning next week (the classrooms are each emptied and thoroughly cleaned during the summer break). If you are available please let me know times that work for you. I could also use a few “at home” helpers to wash painting tools, house center dishes, etc so everything will be clean and fresh for next year’s class. Items can be sent back and forth with your child but need to be returned before the last week of school.  Please let me know if you are willing to help in school or at home!
Curriculum Update:
During the final weeks of school we will continue to practice “every letter, every sound, every day”. We will read and write, review math concepts, and find joy with each other's work.  During the last weeks of school the children will take home the work we have collected throughout the year.  As you and your child look through these papers and books, you will surely notice the growth they have made.  Kindergarten sure isn't what it used to be!

Our pumpkin plants and sunflowers are ready for planting! The children have enjoyed watching the life cycle of our class pumpkin and are anxious to get their plants in the ground (or a very large pot). They need lots of room, sun and water. We have discussed asking a relative or neighbor for garden space should you not have a backyard garden. We have quite a group of little green thumbs!

Every child will take home a blank “Summer Journal” later this month.  These booklets can be filled with stories about your child’s summer activities and adventures; illustrations and/or photos would be great to add, too!  They may choose to write a few sentences each week, and perhaps a longer story when something especially exciting happens.  Please support and encourage your child to use phonetic spelling for unknown words, (write only sounds they hear-“elfnt” not elephant) and to spell the high frequency/word wall words correctly.  A final list of the high frequency words will accompany the journal.  You may also wish to help them create an additional personal word bank of frequently used summer words such as swimming, pool, beach, camping, etc. Writing just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference next year. I would enjoy seeing their work in September.  Anyone who returns a completed journal will receive a goody bag! (and of course will get their journal returned). Journals should be turned in to their first grade teacher no later than Sept. 15th. I will deliver the goody bags the following week!
All year long I have encouraged you to read, read, read with your child.  Please continue to do this throughout the summer vacation.  Your child and their first grade teacher will thank you!

The classroom website will be online until mid-August. Be sure to access the online games and activities on a rainy summer afternoon.
My sincere thanks to the many volunteers who offered assistance this year, both in class and from home.  A special thanks to our Room Parent, Mrs. Rene Pothier, for organizing many happy events for the children. Whether you volunteered for class parties, sorted book club brochures or weekly readers, assembled class-made books, copied papers, or cut out materials for class projects, your efforts were noticed and greatly appreciated.  In honor of all our volunteers and their devotion to our children, I have made a donation to the Center School library.

I write this final newsletter with fond memories of the year we have shared.  Together we have encouraged the children from their hesitant smiles on the first day of school to the confident learners we now see.  We had lots of fun while learning! Have a wonderful, safe summer!

Fondly, Mrs. Riley  :)