



October 2020

News you can use!

Themes: Fall, Fire Safety, Halloween

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 waiting 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!

Tuition is due by October 8

October TBD St Olaf Prairie Visit

October TBD Conferences

October 15 NO SCHOOL

St Olaf Prairie Visit

The children from Open Door will be visiting the St Olaf Prairie. **This year class times will begin at 9:00 and end at 10:30. There will be NO ACCESS to toilets at ST OLAF COLLEGE.** Pick-up and drop-off will occur at the Art Barn. (See map on Open Door website if needed.) Please be timely as we will wait for all arrivals and departures there. Children will not need their backpacks/bags. Be sure to send your child dressed appropriately for the weather, (apply sunscreen and send a hat for sun protection as needed) as we will spend all of our time outside. Due to Covid-19 procedures, we are unable to have parents attend as chaperones. All three teachers will accompany the children on the prairie visit. If your child is ill and unable to attend, please call your child's teacher at 507-645-8532. We will plan the visit soon based on the upcoming weather forecast. Watch your emails for further information.

Greetings from your Director!

It doesn't seem possible that we have already zoomed through our first month of school outside! 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. This helps you connect with your child regarding things they are talking about at school. Be sure to take time to read them as they contain important information.

Critical Tuition Information

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

Conferences

Goal setting conferences will take place soon. These conferences provide such useful information. We enjoy meeting with each of you and appreciate the insight that only you can provide. A goal setting conference sheet will be sent in this email. **Be sure to download, complete, and return to a staff member by October 14.**

Community Resources or Family Services

Please visit the website: www.parentaware.org for a complete listing of resources including medical and health support, as well as low income support, affordable housing assistance and affordable preschool. In addition, a local resource listing is posted in the Resource packet located in the hallway.

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

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 when children can put on their own mittens. Please remember mittens are easier (and warmer) for your child than gloves. We hope to spend our entire day outside, 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.

Bathroom Time!

Please be sure to have your child go to the bathroom before coming to school. 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

Yes! We **WILL** be wearing Halloween costumes on Thursday, October 29. Feel free to have your child wear them for the entire day.

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

Some parents are hoping to bring a commercially prepared snack for birthday celebrations. Please let us

know if you would like to provide the snack or if you would like us to provide it. 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:

Tuesday: 7 children, 2 staff

Wednesday/Thursday: 9 children, 2 staff

We will provide juice

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

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

Backpacks

Art projects and notes may be placed in your child's backpack. Be sure to check it. Also, be sure to 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 12:15pm. 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 ODNS, 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.

Thanks! To Ezreal's Grandpa who fixed our wooden shelf.

Stay in Touch

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