

September 19, 2020

Dear Terrific Three Parents,
Greetings from Preschool!

I want to thank you for a positive start to the school year.

I truly hope your little one is making a smooth transition to our classroom. It takes time for everyone to adjust to our school environment, new teachers, new friends and routine. It is my goal your child will love to come to preschool to play, learn and enjoy being with new friends and teachers. The month of September will be filled with many opportunities for your little one to feel more comfortable. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me.

Morning Arrival:

Thank you for helping your child check in each day by having their temperature taken by Nurse Amy or one of our staff members. The children are doing an amazing job finding their cubbies, taking off coats and backpacks. I am so impressed. To ease your minds, I am in the lobby with Nurse Amy to assist the children. I try to look in backpacks for the orange school folders each Thursday, too. Ms. Katie is in the classroom assisting the children with the washing hands task. Then the children eagerly get busy at one of our tables with an activity. It is so fun to see the children already get used to our new routine.

End of the Day Dismissal:

Thank you for your understanding as both Ms. Katie and I are getting to know our Terrific Three families and especially the Authorization Pick-up Helpers. If it is a nice day, the children will be dismissed from the park. Feel free to come a bit closer to the playground gate to help us recognize faces. I must admit it can be a bit tougher to see faces with masks on—so thank you for your patience as we dismiss the children to the proper person. If we are unable to use the playground due to the weather, we will plan to dismiss from the main Preschool doors. Thank you.

Magnificent Me! Week:

During our “Magnificent Me!” week, the children listened to the book I Like Me by Nancy Carlson, as well as other stories relating to our theme. They created a special “me” face project that is currently hanging in our room. Also, during our celebration of ME, the children played a color game, joined a name ball game and celebrated that God made us special. We learned several chants and even had a parade with our special streamers we made in class. The children simply had fun!

Preschool Friends Theme:

Next week brings an exciting week of learning more about our new friends. The children will enjoy a few games and activities that are designed to support new friendships. It is very normal for the children not to remember all of their new classmates’ names. The preschool children may not remember names of their new friends, but describe them with as “the boy with the dinosaur shirt” or “the girl with the shiny shoes”, etc. It all takes time, but the week ahead is filled with opportunities to assist the children in getting to know one another better.

Look for a finger-painting project or a decorated paper doll to come home soon. These activities will be part of helping the children get to know one another.

Letter of the Week:

Our alphabet study begins this coming week. We will start with **Letter F** to go along with our theme— **Preschool Friends**. The children will learn one letter each week. Our letter curriculum concentrates on the letter sound and formation of each letter that is age appropriate.

Each week the children will be creating a big letter page using varied preschool tools or materials. For example, this week we will be placing feathers on the letter F. Each big letter page will be sent home in the school folders when it is dry. As each page is brought home, please spend time with your preschooler discussing the shape, name and sound of each letter. At this age, it is making the children aware of the shapes of the letters and hearing the different sounds. I like to say we are working together to “plant the seeds” as the children grow in knowledge during each stage of development. During future preschool years, the children will have more of a focus on learning the sounds and corresponding letter names.

Alphabet Book or Display Opportunity:

It would be very valuable and beneficial to start an alphabet booklet with your child using the big letter pages that will be coming home. This can be completed in any way you wish and is for your child’s use at home. Please note this is not mandatory, but highly suggested. 😊

A few ideas:

- *place each completed big letter in a clear sheet protector and placed in a three-ring binder
- *place pages together with paper fasteners
- *use a key ring to hold the pages together
- *hang the letters in a special place

Whatever you decide is fine. The idea is to get your child excited about what they did at school. It is a wonderful way to help your child have an awareness and better understanding of the letters. It also proves to be a fabulous way of showing your child how you value what they are doing and learning at Preschool.

Good News:

I have heard very positive feedback from past preschool parents who created a booklet with their children. However, you decide to keep the alphabet pages is fine. If you choose to create a collection of pages with your child—please know that it is fun for the children to bring their completed binder/booklet back to school in May to show classmates and teachers. 😊

My hope is you will find a way that will help your child get excited about their work, school activities and the letters of the alphabet.

Lifetouch Photo Day:

As I mentioned in a previous email, there has been a calendar change to Lifetouch Photo Day. There is no retake day scheduled at this time due to our current restrictions. Please mark your calendars for Monday, October 5th to bring your little one to St. Joseph’s School to have his/her photo taken by Lifetouch Photography. Watch for more information coming out through the main school newsletter soon. **IF you do not yet receive the weekly newsletter from the main school office, please let me know. **

Communication via email:

Please keep your email, phone number and address current with us if it changes at any time during the school year. My newsletters will be sent home through email. Thank you.

School Website:

St. Joseph's School website is another place to look for PreK-8th grade information. Our school website is very user friendly. The calendar and newsletters I send out will be added to the school website, too.

Listen for a new chant this week by your preschooler:

Will you be a friend of mine?

A friend of mine,

A friend of mine.

Will you be a friend of mine?

And play with me today?

Thank you for a fabulous start to the year. It is simply a pleasure to have your family at St. Joseph's Preschool. Welcome to the St. Joseph's School Family.

Contact me with any questions.

Peg Dierberger

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