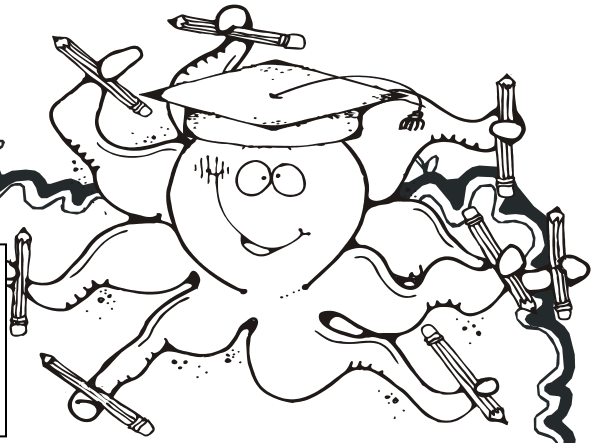


Welcome
To
Kindergarten
At
Tiffany Creek



Interested in Volunteering???



Child's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Check all that you are interested in volunteering for:

_____ Room Parent (helping with tasks in the classroom)

Monday: Morning Afternoon

Tuesday: Morning Afternoon

Wednesday: Morning Afternoon

Thursday: Morning Afternoon

Friday: Morning Afternoon

_____ Project Parent (helping with seasonal projects & copying)

_____ At-Home Parent (helping with cutting, coloring, game-making)

_____ Profession/Hobby Parent (give demonstrations on your career or hobby)

_____ Sewing Parent (helping to sew and/or repair classroom items)

_____ Other Ideas: _____

****Your child's teacher will contact you to set up a schedule. Thanks for your assistance!!**

Homework Expectations

In kindergarten, we have several homework expectations. It is our building-wide decision to implement homework from K-6th grade as a way to build student responsibility and parent involvement in students' education.

We begin with a letter and sound sheet. Each letter, its sound, a picture clue, and an action are introduced. A sheet is done in school and sent home. Each night we ask parents to practice the letter name, its sound, and the action. This will continue until all letters are covered.

Another homework assignment is the Letter-Of-The-Week sheet. At the beginning of the week, a letter sheet is sent home to be completed and return to school by Friday. Teachers collect, check, and file these sheets so that students can make a letter book at the end of our ABC letter study. We've found that if students are allowed to turn in work that is not their best, they quickly learn that homework can be a rushed product without any accountability. Teachers model student work that is outstanding and give frequent reminders to the class for doing their best work and following the directions. Reminder notes are sent on Monday to any student who has not turned in their homework. Any missing work not turned in after that results in completing the homework at recess time.

The third kindergarten assignment is the Monthly Reading Log. At the beginning of the month, a monthly reading log is sent home with children to record 10 books that they or their parents have read throughout the month. At the end of the month, teachers collect the logs and put stickers on class reading charts for those that completed the reading. Examples of things to record on student reading logs are bedtime books, thematic and ABC booklets brought home from school, or library books.

As children become confident readers, we will send sight words to practice. Cards will come home in the form of flashcards. The children can practice reading, writing, and spelling the words.

Evening Readers books can be sent from our library as a way to practice reading books as well.

