

September 10, 2019

Hello Families,

We hope that you fared well during the hurricane! We enjoyed meeting your children last week, and shared two peaceful days with them. It was a joy to see some nervous faces turn into smiles the next morning. Your children may have told you all about our class, or perhaps you are having trouble getting any details; this is normal. We use this letter to fill you in about our daily life: conversations, explorations, teaching strategies, and studies. You might use the letter as jumping off points in talking with your child about their days.

Did your child tell you about "Bark George"? There were howls of laughter at this silly book. Or "Owl Babies"? Our owl puppet brings the smallest character to life, and your children laughed and shared in those familiar feelings of missing mothers when they are out of sight; it brought some comfort to friends that were missing their families on the second day of school. Perhaps your child told you about playing, "Hedgehog". Ask your child about how this active and musical game helps them to learn each other's names.

As you can imagine, September is very much about developing a strong and caring community, getting to know each other well, and learning about our classroom and school routines. You will hear much more about that in coming weeks; we love to share how we incorporate movement, literacy, and math into our everyday routines.

This first letter is largely about housekeeping, and we hope that the information below will be helpful.

-Thursday is **Pink Day**, for Anti-Bullying. Your child may choose to wear pink or red for that day.

-We would appreciate it if you send in a pair of **indoor/gym shoes** for your child. They will be kept in the classroom at all times. We change shoes six times each day! In order to set your child up for success and independence, please ensure that your child can change their shoes on their own; velcro or toggles are highly recommended instead of laces.

-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.

-your child will need a **daily snack and lunch**. Nut products and/or nut butters are not permitted at school. You may notice some food coming home in the coming week. We encourage children to take home any uneaten food so you can gauge how much of those healthy meals your child is eating!

-The bag that went home on the first day of school is your child's **Message Bag**. 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 would like to compile a **class list of phone numbers and emails for parents** to use as needed. Please indicate on the attached sheet, whether or not you wish to be included on such list.

-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!

-Comfortable pants and a t-shirt are recommended for **Gym days**. We do not have time to make clothing changes in the washrooms and want to ensure we are all ready to go at the same time.

-Here is our **weekly schedule**:

Monday: Gym and Library

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: Gym

Thursday: Gym

Friday: Music

-We have **class website**, which is a great way for you to view pictures of your children at work and play! We will also post our class newsletters, as well as send it home in the message bags. ****If you selected 'No' on the Media Release form, your child's photo will not be on the website****

-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 6 adults to chaperone our class of 22 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> .

-Lastly, please take a minute and **fill out the attached form** and return it with your child.

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

Child's Name: _____

Your Name(s): _____

Telephone contact information (please indicate whether it is a home, cell, and/or work):

Email address(es): _____

- Yes, please release my email to the class email list for parents to use as needed.
- Yes, please release my phone number to the class email list for parents to use as needed.
- No, I would prefer not to be part of the class email list.
- No, I would prefer not to be part of the class phone number list.
- Yes, I am interested in being a parent volunteer.