



Summer 2017

Dear Third Grade Parents,

I hope that you have been enjoying a restful and fun-filled summer with friends and family. Although the summer is still in progress, I would like to give you some information regarding the upcoming school year, beginning with a glimpse of our third grade curriculum.

The third grade year is a year of great transformation. The children will begin to experience a sense of separation and loss from their previous connection to childhood as they enter into a more conscious state of who they are as individuals. They will no longer feel as if they are an extension of their parents, but the emerging 9-year old stands firmly on the earth and is ready to work and learn in new ways. Their bodies and minds are ready for this new soul awakening as they begin to face the world anew, as individuals emerging.

The third grade curriculum gives the 9-year old the gift of experiencing the world through a sequence of stories from the Old Testament. These stories express the journey of humanity from paradise to the earth, a journey that the children are experiencing in their inner life as well. Practical experiences such as farming, gardening, house building, using tools, learning time and measurement, and cooking give the children practical ways to embrace their emerging selves.

The school-year for third grade begins on **Tuesday, September 5th, 2017.**

Our first day will begin at 8:10 am and the students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm.

The children should come to school in assembly dress (boys wear jackets and ties; girls wear dress slacks, dresses or skirts) for the first day of school (please refer to the online *Parent Handbook*). They should also **bring-in a snack** on this first day.

On the second day of school, the children should bring-in the following materials:

- A change of clothes (including socks, underwear, pants and a shirt - all items **labeled** with your child's full name). I have their shoebox from last year.
- A pair of in-door shoes
- A pair of sneakers or shoes for movement (can be same as in-door shoes if those are sneakers).
- A painting smock or apron (shirt without a logo)
- A set of rain pants, rain jacket and rain boots - **all labeled.**
- Lunch in a labeled lunchbox (again, without any logos)

Classroom Prep-Day - *Save the date and please try to make it!*

On Saturday, **August 26th, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am**, we will have our **Prep-Day**. This is the day we get the classroom ready by doing some basic cleaning: sweeping, dusting and wiping down of cubbies. Please return and place the plants that you have cared for onto the windowsill. The contents of the closet (games, gems, pots & pans, silks, paints, trays, nature table items, books, etc...) will get placed into cubbies. The children can help with setting up the nature table. Your child's name will be placed on his/her cubby. You will size your child for a desk and chair. Then you can put felt sliders onto the bottoms of your child's chair or desk if necessary. It would be good to bring your child's extra clothes (placed into shoe boxes and put into your child's cubby).

Parent Evening Dates - *Save these dates and please attend!* Please mark your calendars for our first third grade parent meeting on **September 12, from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm**. We will discuss an overview of the third grade year as well as important developmental changes to be expected over the coming year. We will also speak about the *Glen Brook trip* which happens during the second week of October, from **October 10 to October 13**. There will be two additional second grade Parent Evenings during the school-year. These meetings will take place on **February 8** and **April 17**. Please mark your calendars now and make every effort to attend. All of these meetings will take place at 7:00 pm in the third grade classroom.

Monthly Skype Meetings

In addition to Parent Evenings, we will have a **Monthly Skype Meeting** which will happen on the first Wednesday of every month, starting at 8:30 pm until 9:30 pm. These meetings will allow you to share with one another challenges and solutions in the areas of social inclusion, discipline, compliance, responsibilities, respect, routines, empathy / resilience, kindness, healthy boundaries, media, nutrition, sleep, connection with nature, the nine year change, emotional needs, listening, etc...

I hope you have had a wonderful summer so far. I am looking forward to seeing you in September. I miss the children and am eagerly anticipating our third grade school year together!

Warmly,

MaryBeth Thomas

Third Grade Class Teacher
The Waldorf School of Garden City
225 Cambridge Ave.
Garden City, NY 11554
Tel: (516) 742-3434
Fax: (516) 742-3457
Email: thomasmb@waldorfgarden.org
Web: www.waldorfgarden.org