

August 24, 2018

Dear Families,

### **Welcome**

I am excited about this school year! School starts at 8:14am and shortly after that we start our class meeting. Please be on time. It is a crucial transition time for your child and it is important that they are present.

### **Parent Help**

Another important aspect of Open education is parent involvement. Last year our class had many excellent experiences learning with parent leaders. I encourage you to volunteer in whatever capacity you can. Volunteering is not limited to working in the classroom. Many parents serve on committees and other school wide activities. I understand that parents are very busy and working in the classroom may not be feasible.

### **Field Trips**

An important part of the Open School philosophy centers on real life experiences outside of school and in our immediate community in particular. These field trips are connected to the curriculum and it is important that children attend. Often lessons are chosen to prepare children for upcoming field trips with the understanding the children all experience the trip. Parents, generally, are always welcome to travel with us if your schedule permits.

### **Book Orders**

I send book order forms home sporadically throughout the school year. There are some good books, at good prices. Please do not feel any pressure to order books. I like to give the opportunity, but do not expect everyone to respond. Many people also order books for birthdays or other holidays. I am happy to hide your orders.

### **Snacks, Tissues, and Supplies**

We have snack once or twice a day and it is helpful if families can send crackers, cookies, fruit, etc.... We will be discussing how to organize snack at curriculum night. Children may wish to supplement with something from

home. *No snacks with peanuts and tree nuts.* Again, we will discuss this more at curriculum night.

Cold season is approaching. The school tissue is horrible. The children and I appreciate donations of softer tissue.

### **Belongings**

\*\*\*Labeling your child's belongings help prevent loss. Many articles of clothing from our room end up in the lost and found each month because children could not identify whom they belong to. Please discourage your children from bringing anything treasured and/or valuable.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year! Chad Downs