

September 9, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of class K-220,

I wanted to personally take the time to **thank each and every one** of you for all of your patience, care and support during these first few weeks of school. Everyone has been so kind, especially with dismissal and arrival routines. I know that it is very crowded and a little hectic during this time. I appreciate all you have done for me, for the school and for your child. You have certainly made the transition to school a smooth and welcoming beginning.

If you need to contact me you can send a note in with your child's Home Folder. Most of you have been great about sending in a note if your child has a play date, doctors appointment, personal information that I should know about, etc. Please continue to do this; it works out nicely.

Also, below are some concerns and questions that have been recently brought up by the parents. Here are some answers to the questions many of you have been asking about:

HOMEWORK POLICY

Because of the long school day, 8-4:30, and the age of the children, homework will be kept this year to a minimum. When the child does receive homework, it will be placed in the Home Folder. It will most likely be a worksheet, or fun activity/task you may do with your child at home. Homework will be connected to what is taught and learned. No child will receive homework that he or she cannot do. Parents expect that if your child does the work that it is checked and recognized. If you have anymore questions or concerns about this topic, please contact me.

BATHROOM

We have been taking class bathroom trips throughout the day. We have been doing once in the morning, and typically twice in the afternoon. We have had some accidents, so I ask that you remember to send in an extra set of clothing with your child as soon as possible. VOICE prefers that the extra set of clothing be uniform clothes, however it is okay if it is not. It was also brought to my attention about the difficulty of flushing the toilet. The handle on the toilets in the bathroom are rather hard to push for such young

children. I have spoken with the children about this issue, and will continue to reassure them that I will be outside if they need help.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

The children and I have established a behavior discipline in which there is a green, yellow and red smiley face, acting similar to a traffic light. Green means "good to go!" Yellow means "slow down." Red means "I need to speak to the administration and have a talk with the parents." Each student has a name tag, and always begins on green. They may move to yellow or red, depending on the choices they make throughout the day. They always have the chance to move back to green. Everyday starts a new day, so every student gets a new fresh start, even if the day before may have been a bit rough.

SONGS

Class K-220 has several songs and chants we sing everyday! These chants can be sung at home as well. We have a "transition" song we sing everyday on our way out the door into the hall, to the bathroom and to lunch. I will also add this poem into your child's Home Folder. The song goes like this:

*"Magic finger in the air
Magic finger in my hair
Magic finger on my hips
Magic finger on my lips!"*

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

The arrival and dismissal procedures are making much progress! At the end of the day, your child will receive a name tag. Students who take the bus home will receive a name tag with the bus route number, their name, and their teacher's name. I encourage you to "quiz" your child on his/her bus route color. Your child will be dismissed by the after school music teacher in our classroom. I will be in the building, and at most times in the back at my desk doing work. If you need to speak with me, please let the music teacher know, and you can come in. This will be the best time to chat with me one-on-one. Also, if your child is a pick-up child and did take his or her name tag home, please be sure to bring it back to school with them. Thank you!

MY PHILOSOPHY

As the VOICE Charter School website notes, as your child's kindergarten teacher, I am committed to creating a safe and healthy learning environment that will nurture, motivate, and challenge all of your children to achieve the highest level of academic excellence and to develop into mindful, responsible, contributing participants in their education, their community, and the diverse society in which we live.

TABLES

There are five tables in K-220. Each table is a name of an instrument. We have the clarinet table, the trumpet table, the drum table, the saxophone table and the guitar table. Quiz your child and see if s/he remembers which table is theirs! They will be learning about their particular instrument throughout the year. I have brought in inflatable instruments for them to play. So far, we have listened to these different kinds of instruments and talked about what they look like as well as the sound they make.

SUPPLIES

Thank you for all the supplies. They have come in quite handy - especially the baby wipes! We have pooled most of our materials together, and each table receives their own "bin" of glue, scissors, markers and crayons. I encourage the children to close the marker caps so they do not dry out, however. The markers we have not yet opened will sure come into use later on in the year. The most important supply I can ask that *you bring in with your child is a change of clothing, with your child's name labeled on the outside.*

Again, I appreciate all your prompt feedback and filling out all the contact sheets and emergency information!! Enclosed is also a school calendar sheet for your convenience. This calendar provides information about school holidays and school closings.

Thank you for your support. I could not do this job without you.

Warmly,

Miss Rizzo