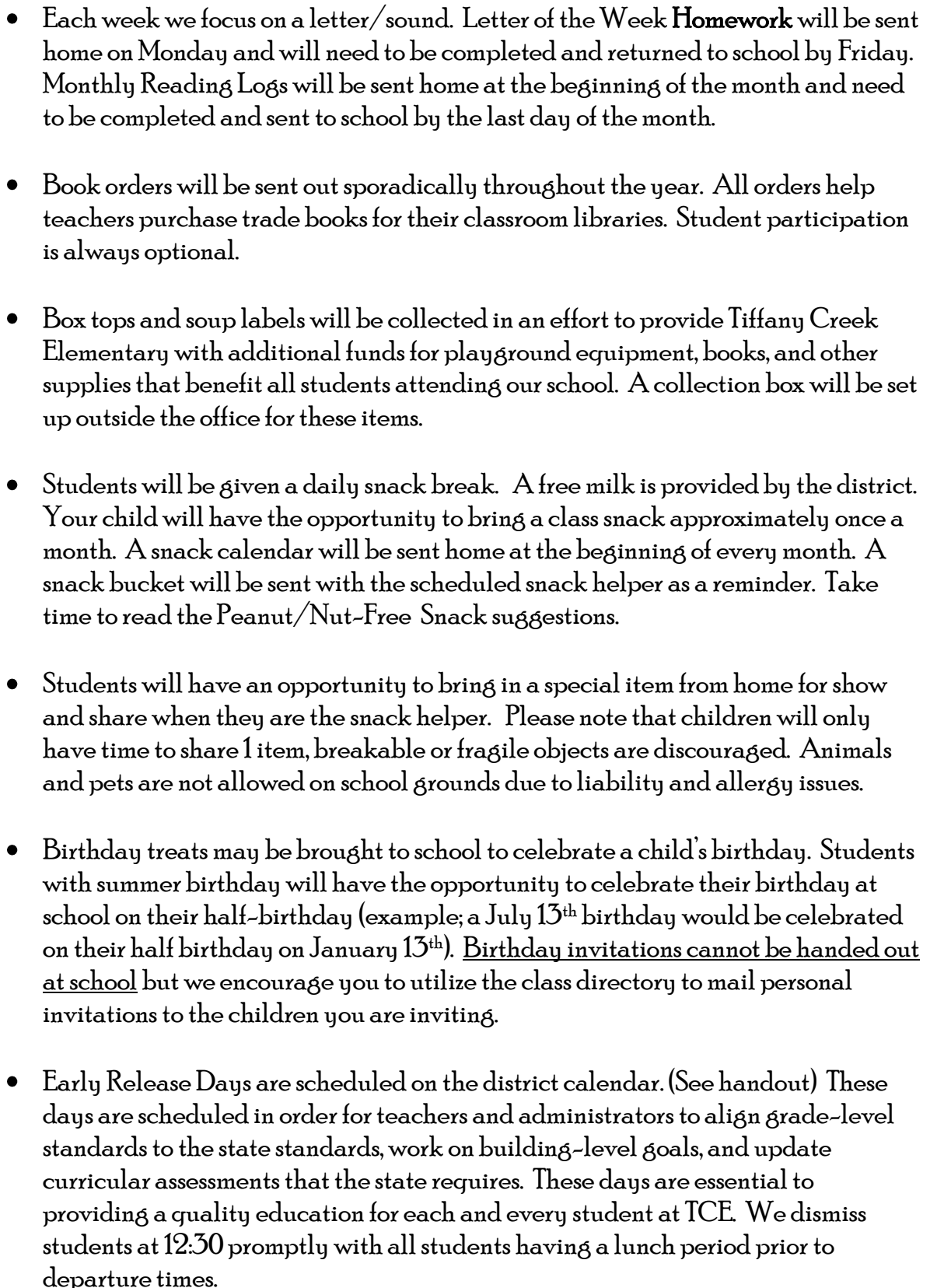
Homework is an essential part to your child's success in kindergarten. It is a good way to stay up-to-date on your child's education.

