

August 14, 2018

Transitional Kindergarten Newsletter

Welcome to TK!

We have a fun filled year ahead of us here at Woodside! This newsletter is the first of many to come. I will try my best to keep you informed of all of the many activities happening that concern your child. This includes the curriculum, field trips, parties and upcoming events. Folders will be sent home every Wednesday with important notes, class work and school bulletins. Be sure that your child returns their "homework" folder every Thursday to receive a sticker on their folder for a being responsible. Monthly newsletters and important reminders will also be e-mailed directly to you starting in September.

I am sure that many of you have questions about our unique Transitional Kindergarten program. Hopefully this newsletter will answer a few of your inquiries. You are all invited to attend Back to School Night on Thursday, September 6th at 6:00pm. This is a ***parents' night only*** where I will discuss my philosophy, curriculum, share year-long plans, and tell you about different ways that you can volunteer in the classroom. Until then, here is some information you may find helpful.

Routines In TK

Everyday there is yard supervision in front of the classrooms beginning at 8:10 a.m. Staff members are there to watch Woodside students on the playground, which should help families who are part of a carpool or for students that are dropped off by parents. If they are dropped off early, TK students should put their backpacks outside the classroom and then play on the play structure until the first bell rings at 8:20 a.m.

Students will then line up outside our classroom door ready to start the day. At 8:20, I will open the door to greet each child. A tardy bell will ring at 8:25. Once inside the classroom, students should put belongings in cubbies and find an activity at a round table or read a book on the rug.

Parents and siblings are welcome to stay until I signal for story time. At this point, I expect all family members to say good-bye and leave quickly. Our morning consists of stories, movement activities, songs, reviewing the daily schedule and sharing. This consistent routine will help students get ready for a great day in TK!

On the first day of school, students will be dismissed at 12:30. Beginning on Wednesday, August 21st, students will be dismissed at 1:00. On Monday October 1st, until the end of the year, our class will be dismissed at 2:30 on regular days. When school is dismissed, please wait outside our classroom when you come to pick up your child. I will open the door and call the names of the children whose parents or caretakers are present. This continues to be very helpful as a way to get to know each one of you these first few weeks of school. Be sure to leave a note on the white board inside the classroom door or email me if your child will be picked up by anyone other than a parent or regular caretaker. If play dates are made over the course of the day I need to be made aware of pick up arrangements.

What To Bring To School

Every day your child should come to school with a backpack (big enough to hold a 9" x 12" homework folder and a library book) a healthy morning snack, water bottle and a lunch.

We have snack and lunchtime every day, including minimum days. Each child should bring nutritious foods that can be eaten in about 20 minutes. Please do not include excessive sugar, any candy or soda! Make sure that the foods you pack are ones that are easy to open and eat without a lot of adult help. If you are interested in signing up for hot lunches or milk, please contact the office or visit our school website.

Classroom supplies can be donated directly to room 2. We will share everything, so please do not bring any individual supplies for your child! We are asking for donations of: Crayola washable markers (supertips), black fine tip EXPO markers, clear Elmers gluesticks, and Seventh Generation disinfectant wipes.

A Lot of Changes...

The first few weeks of Transitional Kindergarten are especially tiring, adjusting to all the newness of school. Give your child the extra rest needed to prepare for a fun, busy day of learning in TK. Children at this age should get 10-12 hours of sleep each night and plenty of unstructured time to rest and play. Practice needed skills at home so that your child will be able to pack/unpack backpacks and lunchboxes, put on jackets and use the bathroom independently.

Extra School Clothes

Please send your child to school in practical, comfortable clothes. Keep in mind that zippers, snaps, buttons and laced shoes can be challenging. Please practice these skills so that your child can confidently and independently use the bathroom. Closed toed or running shoes are preferred for safety during P.E. and recess time out on the playground. Transitional Kindergarten is a very active, messy, hands-on place. Between art projects, science activities and gardening, the students will get dirty! Please send your child with clothes that can easily be washed.

Please send a change of clothes to school "just in case of an accident." In a labeled gallon Ziploc bag; send a change of underwear, socks, pants and a T-shirt. This bag will be stored in the classroom and will be returned at the end of the year.

TK Wish List

I will post a wish list by the TK door and on my website. We always love donations to share in the classroom such as **non-toxic** hand soap (Method or Seventh Generation) and Seventh Generation disinfectant wipes, and soft facial tissues. I also have on-going wish lists at lakeshorelearning.com listed under my e-mail address: svirgallito@woodsideschool.us and o Amazon.com at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/256QL3FUCJUUQ>

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely, Sonja Virgallito