

October Already?

It's been a busy month, and after four weeks September lies behind us and October is upon us. We've had a fantastic first month together as we establish routines and get to know our class, and I'm looking forward to the new opportunities for play-based learning that await us in the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the Kindergarten Home Connection forms that went home last week. If you haven't had a chance to complete this important document, please do so as soon as possible, and if you have misplaced your child's copy please let me know and I'll send home a replacement.

I'm so glad so many of you have been taking advantage of our ClassDojo page, where you can send our teaching team private messages and see pictures and video of some of the learning that is happening during our days at school. I completely understand that some families don't have internet access or computers in the home, and we will continue to send home important reminders in your child's agenda bag, but if you just haven't gotten around to signing up yet I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to engage in your child's learning in a very interactive way. If you do not have your login code, please let me know and I can send it to you. Please note that while we do our best to check the page for messages regularly during the school day, if you need an immediate response the best way to get in touch with us is by calling the school office.

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Beginning this month, we are thrilled to welcome Barb Sutcliffe who will be bringing the Roots of Empathy program to our classroom. Roots of Empathy is a fantastic program that builds emotional literacy in students, helping them identify and reflect on their own feelings and understand the feelings of others. Encouraging this sense of empathy in students, especially at a young age, has been demonstrated to promote safer and caring classrooms, and produce children who are less likely to physically, psychologically, and emotionally hurt each other through bullying and other actions. We are excited to introduce this program in our class, and look forward to sharing what we are learning with you at home.



IMPORTANT DATES

October 3 — PD Day

Enjoy an extra day at home with your child, or take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Norfolk Fair in Simcoe.

October 9 — Thanksgiving (Holiday)

October 10—Picture Day

October 13—Scholastic Book Orders Due



HALLOWEEN

With Halloween coming up at the end of the month, we're looking forward to lots of costumed fun, and while we will certainly be having a dress-up party in our classroom we will not be serving candy or other food in class. Please also note that if you choose to send Halloween candy in your child's lunch, it must be free of all nuts. Thank you for helping keep our school safe for students with severe allergies.

“Kindergarten children are confident in spirit, infinite in resources, and eager to learn. Everything is still possible.” - Robert Fulghum

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

I'm thrilled that a few families have already sent in Scholastic Book Orders. Don't forget that you have until October 13th to get your orders in if there is something you would like to order.

Using the online payment method seems to be the most popular option right now, but if you prefer you can send in cash instead.

I want to stress that while placing orders through Scholastic is a great way to get books for your child and help us get free resources for our classroom, I don't want anyone to feel pressured by anything. The same applies to any school fundraising that we do during the year. It's available to you as an option if you would like to participate.

LIBRARY BOOK EXCHANGE

Most of your children have had a chance to sign out a library book now, and we've had some questions about the library schedule so I wanted to clear that up as much as possible. Our class is divided into two groups, and each group will get to exchange books once during our 5 day cycle. Typically your child will get to exchange their book on the same day they brought their last book home, but if you're done with a book early you can send it back to school any time.

HEADPHONES FOR COMPUTER LAB

A few students haven't yet brought in a pair of headphones for computer lab. Having their own headphones is an important part of being able to participate regularly in our computer lab activities, including listening to stories and playing games with letters and numbers. I highly recommend a pair from the dollar store, as more expensive pairs can get damaged and need replacing.

Thank you for continuing to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. We want you to be involved in your child's learning and appreciate hearing from you!

Mr. Lahn & Ms. Meeuwse