



**Dear Families,**

My name is Keelah Helwig, and I am honored to serve as the Chair of our Early Childhood program. I hope this letter meets you in the midst of a slowly expanding summer, full of sand, sun, and relaxation. In late spring, when we were last in communication, I left you with these words in our Garden News:

*Many seeds of potential have been firmly planted, lovingly nurtured and tenderly watered; just as the roses in the garden are beginning to open and reach up to radiant Father Sun, so too are your children. Dear Families, go out! Go out and rejoice in the beauty of the season, ever carrying the mantle of protection for our children, and in every fiber resounding: All is Well! ~ The World is Good!*

Much has transpired since that long-ago letter, and I find myself now experiencing that flutter of anticipation and excitement as we come closer to returning for some, and beginning for others, our school year together. In the next several days, you will all receive a letter from your class teacher, welcoming you, and sharing resources and information for the coming year. My letter today serves as a bridge, to offer a picture of how our year will begin, and recent changes you should all be aware of.

This year we would like to welcome each family to visit their classroom and playground before the school year begins. Your class teacher will share a schedule with you soon.

Our Early Childhood parent orientation meetings will be held the week of August 31st. This year our meetings will be held outside, on a class by class basis, and you will be alerted of the date and time by your class teacher. This meeting offers parents the opportunity to learn about the daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythm of the class, as well as the chance to ask any class-specific questions.

Our first day of school is Wednesday, September 9th, beginning at 8:00 am for Kindergarten and 9:00 am for Nursery and both classes will dismiss at 12 pm. Afternoon care and Extended care both begin on that day. Please be sure to complete enrollment forms if you require Afternoon care beyond 12 noon.

*Currently, the School is offering Afternoon Care to Early Childhood children daily from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm only. If you are interested in an extended day program from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, please communicate your interest [through this online form](#) so the School can consider staffing and how best to meet your needs.*

***\*\*Please be aware that you must pre-register for all Afternoon Care Programs. No drop-ins are allowed\*\****

*August 2020*

In closing, I would like to share how delighted I am knowing we will all be together in a few short weeks. Our playgrounds, Nature Trail, and rolling hills are brilliantly green and lush. Our outdoor spaces are ready for your children to run in, jump through, climb over, and explore! We cannot wait to welcome you all!

Warmly,

**Keelah Helwig**

**MAK Lead Teacher**

**Early Childhood Program Chair**

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