Mrs. Veitenthal's Classroom Notes
January 2020

January 5, 2020

Good Evening Families,

Happy New Year! As we welcome our students back to school, it is important to remember that this will once again be a time of transition for your little ones. Take extra deep breaths this week as your children readjust to the school schedule and adapt to a more consistent routine. To start the new year off on the right foot, I would like to remind you all of some classroom/school rules that will help your little one transition more smoothly in the long run.

***Items from home such as toys, stuffed animals, blankets, or other household items are not allowed at school**.
We were pretty lenient for the first half of the year and helped your child get these items into their backpacks. To help your child better attach to our lovely environment, and to keep their mind off of their security items, it is best if all of these items stay at home or in the car. This will be different for some children at first, but with patience and consistency, your child will be able to leave items behind and walk into school successfully. If your child needs/ wants special items for nap, those items will stay at school in their nap bin.

***Please have all of your children walk to the door upon arrival.**
I know the parking lot can be quite busy and it is tempting to pick up and carry your little one. Yet, part of a child's work on their path towards independence is being able to walk carefully and responsibly throughout a parking lot and up to a door. Once again, with consistency and being very clear with your expectations ("You must walk and hold my hand") your child will be able to master this feat. If you must carry your child through the parking lot, please put them down once you are safe within the gate and allow them to walk up the ramp independently. Allowing your child to walk up to the door will instill a sense of pride and independence and he/she will physically detach from you before the door opens. This will help build a child's confidence and help him/her walk into the environment assuredly. When a child is more confident upon arriving to school, they have a more successful learning period. It is all tied together :)

If anyone has any specific questions please feel free to email me. I am looking forward to jumping into the second half of the school year with your children! We will welcome a new friend to the class, Theo, so please help him feel welcome. You will find the grocery list below for the next couple of weeks.

See you tomorrow!
Sarah Veitenthal

Madeline's Family- Jan. 13-17
Jase's Family- Jan. 20-24
Gannon's Family- Jan. 27-31
Athena's Family- Feb. 3-7
Theo's Family- Feb. 10-14

January 26, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend. Thank you all so much for your endeavors in encouraging your little ones to walk up the ramp on their own and to leave their toys at home. Wow, what a difference this has made in the environment! Your little ones are connecting to the work on a deeper level and strengthening their ability to concentrate for great periods of time. All of the children are loving to cook with Mrs. Yount and snack preparation is done completely independently by most of the children. We have noticed that the children have been hungrier in the mornings on these cold days. We need a few items to restock our breakfast pantry so if you would like to donate a box of cereal, bagels, or breakfast biscuits, the time you shop for these items can be counted towards your volunteer hours!

Tomorrow afternoon at 3 pm is the Rising Primary Orientation. If your little one will be moving up to Primary next fall, I strongly encourage you to join Mrs. DeMato and Mrs. Irre for an informative meeting on what to expect in your little one's Primary experience. Please RSVP to Anna Burling at aburling@mlm-school.org and let us know if you can attend or need childcare for your little one. Also, please let me know if your child will be in Laurel Club so I can help them adjust accordingly.

Finally, please mark your calendar for our annual Art Gallery Opening on ❤️ **February 14th** ❤️ Every student from Mountain Laurel will have a piece of artwork on display in a local art gallery on Main Street, right alongside professional artists. This is our sixth year for this fun event! The evening features not only artwork, but also food, drinks, music and fun with friends! In the past the event has been for adults only. This year we are opening it up to the children as well. Tickets are $25 for adults and $10 for children. You can purchase your child's work, as well as bid in the silent and live auctions. If you would like to help with the event that night, or with the preparations leading up to the Art Gallery Opening, please let Meg DeMato know.

Have a nice evening,
Sarah
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