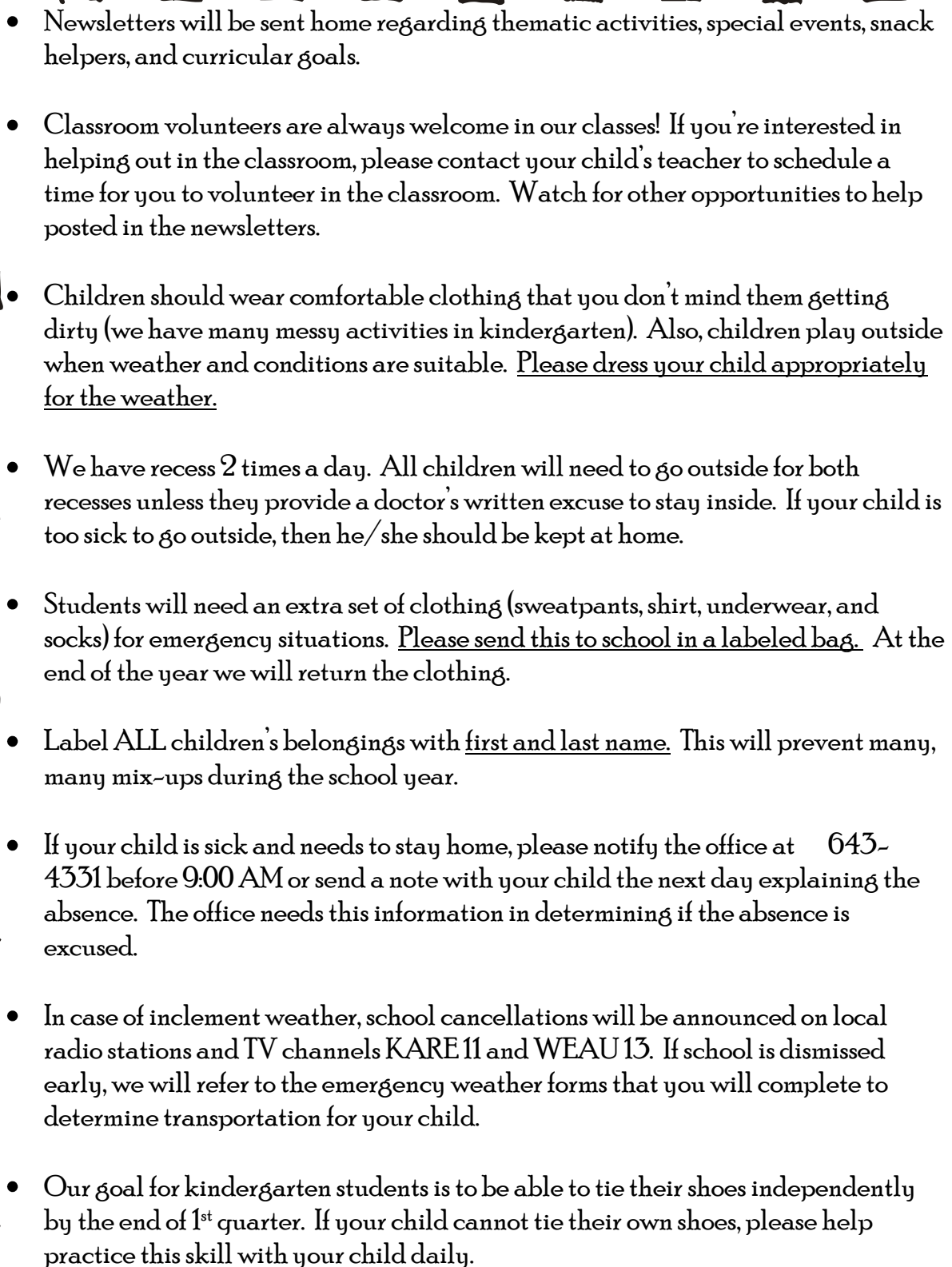


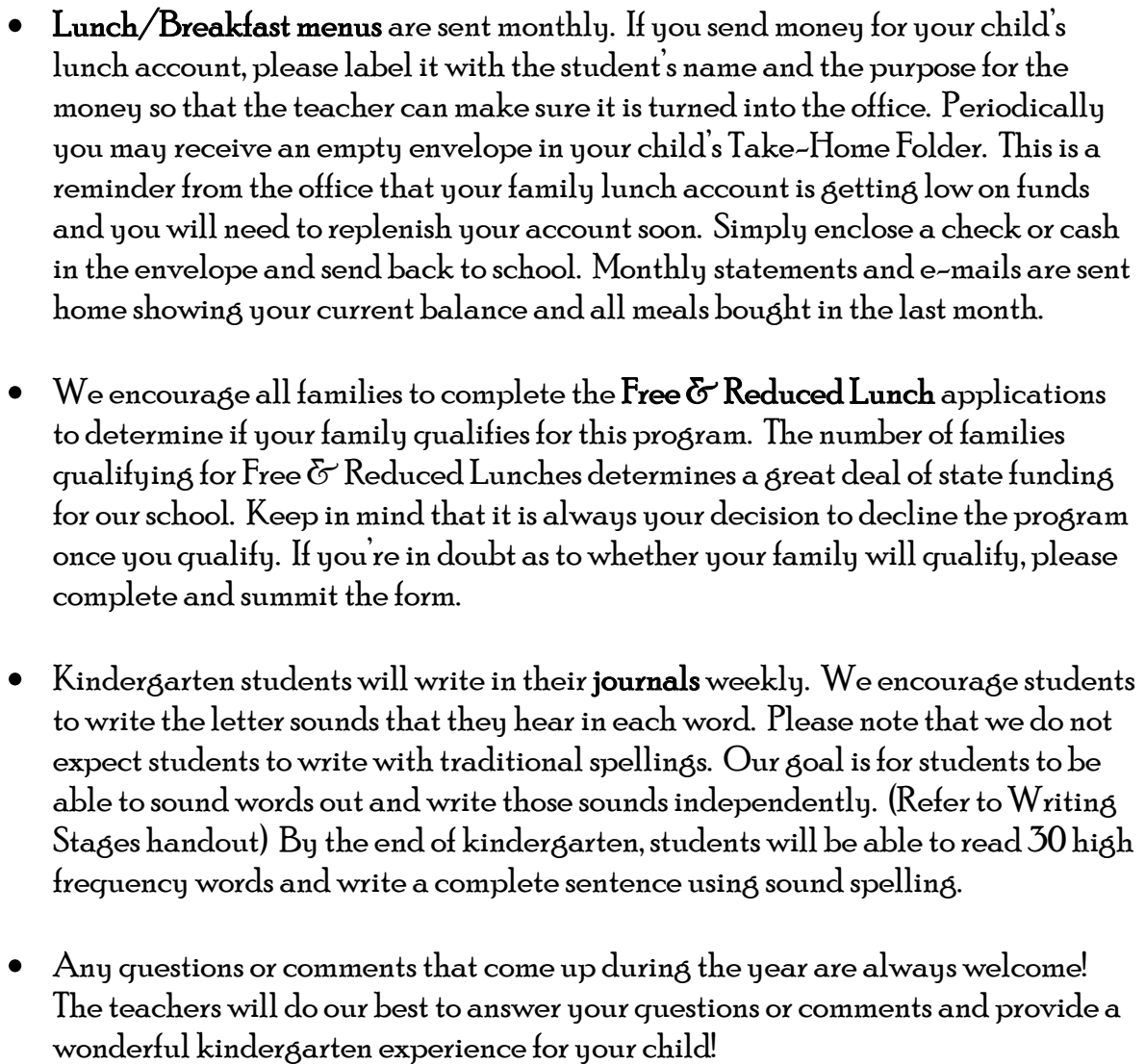
Information Parents Need To Know

- The kindergarten program meets Monday-Friday from 8:15-3:15. Children are asked to arrive at school no earlier than 8:00. If students are in the building prior to 8:00, an adult must be supervising them. If you need to pick your child up before 3:15, you must sign them out in the office logbook. Please note that this will be considered an absence from school.
- The kindergarten curriculum is organized around themes that are of interest to young children. Thematic centers relate to specific themes we are studying with all curricular areas being integrated.
- Take-Home Folders and Planners will be sent with your child daily as a communication tool between school and home. Please initial the date box on the right side of the planner. If you have specific notes or questions for the teacher, please write them in the planner. Students will need their backpacks, Take-Home Folders and planners daily to transport papers, homework, and projects.
- Computer Lab and Library will be once a week and Art will be twice a week. Gym and music class will take place daily for 20 minutes each, so please remember to send gym shoes with your child daily.
- Students needing to change their transportation schedule (example; ride a different bus, get dropped off at a different location, or get picked up by a different adult) need to have a written note from their parent specifying the changes to be made and the date in which this change will occur. In an emergency situation, please leave a message with Teri Peterson, the elementary secretary, who will hand-deliver any transportation messages to the teacher. Do not rely on teacher voice mail or e-mail for transportation changes since many times teachers do not have a chance to check their voice mail or e-mail until after the children are dismissed.



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- Each week we focus on a letter/sound. Letter of the Week **Homework** will be sent home on Monday and will need to be completed and returned to school by Friday. Monthly Reading Logs will be sent home at the beginning of the month and need to be completed and sent to school by the last day of the month.
