



Dear Parents,

Soon, while the sun filled days grow shorter and before the breezes of fall arrive, it will be time for your child to start Nursery school. I look forward to the developmental growth of the children who are returning, to get to know the new children, and to connect with both new and seasoned families.

I imagine you too are beginning to think about September and the beginning of the school year. Some of you might have questions and concerns along with excitement and expectation. This letter is intended to provide some ease, answers, resources and dates as we prepare to meet one another.

Our **Early Childhood Handbook**, covers much of what you might be wondering. It is very important that you read it, as it provides information on dress code, clothing needed, illnesses and absences, play, rhythm, sleep, Afternoon Care, Extended Care and much more. You are welcome to bring further questions to our meetings.

Download the school calendar: you might want to even keep a copy by your refrigerator! It includes beginning dates for our various Early Childhood programs, days off, etc. Eventually, our Class Meeting dates will also be included.

Read about Separation: to be discussed at our Orientation evening. A young child does not have a sense of time; in order to keep anxiety down, it is best to NOT talk about school until shortly before the first day.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2015/09/helping-preschoolers-cope-separation-anxiety/>

Enter the school rhythm: it is time to begin earlier bedtime, slow down the pace of the day, and turn off all screens; these elements are required if we are to truly honor childhood.

Parent Representatives: Rei Fharid and Kristen Bonell, are available to offer you support with most practical issues.

Nursery Yard Clean-up: Saturday, September 1st, from 9 am to 11:30 am. The children will play and help while adults work and talk. Feel free to bring gardening gloves and sheers.

Visit: Friday, September 7. Ms. HsinWen Chang, Ms. Glenda Martinez and I invite you and your child to visit us in the classroom as we ready it. A half hour visit will be plenty for your child to sense the space and the teachers that await when school begins! Tasks and play are available: dust, wax, buff, wash, clean, iron, etc.

Orientation: Thursday, September 6, at 7:30pm, is for adults only. We will begin in Bonner Hall and, shortly after, we will gather in our classroom to talk about separation, the first weeks, rhythm and future Class Meeting dates.



First Days:

Wednesday and Thursday, September 12 and 13. The transition from home to the Nursery is gradual. The first two days, your child will attend only for one hour, and Friday for two hours.

As of Monday, September 17, the three-hour morning begins. The support programs also start: Early Birds, Afternoon Care and Extended Care.

Clothing:

Once we begin our three hour morning, your child will need extra clothes. *Please, adhere to the dress code*, labeling every piece of clothing, including shoes. Nursery children can have accidents or get wet during play; should this occur, we will help them change to comfortable dry clothes, and send home the wet/dirty ones to be replaced by the next morning. Your child will also need a pair of indoor shoes; they should have some traction, completely cover the foot and heel, and have a strap to hold the foot in place. Canvas shoes are good; however, lace up shoes are not appropriate for the Nursery.

All weather is good weather to play in! Excellent quality outdoor gear is a must; look for totally waterproof, and— later in the year— snow proof, rain suits or rain pants and jackets. One set is plenty for Nursery. Fashion conscious gear usually does not protect children from the elements. In the past, parents have found excellent wear at: <http://www.oakiwear.com/product/childrens-dry-tyke-one-piece-rain-suit-blue/>, also at [Meadowlarktoys.com](http://www.meadowlarktoys.com), Lands' End and LL Bean; most likely you can also find them at EMS, RIE and other good sporting goods stores. Be sure the clothes are generous in size, but not too big to drag and get in the way of your child's play. (This goes for indoor clothes as well).

If you have questions on areas I have not covered, or need clarification, you can wait till our yard clean-up day, contact me earlier or contact our class reps.

I am already anticipating the excitement and joyful energy your child will bring. That is my fuel to create and maintain an environment where the interest and love of all can continue to flourish.

You and I will make sure the transition is smooth and healthy for all involved. I am looking forward to a rich, and joy-filled year.

Warmly,

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