

Primary School News

September 7, 2010

Dear Parents,



It is the fourth day of school and already we have experienced a myriad of adventures! Life can get busy in The Primary School. So much is going on, it is difficult to keep track of it all! Last week we had outside recesses and inside recesses (rain, you know). I heard several stories being read: about colors, about Max and the monsters, about a girl named Chrysanthemum! I saw some children drawing self-portraits and others creating math problems. There were eager faces coming in on the buses and vans and excited faces during the day as the children took the time to enjoy their activities. The children reviewed recess rules, classroom rules, lunch procedures, restroom reminders and swimming/locker room procedures. There was a lot of giggling and also some very nice, quiet lines in the hall. I watched a lot of children carry trays very carefully through the Dining Room with a minimum of spills. I saw children building with blocks, unifix cubes, popsicle sticks and even a special device for making penny mazes. I can't wait to see what fun things are happening this week at Old Trail School!



Last week was the first week at Old Trail School for many new preschool students. We also welcomed other new students to our division: Young 5s (10 new students), Kindergarten (14), First Grade (5) and Second Grade (2)! We are working hard to make the new students feel welcome as we start the new year! Not only are there new students in our midst, but we also have five new teachers who work with Primary Division students. You may see new adult faces at our end of the building—Ms. McNamara, Miss Daane, Miss Bauer, Mrs. Donelson and Mrs. Trahey and spreading sunshine in our halls. Be sure to welcome them when you have an opportunity.

As the school year begins, there are many activities for Old Trail School families. Some families are eager to get together, especially as the school year begins. They want to become involved right away and become very informed about everything that is happening at school. There are also families at Old Trail School who wish we did not have so many picnics, orientations, special gatherings, family open house and grade nights. They feel it is too much. Please know that we provide many **opportunities for families**, but if you are uncomfortable with the number of activities available, you are welcome to pick and choose among them. We will always keep you informed through the website, letters, postcards, and/or emails about upcoming events. It is up to you to decide which activities are best for your family to attend. **Read *Buffalo Bytes* and the letters from your children's teachers each week with your calendar in hand and you will feel on top of things!**

Dining Room

Dining Room routines are slowly being assimilated by the children. This week we will continue to work on where to sit and even how to sit! We will work on staying in our seat and having pleasant conversations! We guide the children about how to ask an adult a question responsibly and how to sing the birthday song appropriately. We have cleanup routines too—where does the trash go? the leftover liquids? the forks and spoons? the bowls and cups? the trays and lost items? It is quite a process and will take a few more weeks for everyone to perfect.

Core Values

Every year the advisory groups at each grade level address Old Trail School's four **Core Values**. These Core Values (RESPECT, GOODNESS, SERVICE and RESPONSIBILITY) were decided upon several years ago with input from parents, alums, students, faculty and staff. They are posted throughout the school and referred to often in a variety of contexts.

Each quarter we emphasize one of the Core Values. The classroom teachers have already begun to address this quarter's focus which is **RESPECT**. Please know that we are emphasizing RESPECT this quarter and that you might want to refer to our discussions during your "teachable moments" at home. At school we discuss respect for each other, respect for our surroundings, respect for adults, and respect for the environment. We realize that you often address respect as you parent, just as we always address it here at school.

Safety & Security

I have several important **safety reminders**: 1) the speed limit in our parking lot is **10 mph** for very good reasons, please drive carefully. 2) please **sign in** at the front desk when you are in the building during the school day—the only exception is if you come and go within the 20 minute window--*8:10 and 8:30 a.m.* — when all the doors are unlocked. 3) Always wear your **nametag** on school property. You can get a pressure sensitive tag at the front desk if you have forgotten yours. 4) never drive while chatting on the telephone when you are on school property, there are just too many unpredictable children around and your attention needs to be on your driving.

Dress Code

At the beginning of the school year we often have questions about **dress code**. I receive the most questions about shoes. The children may not wear sandals, flip flops or Crocs to school. If you are unsure about an item of clothing, send it to school or provide a picture and your child's teacher or I can give you feedback. We are happy to help with this.

Looking Ahead:

Wednesday, September 8

First day for Young 3s, 8:45-11:15 a.m. & 12:45-3:30 p.m

Tuesday, September 14—

Head of School Assembly in the Bridgewater Gym at 8:35 a.m. Grades 1-8

Thursday, September 16

Primary School Parents' Night, 7-8:30 p.m. Y5-Grade 2 (babysitting not available at school)

Feedback Welcome

Today's question—How was the first week? Do you have any comments, frustrations or suggestions? Feel free to email me at lwilliams@oldtrail.org.

Have a Great Week!

Luann Williams,
Primary School Director

Second Grade News

Week of September 7, 2010



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Literacy

We shared many fun back-to-school books with our class reviewing rules and how best to make our days fun and exciting.

We also started our bullying unit by reading *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes.

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Science/Social Studies

The second grade ventured to the mulch trail which leads to the Old Trail School Garden. We observed, listened and shared our ideas as to how to make this pathway a more beautiful place.

We are going to build our service project around planting flowers and caring for this area. More information to come...

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Math

We reviewed many concepts and procedures from first grade.

Please start practicing basic addition and subtraction facts totaling 18.

McGrievy Math is a wonderful resource:
www.mathbox.com

ots website
teacher webpages
username: first name last initial
password: same as above

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Looking Ahead

Parent Night September 16 at 7 p.m.

Contact us: bditirro@oldtrail.org, pdonelson@oldtrail.org, lverecken@oldtrail.org