 - Book orders will be sent out sporadically throughout the year. All orders help teachers purchase trade books for their classroom libraries. Student participation is always optional.
 - Box tops and soup labels will be collected in an effort to provide Tiffany Creek Elementary with additional funds for playground equipment, books, and other supplies that benefit all students attending our school. A collection box will be set up outside the office for these items.
 - Students will be given a daily snack break. A free milk is provided by the district. Your child will have the opportunity to bring a class snack approximately once a month. A snack calendar will be sent home at the beginning of every month. A snack bucket will be sent with the scheduled snack helper as a reminder. Take time to read the Peanut/Nut-Free Snack suggestions.
 - Students will have an opportunity to bring in a special item from home for show and share when they are the snack helper. Please note that children will only have time to share 1 item, breakable or fragile objects are discouraged. Animals and pets are not allowed on school grounds due to liability and allergy issues.
 - Birthday treats may be brought to school to celebrate a child's birthday. Students with summer birthday will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthday at school on their half-birthday (example; a July 13th birthday would be celebrated on their half birthday on January 13th). Birthday invitations cannot be handed out at school but we encourage you to utilize the class directory to mail personal invitations to the children you are inviting.
 - Early Release Days are scheduled on the district calendar. (See handout) These days are scheduled in order for teachers and administrators to align grade-level standards to the state standards, work on building-level goals, and update curricular assessments that the state requires. These days are essential to providing a quality education for each and every student at TCE. We dismiss students at 12:30 promptly with all students having a lunch period prior to departure times.

