

Hello Families,

'Tis the season of birthdays and losing teeth! We've been having excitement on both fronts lately. Did your child tell you about our two new graphs? Your children have been building the graphs together, and we know that they will be checked and rechecked over the entire year. They have permanent places of honour at our meeting area, and your child is practicing early numeracy and literacy skills as they pour over them; they identify each other's names, count teeth and birthdays and use math language such as "more" and "less", and reference the calendar to count the days ahead.

'Tis also the season of fog and dew. Many of you have sent in a second set of clothes in case your child gets muddy or wet. Thank you! Another suggestion would be to dress your child in rain pants or splash pants, even on sunny days. Rolling down our little hills give a thrill, as does sliding down a dewy slide, and your child will be more comfortable and dry. You can even tuck them in their backpack, after one muddy slide, we're sure that they will prefer the rain pants next time!

Your children have been settling into our Reading and Writing Workshop routines. Did they tell you about the three things that they can do, if they declare that they are finished writing? And ask your child what they can do in order to read words around the classroom.

As promised, we will start to highlight some of our Centres in these letters. Our Building Centre is one of the most popular right now. We have a number of collections of Building Materials: Lego, Duplo, small wooden blocks, and large wooden blocks. This area is always a flurry of activity. Our former afternoon teacher, Ms. Theriault, and her partner, Blair, worked hard to make those large blocks. They cut and sanded each one. We are delighted to have them in our class and believe in the importance of construction using open-ended materials; a study by Roberta Golinkoff in *Child Development* showed that playing with blocks supports a foundation for learning math, science, and other STEM subjects. There is a strong link between spatial and mathematical reasoning; in other words, children with strong spatial skills often have a better understanding of early math concepts. We could wax poetic on blocks for weeks, but take a look at the table on the back of this page, from one of our favourite resources, "The Block Book" by Elizabeth Hirsch. The potential for learning using blocks is tremendous. So far, our Block Centre has been open for free play, and children have brought other materials, such as cars and animals, to support their imaginary play and ramp experimentation. We also traced the faces of the different blocks onto the big block shelves; not only is cleaning by your children a snap, but your child is actively applying 2D and 3D geometry every time they put away blocks at clean-up time. We will be providing more focused invitations and inspirations to learn at this Centre in the year to come.



-Dates to remember:

-Wednesday October 9th is **Picture Day**

-Friday October 25th is a **PD Day**. There is no school on that day for your child

-Pictures are now up on our class website! Our website is a great way for you to view pictures of your children at work and play! Check it out on

<https://primarywt.weebly.com/> . ****If you selected 'No' on the Media Release form, your child's photo will not be on the website****

-**Please label everything** that comes in with your child, such as **coats** and **sweaters** (as the days get cooler), and even **food containers**. **Boots and shoes** can also be easily returned to your child if they are labeled with their name. Many children have the same shoes and sizes. We do not have cubbies in Grade Primary and our hooks are very cramped, things do get mixed up and pushed down the hallway on occasion.

-Your child may bring in a labeled **water bottle** to keep in class. We will send them home on Fridays for a wash.

-A spare **change of clothes** to be kept at school would be much appreciated. Please send in a **labeled Ziploc bag**. We will keep them in class.

-Please check your child's bag and **Communication Scribbler** every day and ensure it is **returned on a daily basis**. Thank you! You may also send us a message in the Communication Scribbler. If you have an **urgent message**, leaving a **telephone** message is another option 902-457-8422.

-As a school, we ask that birthday party invitations to be distributed outside of school. We sent home a **class list of phone numbers and emails for parents** to use as needed. Please let us know if there are any errors on the sheet.

