

October 2016

News you can use!

We have organized this handy little letter into several sections so each month you can get the information you need. We remember how busy parents of young children can get, so take this newsletter and read it in sections. When you've got just 2 minutes...like when you're standing in line to pick up your little one...read this first. This is the MOST important information. Then when you have 5 more minutes, read the next section. This information, won't require immediate action. Then put this newsletter in your bag, or on the front seat of your car, later in your week, when you're waiting in line at the pharmacy or sitting around at soccer practice, you can take some time to read some other gems of wisdom we choose each month to share with the parents of our students. But don't put it away and forget to read it! It's important information. You should read it. Start here...

When you have just 2 minutes! Read this stuff...

Important Dates for Everyone! Yes...all of you

Tuition is due on October 1st!

8th Rice County A night at the Museum (see attachment)

11th parent meeting begins at 6:00

Week of October 17th conferences

20^h and 21st NO SCHOOL

3-Day Important Dates

12th Picture day, 9am

2-Day Important Dates

13th Picture Day, 9am

14 St. Olaf Prairie Visit

Greetings from your Director!

It doesn't seem possible that we have already zoomed through our first month of school! The children have been working very hard adjusting to routines and getting to know their new teachers and friends. They are doing a remarkable job. Many thanks for sharing your child with us as part of the day at Open Door. Each week, be looking for update emails from us about the things we have been having fun with at school. It's great stuff to talk about with your child.

Critical Tuition Information

Your payment MUST BE in the box by the 10th of each month. Thereafter you will be

required to contact the treasurer personally and arrange to submit your payment by mail or other means. **If payment is not received and arrangements aren't made with the treasurer by the 10th of the month, a \$10.00 late fee /month will be added.**

Upcoming Conferences

Goal setting conferences will be held the week of October 17. Watch for forms that we would like you to complete and return in advance (if possible). The sign up sheet will be posted in the hallway. We look forward to meeting with all of you.

Parent Meeting

Once again, Open Door is hosting a parent meeting to review basic policies and procedures as well as offer some parenting tips (that we wish we'd known!) On October 11th, we will begin promptly at 6:00pm and meet for approximately 1 hour. Childcare is available by arrangement with Barb.

Picture Day

Lifetouch Photography will be offering you an opportunity to purchase pictures of your child and their class. Pictures are taken promptly as our day begins at 9am so please have your child camera ready when you bring them to school on the big day! Package information will be sent home soon. Money and order forms are due on or before picture day. Please look for an envelope in the hallway to submit your forms. Make check payable to Lifetouch and write your child's name and class on the front of the form. There is no obligation to purchase pictures.

Environmental Program

Our environmental program with St. Olaf College has begun. Students from St. Olaf will meet with our classes throughout the year. Soon, each class will spend a whole school day at St. Olaf. Due to transportation rules, we are not able to transport children during the day, so we will ask you to **drop off and pick up your child at the Art Barn on St. Olaf's campus** at the regularly scheduled times. Do not bring backpacks on this day. Be sure to apply sunscreen and have your child dressed for spending the entire day outside. We are looking for parent volunteers to accompany us on our adventure (Unfortunately siblings will not be able to join you.) If you are available, please let your child's teacher know. More details will be coming as the date approaches. A map of St Olaf campus can be found on the Open Door website.

Butter Braids - YUM!

Our Butter Braids fundraiser will begin October 17. All orders must be returned by October 31st. Delivery of these delicious treats will be November 15th, just in time for you to serve during the holidays. Money earned helps to provide scholarship funds to families who do not qualify for Parent Aware scholarships. Your participation is voluntary, but greatly appreciated. Delicious samples will be shared at the end of the day in the near future. Enjoy!!

When you have 5 MORE minutes! Read this stuff...

Dressing for Success...

We encourage children to put on their own clothing. It helps us greatly if you encourage your child's self-dressing skills at home, including getting sleeves right-side out, putting on hats and shoes, and working with zippers and buttons. Soon it will be mitten season, and it helps enormously at going-home time when children can put on their own mittens. We have the children put their mittens on LAST so hands are free for zippers and buttons. Please remember mittens are easier for your child than gloves. We start our day outside unless it's raining, so be sure to dress your child appropriately. Label coats, bags, hats... and eventually boots, mittens and slippers. When purchasing garments, please consider your pre-schooler's putting on ability. We do not expect children of these ages to tie their own shoes. (Velcro closures are helpful!)