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- Newsletters will be sent home regarding thematic activities, special events, snack helpers, and curricular goals.
 - Classroom volunteers are always welcome in our classes! If you're interested in helping out in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a time for you to volunteer in the classroom. Watch for other opportunities to help posted in the newsletters.
 - Children should wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind them getting dirty (we have many messy activities in kindergarten). Also, children play outside when weather and conditions are suitable. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.
 - We have recess 2 times a day. All children will need to go outside for both recesses unless they provide a doctor's written excuse to stay inside. If your child is too sick to go outside, then he/she should be kept at home.
 - Students will need an extra set of clothing (sweatpants, shirt, underwear, and socks) for emergency situations. Please send this to school in a labeled bag. At the end of the year we will return the clothing.
 - Label ALL children's belongings with first and last name. This will prevent many, many mix-ups during the school year.
 - If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please notify the office at 643-4331 before 9:00 AM or send a note with your child the next day explaining the absence. The office needs this information in determining if the absence is excused.
 - In case of inclement weather, school cancellations will be announced on local radio stations and TV channels KARE 11 and WEAU 13. If school is dismissed early, we will refer to the emergency weather forms that you will complete to determine transportation for your child.
 - Our goal for kindergarten students is to be able to tie their shoes independently by the end of 1st quarter. If your child cannot tie their own shoes, please help practice this skill with your child daily.

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- **Lunch/Breakfast menus** are sent monthly. If you send money for your child's lunch account, please label it with the student's name and the purpose for the money so that the teacher can make sure it is turned into the office. Periodically you may receive an empty envelope in your child's Take-Home Folder. This is a reminder from the office that your family lunch account is getting low on funds and you will need to replenish your account soon. Simply enclose a check or cash in the envelope and send back to school. Monthly statements and e-mails are sent home showing your current balance and all meals bought in the last month.
 - We encourage all families to complete the **Free & Reduced Lunch** applications to determine if your family qualifies for this program. The number of families qualifying for Free & Reduced Lunches determines a great deal of state funding for our school. Keep in mind that it is always your decision to decline the program once you qualify. If you're in doubt as to whether your family will qualify, please complete and submit the form.
 - Kindergarten students will write in their **journals** weekly. We encourage students to write the letter sounds that they hear in each word. Please note that we do not expect students to write with traditional spellings. Our goal is for students to be able to sound words out and write those sounds independently. (Refer to Writing Stages handout) By the end of kindergarten, students will be able to read 30 high frequency words and write a complete sentence using sound spelling.
 - Any questions or comments that come up during the year are always welcome! The teachers will do our best to answer your questions or comments and provide a wonderful kindergarten experience for your child!

A Day In Kindergarten

Our kindergarten day is very busy as well as educational! We are involved in many different activities during the day and would like you to be familiar with the routine schedule and general purpose for why we implement each activity in kindergarten.

ABC Letter Work/Phonics

Purpose: Teach letter names, correct formations, and letter sounds

Each day of the week we implement a different phonics activity to help students learn the letter names and letter sounds. Students will complete a Rainbow letter sheet introducing the letter at the beginning of the week. A letter booklet will be colored and read with one-to-one correspondence to practice reading skills. A letter phonics sheet and a handwriting sheet will help students practice learning the sounds and the correct formation for the letter of the week. Lastly, the students will complete the related page for the specific letter of the week in their Picture Dictionary booklet.

Journals

Purpose: Apply knowledge of letter sounds learned and practice beginning writing skills

Students will have the opportunity to practice their phonics/writing skills by drawing and eventually writing in their journals about a topic of their choice. Children are encouraged to work at their own individual level.

