

September Classroom News

The first two weeks of the new school year are off to a wonderful start! The children have been excited to see old friends and welcome new students into our classroom. We have been practicing daily routines, as well as grace and courtesy lessons, such as introductions, taking turns, asking for lessons, and concentrating on work. We will continue to focus on apples and bees for our thematic work through mid-September.

Hopefully, you noticed the red permission slip sent home in our Thursday Folder last week for the apple orchard. Our class will visit Martin's Hillside Orchard in Ceresco on Tuesday, September 23rd. All children are invited to join us that morning even if they do not normally attend school on Tuesday mornings. We will need permission slips returned as soon as possible, as well as background paperwork for adults. It is helpful for all families and caregivers to complete this paperwork at the start of the school year so everyone can join us for field trips throughout the year.

The children are adapting to lots of new routines that allow them to work independently in our classroom. Families can assist with this transition by:

- Following consistent drop off and pick up times so no one misses out on class activities and preparation. Morning drop off is 8:45 am – 9:00 am and pick up is 11:45 am – 12:00 pm. Afternoon drop off is 12:45 pm – 1:00 pm and pick up is 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm. Thank you for being on time!
- Alerting teachers beforehand if someone new is picking up their child. Even if the new person is on the approved list, this allows us to check the information in the office early in the school day and keeps the pickup line moving a bit more smoothly.
- Keeping your child in the car seat at drop off until you see Miss Rumi approaching the car and then unbuckling your child. We want to make sure the children are waiting safely in the back seat.
- Being mindful of class allergies for all foods brought into the classroom, such as lunch, snacks, and birthday treats. Please send snack food in the original store packaging so we can double check the ingredient list.

I will be out of town the week of September 8th. Miss Rumi will be leading daily activities and lessons that week. Both Miss Rumi and Miss Emily D. will be available to help with questions, and I will continue to monitor email that week, as well.

Throughout the year, I want to highlight a small section from *The Montessori Child* by Simone Davies and Juanita Uzodike. I hope to share how their list of "What We Love About The 3- To 6-Year-Old Child" applies to both our daily work at school and how families can incorporate these ideas at home.

1. The Child is Curious: One of my favorite things about our classroom is the curiosity and inquisitiveness of each child at this age. Some children are very vocal with frequent questions of “Why?” while others may show a quiet interest by exploring work with their hands or through observation. In the classroom, we try to satisfy this need by providing inviting materials and work at the children’s eye level and following their lead when presenting work. I may have one group lesson prepared for line time at the start of the day and change the topic mid-lesson if a child’s question or interest leads us in a different direction. While discussions and answers are important, I also try to allow each child to explore and discover answers independently. Rather than offering an immediate response, I may reply with additional questions, such as “What do you think?” or “How could you do that?” and allow curiosity to drive the next step. You may want to consider trying the same at home and allow your child’s interests and curiosity to lead outdoor exploration or during daily activities.

Thank you all for your help and patience as we all adapt to the new year! I am so excited to work with such an amazing group of children and families, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Ice Cream Social this Friday.

Miss Christie