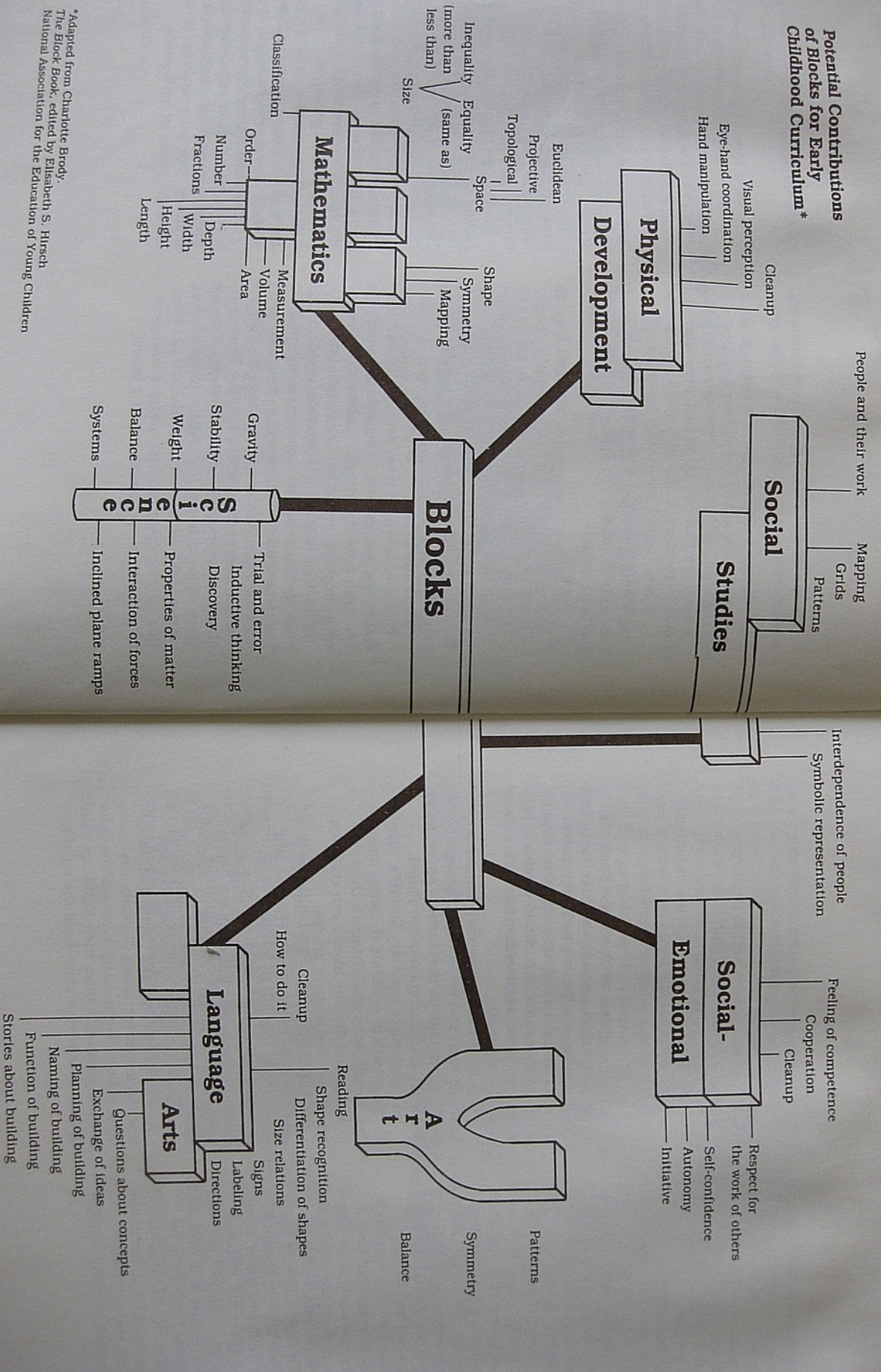
-It is very important and helpful to label any money you are requested to send to school. We recommend an envelope that includes your **child's name**, the **amount**, and **purpose of the money**. Thank you very much!

-We are excited to go on **nature hikes** in Hemlock Ravine and **field trips** this year, but we need your help to take your children off-site! We require 5 adults to chaperone our class of 17 children. If you would like to be a parent volunteer at any time this year, the school requires a current **Criminal Record Check** and **Child Abuse Registry** background check. You will find links to those checks under the **Parents section** on our website:
<http://gvw.hrsb.ca/our-school> .

We appreciate your time to read through this note, and your support with the items above. We look forward to building a partnership with you and learn with your child in the coming year. Stay tuned for more news about our classroom and program next week.

Thank you,
Ms. Warren and Mrs. Klyne

Potential Contributions of Blocks for Early Childhood Curriculum *



*Adapted from Charlotte Brody, *The Block Book*, edited by Elisabeth S. Hirsch, National Association for the Education of Young Children