

Friday, September 18, 2009

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We're just finishing our first full week of kindergarten. I'm back in the classroom after a bout with the flu and a day of required training in Writer's Workshop. Many thanks to Mme Fischer who so ably subbed for me and for Elijah's and Lillian's moms who so kindly helped out. Our two Belgian interns, Mlle Elise Fernex and Mlle Alison Nortier, did fine jobs, as well. I was told that the children did an admirable job of focusing on school while workmen replaced the windows in the classroom. Bravo! I'm thrilled to be back and will be updating you more on the class next week.

*This week the children focused on manners and learning school vocabulary and routines. They made simple puppets to illustrate *Oui/Ça va bien* and *Non/Ça va mal/Ça ne va pas*. They loved using their puppets (marionnettes) to sing along with our song "Monsieur Oui et Monsieur Non". They have also been learning the names of their classmates and how to introduce themselves in French. Each day we have highlighted one child and found out a little more about him or her. After saying and singing the alphabet, we've practiced good letter formation in writing the child's name. In math we have been focusing on establishing daily routines such as the calendar and the number of days of school. We've been counting to 10 and beginning to write the numbers to 6. We have celebrated three birthdays already! I will be sending home the birthday celebration list next week.*

We will start using the gym on a daily basis next week. Please be sure your child wears rubber-soled shoes/sneakers with socks each day. On hot days, sandals with a back are okay, but not flip-flops or clogs.

Thank you for all the supplies you have brought in. Right now we are in good shape with the exception of white 1/2" hardcover 3-ring binders with plastic sleeve cover. If you are able to donate any (We need 7), I would greatly appreciate it. Another item we still need is the plastic Poly "Splash" brand folder from Walgreens (esp. purple, orange, green and yellow). Also, some parents have not yet sent in the headphones. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Children may bring in a small, travel-size pillow labeled with their name for rest time. (No blankets, please)

Please read the Parent Handbook, so that you are updated on school policies and procedures. If you need to make appointments during the school day for your child, please try to schedule them on days off (such as Oct. 15 & 16 & 23 & Nov. 13) or in the afternoon of early release days (such as Sept. 30 & Nov. 4 & Dec. 2). If you must schedule an appointment during school time, please do it in the middle (preferably) or latter part of the day, rather than first thing in the morning when a late arrival is the result. It makes a difference for school data whether your child is here on time for the start of the school day or not.

If you put something in your child's backpack for me, also put a note in the chemise, telling me so. I don't check backpacks, but I do check the folders daily. Also, if you send in a check, please attach it in some way to the order or put it in an envelope. It is very easy for the check to get overlooked in the pocket of the folder (especially with static electricity at play in drier weather).

Your child should continue to wear his or her bus tag all next week. After that, you may put it into the pocket of the backpack. Thank you for your diligence.

I want to remind you about the Parent Information Night next Thursday, September 24 from 6 pm– 7 pm. There will be a Kindergarten team presentation in one of the kindergarten rooms, and then we will gather in my room for a more class-specific session. This is an evening you will not want to miss, as you will learn more about the curriculum, my expectations and me. You will also have an opportunity to ask general interest questions and meet the interns. Childcare will be provided, with a suggested donation of \$5.00. Come one, come all!

Here is an announcement about our Bully Prevention Poster Contest:

Calling All Artists!!

L'Etoile du Nord school in cooperation with Discovery Club, is having a school wide poster contest. The posters need to be 11x17 and have bully prevention as a theme. The posters can be in French, English, or both! Your name, grade, and teacher's name needs to be on the back of the poster. Entries can be dropped off at the Discovery Club room from September 14 through October 2. Winners will be announced over the loud speaker during Bully Prevention week (October 5–9). The posters will be displayed throughout the school. Below are samples of phrases you can put on your poster:

Treat others the way you want to be treated."

" Think twice, be nice."

" Speak up, Reach out, Be a friend"

" This is a no bullying zone"

If anybody is in need of paper, just ask me.

The class is off to a wonderful start this year, and I look forward to a full week with them next week when we will be focusing on school workers and their jobs.

Warmly,

Mme Kathleen Reagan