Math Games

Purpose: Reinforce math concepts taught through hands-on games in a small-group setting

Students play math games in small groups to practice the math concepts that have been introduced during whole group instruction.

Calendar/Circle Time

Purpose: Build a community of learners, reinforce rote math skills for each quarter, emphasize beginning reading and language skills

Each day we will meet by the calendar to sing, chant, and read various components of our class calendar. This is a very lively and engaging meeting in which students practice rote skills such as counting, reciting letter names and sounds, identifying coins, and discussing the daily weather.

Shared Reading

Purpose: Builds a community of readers in which all students are successful through shared reading of enlarged print charts, songs, rhymes, poems, and Big Book stories. We focus on reading strategies, print concepts, building sight words, increasing background knowledge and vocabulary, developing reading fluency, letter/sound association, phonemic awareness, and comprehension.

Story time consists of children gathering for a story and engaging in many beginning reading mini-lessons in which the teacher is demonstrating reading and writing strategies that students will begin to implement independently by the end of the year.

Project Time

Purpose: To extend the story through reading and writing activities that focus on phonics skills, retelling, comprehension strategies, and many language arts skills assessed throughout the year.

Project time is a period of time in which the students are learning skills through hands-on activities. We integrate many other content areas into this time such as science, social studies, and math concepts that relate to our specific book or theme.

Literacy Stations

Purpose: To provide a variety of literacy activities for students to engage in at their own developmental level. This section of time is set aside to differentiate learning so that all students can work at the level of literacy activities that are appropriate for them.

Literacy Stations consist of many different stations: Reading Station, Writing Station, Listening Station, ABC Word Station, and the Teacher/Choice Station to name just a few.

Writing Station activities:

Finishing journal page from Writer's Workshop, independent writing and drawing, page from a class book, monthly word booklet, shape books related to the theme, stamp a story, writing words from the room, making books, typing a story on the computer

Reading Station activities:

Read the room, read poems, songs, or rhymes from class charts, manipulate and reread pocket chart activities from shared reading time, read books from our class library, read books from group browsing boxes, read monthly charts, read poems and songs from overhead transparencies, reread ABC booklets

ABC Word Work activities:

Phonics extensions from mini-lessons during the week, ABC games from shelf, computer software programs, ABC stamps, magnetic letters, paint bags to practice writing words/letters, ABC beads to make words, sight word games

Listening Station activities:

Listen to stories on tape related to our theme, reread books read at shared reading time, classical music listening, songs sang in class on tape, poems on tape, student recording of storytelling, record a retelling of a predictable book, BINGO games on tape

Teacher/Choice Station activities:

Teacher will work with individual and/or small groups to do adult writing in journals, assess writing or reading skills of students, instruct students in a mini-lesson on reading/writing skills. If individual students are being met with, the other students in that group may have choice time which involves Play-Doh, puzzles, printing practice, fun sheet mazes, wipe-off boards, bead stringing, etc...

Rest Time

Purpose: To provide a transitional time for students to relax, calm their busy bodies, and enjoy a quiet time mid-day. We do not expect children to sleep during this period of time, however, some do, especially at the beginning of the year.

Classical music is played during rest time to calm and relax children. Most children enjoy a quiet time to rejuvenate themselves and gear up for the busy afternoon.

Math/Thematic Activities

Purpose: To introduce new math concepts to the whole group and/or extend on any thematic concepts. Games are implemented in small groups to reinforce concepts taught during whole group instructional time.

Computer Lab/Library/Art

Children go to computer, library, and art classes once a week. Each special will last 40 minutes. Gym and Music will occur daily for 20 minutes each. We have found that having Gym daily is very beneficial to kindergarten students that have a lot of energy!

Thematic Centers

Purpose: To provide students with a small-group work time emphasizing hands-on activities, related to our current theme, that develops basic kindergarten concepts

Center time is organized into thematic centers that are set-up in three kindergarten classrooms. We generally have 4 centers in each of our rooms to be shared by all kindergarten students who rotate through all centers by the end of our 3 week thematic unit.

