

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you soaking in these last long, warm, lemonade days of summer. I have been thinking often of the rising second grade class. I am glad that they had this long summer for adventure, rest, and family time. I cannot wait to see how each child's face has grown and shifted a little here and there (those lost teeth and summer freckles!), and to hear the many stories of summer that fill them up at this time of year.

As we approach the first day of school, there will be a couple of opportunities for you to connect with other second grade families. I am hoping many of you will be able to stop in to lend a hand with setting up our second grade classroom this Friday from 3 to 6 pm. Please do bring your children! They seem to love seeing their new space and helping to make it fresh and tidy for the first day of school. I will provide light refreshments. It is fine to stop in for only half an hour or so on your way home from work or to an errand.

If you can't join us for the work party, there are a few helpful tasks that can be done from home. I need curtains washed, ironed, and re-hung, and a few materials sorted, repaired, or cleaned. Please let me know if you're interested in helping from home.

### **For Your Calendar**

#### ***Second Grade Work Party -- Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 6 pm***

Please join us in preparing our new classroom for the coming year. Child helpers are welcome, and refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity for your child to visit our new classroom before the first day of school.

#### ***Second Grade Potluck -- Tugman Park, Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 pm***

Please bring a labeled dish to share. You should also bring plates, cups, napkins, and silverware for your family.

#### ***Walk and Bike to School Day -- Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>***

#### ***Second Grade Parent Evening – September 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:15 pm***

Please plan to join us if at all possible. Childcare will be available for \$5 per child. Please send me an email if you would like childcare, or sign up outside the classroom door.

### **Information About Second Grade**

#### ***Arrivals and Departures***

The start of our day is a time when some of our most essential and joyful learning takes

place. With a few rare exceptions, I will open the door to children at 8:15, and school will begin at 8:25. It is our policy in the lower grades that families arriving late will check in at the office, get a tardy slip, and then wait quietly outside the classroom doors for between ten and twenty minutes while our opening unfolds without interruption. I will open the door and welcome your child when it is time to enter.

School ends at 2:45 in the lower grades. Many thanks to you for honoring the time set aside for me to prepare for the next day's lessons by arriving at the door on time to reunite with your child.

### ***Clothing and Footwear***

Movement, both indoors and outdoors, is essential to our way of learning. Keeping children comfortably warm is also very important for their growth and learning. Each day, please help your child to dress in layers and snug-fitting, comfortable shoes. Please also make certain your child has the following at school each day:

- **Extra clothes** – Please send a cloth bag (a reusable shopping bag is fine) containing a full set of extra clothing (including underwear and extra socks – lots of socks, please!). These extra clothes live on your child's coat hook and should be checked regularly to see if fresh clothing is needed. Everything in this bag (including the bag itself) should be labeled. Please note that bulky bags (such as large backpacks) and bags with extra long handles do not fit well on our coat hooks.
- **Warm layers** – Even on the hottest days, a warm layer (sweater, etc.) is needed for activities in the cool morning air, and to be comfortable in a room with open windows and a fan. In cool or rainy weather, a warm, non-cotton coat is important for play and learning. Mittens or gloves and a non-cotton hat are needed for cold weather.
- **Rain gear** – When rainy weather begins, your child will need rain pants, a hooded raincoat, and waterproof rain boots at school every day. You can leave these items at school, or take them home and return them daily, as you prefer. Once mud arrives on our campus, children will wear boots and rain pants daily for recess, gardening, and other outdoor activities. Throughout the year, children will need clean street shoes to wear in the classroom, gym, and other parts of campus. Please take care to send your child with street shoes, in addition to boots, in muddy weather. Please let me know if you need a scholarship for rain gear.

Please label all boots and outerwear clearly with your child's name. Each year, many children arrive with similar boots – often black Bogs. If you think other children might have boots similar to your child's, you can help your child quickly identify her own boots by tying a loop of colored yarn somewhere on the boot. This will help your child get ready for recess quickly. It may also help to prevent someone taking your child's boots home by mistake.

### ***Lunch and Snacks***

In addition to lunch, our class will be eating two snacks at school: a healthy morning snack from home that you send with your child to school every day, and a healthy,

communal afternoon snack.

Your child may also eat breakfast from our wonderful Village Kitchen before school, at 8:00 am.

Please send nourishing snacks and lunches to school. Please refrain from sending juices or sweets, including gummy snacks, pastries, cookies, chocolate chips, etc.

Your child will need a napkin for her lap each day. Please make sure to send all necessary utensils.

*Afternoon Snack:* Once a month, as you are able, please contribute a nourishing, easy to serve snack to our shared afternoon snack supplies. There will be a place to sign up for afternoon snack duty on the bulletin board outside the door. I will sometimes serve herbal tea to the children, so your donation of herbal tea is also appreciated.

### ***Birthdays***

On your child's birthday, you are invited to join us at school (typically at the beginning of the day) to share a story that classmates may not know from the past year, and also a story from early in your child's life. We sing a song and offer a simple gift to the child. Summer birthdays are typically celebrated in the final weeks of school, but we can make other arrangements as you prefer. Please let me know if your family does not observe birthday celebrations.

To protect children's feelings, please distribute birthday party invitations at school only when all children in the class are invited to the celebration. If you are inviting a few classmates only, the preferred method of sending invitations is by email or regular post. Many thanks for your cooperation.

### ***Treasures***

Please help your children leave their special belongings at home. Toys and trinkets can cause hurt feelings and draw children away from our shared work and play. I welcome nature treasures to be brought for the nature table.

### ***Classroom Materials Fee***

This is payable in the office, and is usually around \$80 per child. You can pay this amount in regular installments, or request a scholarship if needed.

### ***Communication***

I look forward to another year collaborating with you, learning from you, and to watching all of you come together in community to support each other. Please feel free to call me anytime between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm to discuss your child. My cell phone is the best way to reach me, and that number is 541-968-0158. I ask that email be used only for quick logistical check ins (scheduling appointments, letting me know about a

new afternoon pick up plan, asking a question about a field trip, etc.), not for conveying important information about your child. Phone calls or in person meetings are the best place for us to talk about your child, always.

I look forward with great pleasure to beginning this journey through second grade with you and your child. Here's to a wonderful second grade year!

Warmly,

Emily