

Dear Parents,

It is almost time for your child to come to Kindergarten! We are eager to get to know your little ones. We are getting our classroom ready for you. The soon-to-be First Graders are writing letters to your children sharing their special advice and insights on their learning journey that we will read on the first day of Kindergarten!

There is an exciting year awaiting, designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development. This very important year promises to be one filled with discovery and joy as your child works and plays in an environment that is warm, safe and challenging. The structure of daily activities is carefully planned to encourage independence, self-confidence and group cooperation through large group, small group and one-on-one participation in a variety of hands-on, interactive experiences. The activities will incorporate instruction and skill reinforcement in reading readiness, mathematics, writing, science and social studies, art, fine and gross motor skills, social/emotional skills and language development.

You will notice integrated learning in our units of study will be used to extend across, and connect all of our content areas. In doing so, your child will see the continuity of his or her learning and the application of skills will become more concrete. Learning will be real and learning will make sense!

One of our very favorite integrated activities is our STEM through Fairy Tales. This is where we work collaboratively and learn about materials by using them to construct a variety of objects, including model buildings, toys, boats and vehicles. In groups, students select materials to use and gain experience as they cut and shape, fold, pile materials on top of one another, join parts, and try different techniques to achieve the result that they intend. In the process, they learn to look at objects that are similar to what they are trying to construct and, with guidance, begin to recognize the component parts that make up the whole. In preparation of this fun way of learning, I would ask that you please read "Muncha! Muncha!Muncha!" by Candace Fleming with your child this summer. This story sees a gardener that experiences difficulties as his vegetables keep getting eaten by three rabbits. Mr. Greely tries to problem solve by building a wire fence (bunnies hop over it), wooden wall (bunnies dig under it), a moat (bunnies swim across) and then he finally builds what is called a "huge, enormous thing" around the entire garden...will the bunnies be able to figure out a way around this obstacle? This book is a great starting point to launch our STEM through reading as it has so many problem solving strategies. I hope you enjoy reading and discussing this great book with your child.

You can also help your child get ready for the start of Kindergarten by visiting the following websites and apps that we will be enjoying in class next year.

Websites

[-www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[-www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

[-www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-kindergarten-math](http://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-kindergarten-math)

Apps -Bob Books -Word Bingo -Interactive Alphabet -Letter Quiz -Count, Sort and Match -Booksy Store

We are going to have an amazing year full of new learning adventures. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

See you soon,

Morah Katie