Snack/Show & Share

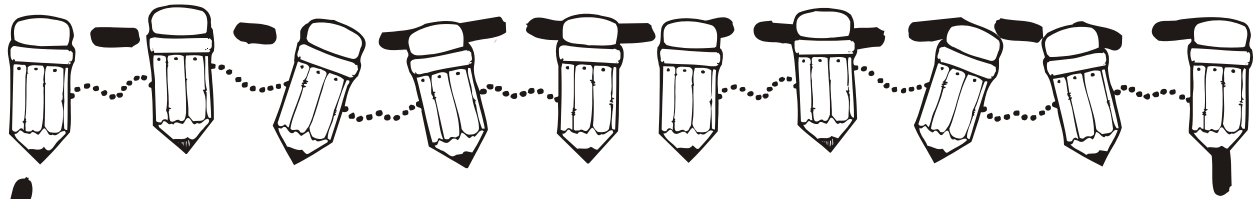
Purpose: To give students an opportunity to have a mid-afternoon snack as well as to learn how to use good speaking skills when sharing a favorite object from home.

Snack time will occur daily with a snack bucket that is rotated to each student in the class. A monthly class schedule for who is responsible for bringing the snack will be sent home at the beginning of the month. We encourage healthy snacks that are quick to eat.

Show & Share time is a time for students to share with the class specific objects, interests, or stories that are important to them. Each student will have a designated time for Show & Share (teachers will be providing their schedule for Show & Share at the beginning of the school year). Please have students bring only 1 item to be shared!!

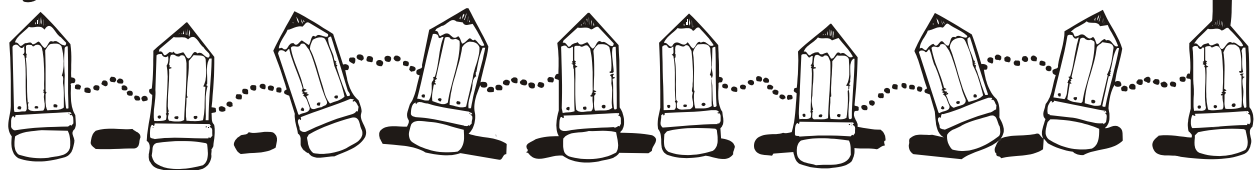
Dismissal Time:

Students will be dismissed at 3:15. If you need to pick up your child earlier than dismissal time, you will be responsible for signing your child out in the office.



Classroom Discipline

In kindergarten, we believe that children need positive reminders to become responsible for their own behaviors. We use a traffic light to help students learn the rules and remember to follow them. A traffic light is posted in each kindergarten room at the students' level. After establishing, discussing, and modeling the classroom rules, we begin using the traffic light to monitor student behaviors. If a student breaks a rule, we tell that student to place his/her name on the yellow light (all names start on the green light at the beginning of the day). A second offense results in moving their name to the red in which the student is responsible for getting the timer, setting it for 5 minutes, and putting their head down at their table spot for the set time. We purposefully make this process the students' responsibility in order for them to take ownership in their behaviors without disrupting the learning environment of others. If a particular student seems to be getting quite a few time-outs during a given day, teachers generally write a note in the student's take-home folder for parents to read and/or have that student stay in from recess as a consequence. We typically use this management tool quite a bit at the beginning of the year when students are learning the rules and how to be responsible for their own behaviors.





Suggestions For Snack:

- Cheese and crackers
- Fruit
- Cookies
- Muffins
- Crackers
- Graham crackers with frosting
- Sandwiches
- Pudding cups/Jell-O
- Ice cream treats
- Popcorn (pre-popped)
- Granola bars
- Bars
- Chex Mix
- Yogurt
- Fruit snacks
- Pretzels
- Animal Crackers





KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY

We at Tiffany Creek Elementary recognize that young children learn best through active involvement with their environment. This involvement provides for the growth and development of the whole child, physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. In order to nurture this development, we provide the students with a relaxed environment in which they can construct their own learning through hands-on, thematic activities.

We believe a developmentally appropriate program will provide children more time and opportunity:

1. To feel good about themselves as capable, unique individuals.
2. To engage in playful work.
3. To grow in decision making, problem solving, and creative thinking.
4. To express themselves through language, writing, movement, and use of materials and resources.
5. To interact in guided and informal play experiences.
6. To develop self-motivation, self-discipline, and self-direction toward purposeful activities.
7. To explore their environment using their five senses.
8. To foster a curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.
9. To enjoy age-appropriate activities