Bathroom Time!

Please be sure to have your child go to the bathroom before coming to school as we start our day outside on the playground. Also remember your child needs to be a confident and skilled wiper. Legally we are not permitted to help them with this job.

Halloween Costumes

While we do various finger plays, songs and activities, we do not have a Halloween party at Open Door. Please do not send costumes or masks as many children find them frightening.

Fire Safety

As we talk with your child about fire safety, and practice here at school, we'd like you to practice at home as well. Please show your child two ways to exit their bedroom. Choose a "meeting place" – a place where your entire family will meet outside in the event of a fire – perhaps a tree, a climber or a neighbor's house. Remember, it is important to choose a meeting place be where your child will not cross a street. Practice a fire drill from your main floor and from the second floor (if applicable).

Birthday Snacks

Please remember that only commercially prepared treats are allowed. When making a birthday selection, you may wish to consider "mini" cupcakes. So how many birthday snacks should I bring? Here are those details:

3am needs 16 students + 2 teachers = 18 total

2am needs 14students + 2 teachers = 16total

Please remember that 4 oz. Of beverage is required per child. Adjust the amount you bring accordingly. Thanks!

When you've got 10 more minutes! This stuff is good to know...

Visit Us!

Does your child have a favorite book you would like to share? Would you like to come and share a special interest or hobby with our young people? Please visit! Let your child's teacher know in advance the days you are available to join our class day. 24 hours notice is perfect! Can't wait to have you with us!

Write Start

In Kindergarten, your child will use lower -case letters to write their name. So if you're helping your child learn to spell their name, please encourage using a capital followed by all lower-case letters. e.g. Jane Smith

Messages at Drop Off

A plastic envelope labeled "messages" can be found on the playground fence. Paper can be found in the envelope to write messages if needed. This method ensures that we don't forget anything that has been said, provides written documentation if needed and helps us to communicate with each other. Please put forms or messages of any kind in this envelope. We are not able to check each child's backpack for messages.

Take Home Box

We prefer that parents or drivers, not children, be the ones to check the box for notices and artwork. It saves time and ensures that the correct things go home with the appropriate student. Remember to check daily for items BEHIND your child's (and any other children you are transporting) name.

Quick News!

Occasionally there will be notices placed above the take home box on the board. Upcoming events, sign-ups and special news of the day will be posted here. Don't forget to check it. Also, look for those weekly emails.

Questions?

One of our goals is to have the newsletter, website and handbook address all the information you will need to be successful at Open Door. If you have questions that need further explanation, please bring them to our attention as soon as possible. We are better able to respond to you when our attention is not focused on the children, so we greatly appreciate phone calls and conversations when class is not in session. Especially convenient times are 11:45am to 12:45pm. If you are unable to call when we are at school please feel free to call us later in the day or send an email to arrange a time to discuss your needs. Staff can be reached by calling the Open Door phone number: 507-645-8532, and selecting the appropriate extension for all staff members.

Be an Art Critic...

Your children are proud of their artwork. We hope you will keep in mind that at ODN, we do not concern ourselves with the finished product, but with the processes involved. We would like to remind you that sometimes a painting isn't anything and encourage you to focus on the colors used, how your child did it, and most of all, the fun of it? We are hopeful that by omitting value judgments and by accepting all artwork equally, parents can help children feel encouraged and excited about their own unique piece of art.

Northfield Dance academy

Ms. Daphne, from Northfield Dance Academy visited our 3 am class. The children loved it. She currently has openings for sessions including a 1:00 class on Mondays. Please contact her at [HYPERLINK "http://www.northfielddance.com"](http://www.northfielddance.com) www.northfielddance.com if you would like to enroll your child in this fun activity.

Thanks!

To all who helped clean at the start of the school year! Our room looks wonderful thanks to you!

To Aspyn's Mom, Madi and Torin's Mom Catherine, for taking pictures of the children to be hung in the classroom.

Open Door is a non-profit organization. We appreciate the time you have taken to sign-up for parent volunteer opportunities. Throughout the year, our volunteer coordinators may be contacting you as needs arise. ODP operates smoothly because of your involvement. Thanks for your support; we couldn't do it without you!

Stay in Touch

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