

September 6, 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Is your child feeling overwhelmed with all the school rules? If so, that is normal for the first few weeks because everything in kindergarten is a new learning experience. It is crucial that good discipline and routines are established at the very outset, so keep encouraging your son or daughter to be obedient and be a good listener in school. We talk every day about making good choices so that we can please God. **Please continue to stress instant obedience to "GIVE ME FIVE!"** This is a very important procedure used school-wide to quiet the class and get everyone's attention. The children know the command means to freeze, look at Mrs. Trof, stop talking, and listen for instructions. Thanks for your help with this at home. Also, at home please have your child practice **ZIP AND GRIP!!!** Thank you.

In Bible next week we will review our stories about days 1, 2, and 3 of creation week. The children will make replicas of the sun, moon, and stars and learn about their importance. Our new memory verse for next week is Genesis 1:3, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." The children should be ready to recite this verse to me on Thursday.

In math we move to Topic 2, "Comparing and Ordering 0 to 5". In this chapter your child will learn to compare groups of objects to see which groups have the same number of objects, one and two more and one and two fewer. That will be our focus for next week. More new concepts will follow, so stay tuned...

In language next week we begin Unit 1 in Open Court. The theme for the unit is "Off to School" and during the unit your child will explore what school is all about. We'll discuss the new and different things about school, rules and routines, and new children we get to know in our class. Your kindergartner will be introduced to the letters Gg, Hh, Ii, and Jj. Watch for a new thing to come home in your child's BEE folder---a pre-decodable story booklet. The first few booklets feature only illustrations---no text. The purpose of the story book is to help students become familiar with the parts of a book, how a story flows from page to page, and the proper way to handle a book and its pages. Go over the story with your kindergartner and see if he can tell you the story we discussed in class. Let him/her "read" the story to you or a sibling at home. For The Daily Five we have been learning the three ways to read a book: Look at the pictures; read the words; retell a story previously read. We are working on the first component of The Daily Five---Read to Self--- and building stamina during our silent reading time. Tomorrow the children will learn how to choose good fit books. Many thanks to those who have sent in the jumbo size stretchy book covers! We will be using them on the backs of our chairs to hold our "good fit" books this year. It's not too late to send one in for your future reader.

Next week is "Red Week" for our color unit, in conjunction with our field trip to Erie Orchard on Friday. We'll have stories about everyone's favorite big red dog (Clifford), a rabbit who wanted red wings, a boy and his red boots, apple stories, and stories about Johnny Appleseed. The children will also learn about the Trinity as I read the story *Three in One* to the class. It will be a great week of red stories!

Our very first field trip of the year will take place on Friday, September 14. Our class will be going to Erie Orchard in Erie, Michigan. We will leave for the orchard at 9:15 and return to TCS by 2:30. Parent drivers will meet with me outside the classroom at 9:00 that morning. The children should come to school that day in casual/play clothes since we will be outside most of the day. We will go rain or shine, so dress your child for the weather that day. You will need to send a sack lunch and drink for your child to take to the orchard for our picnic lunch on the 14th. **I must have your child's emergency medical form and permission slip before September 14th or your child will not be permitted to attend the field trip, as per school policy. You must also send a booster/car seat for your child the morning of the field trip, since this is required by law in Ohio. Be sure to put your child's name on the booster seat.** If you plan to go as a driver or you just want to attend the field trip, please notify Mr. or Mrs. Harvey ASAP. If you are driving be sure you have completed the new driver screening process and paid the \$20.00 fee, which can be applied towards your volunteer hours. Adults who accompany us must pay the \$8.00 fee with cash or a check made out to Erie Orchard. I'd like to collect the adults' money in advance if possible and organize it before the morning of the trip. Just send it in an envelope marked with

your name. Thank you! (Do not send in money for your child. The trip has already been paid for through the class activity fee.)

Just a few reminders in closing: If you need to take your child out of school early for a doctor/dentist appointment please send in a note that morning stating the time you need your child ready to leave. That will give me time to prepare his papers and BEE folder for early dismissal. Also, remember to write a note about any changes in your normal transportation home. A note or phone call to the elementary office is required by the school to ensure your child's safety. Thanks for your help with this matter.

If you want your child to buy hot lunch or on Mondays buy pizza, please send me a note telling me he is buying that day. Remember Monday is always pizza day and hot lunches are sold on Tuesday through Friday. If you need to check the menu for the month or your lunch account balance, please use My TCS to obtain that information. Regardless of whether your child brings a lunch or buys hot lunch, you need to send a snack every day for our morning snack time.

A word about communication: If you call the school and want to leave a voice message, my extension is 102. Notes in the BEE folder are the best idea, however. I ALWAYS check "mail" first thing in the morning. Remember that I will be sending a copy of my newsletter home in the Thursday folder, so you can look for that each week.

Yesterday we had our first library time. Your child will bring home a book each Wednesday and it needs to be returned to school the following Wednesday in the book bag. If a book is left at home, there's a five cent fine per day and your child will not be allowed to check out a new book on library day. The book and fine payment need to be sent together ASAP. Fines are not charged if your child is absent from school due to illness, emergency, etc.

Reminders:

Look over the information about Scholastic Book Clubs and the September order forms.

Start sending in those Box Tops for our school and help TCS!

Don't forget to send me a wallet size picture of your child for Star of the Week.

Start getting sponsors for the Bike-a-Thon, which is Sept. 28. Let's raise lots of money to help TCS, which ultimately benefits our students.

Remember to read the Elementary Handbook, sign the last page, and turn it in to me.

Please read and sign the classroom management plan I put in the BEE folder. It can stay in the folder all year long, but parents need to sign it for me. Thanks so much.

Also, don't forget to initial each day on the behavior calendar that comes home so I am sure you saw it. That tells if your child kept his green slip or not.

No toys allowed before school or during the carpool waiting time.

New late carpool pick-up procedure: You must enter the building and pick your child up in Mrs. Ritsema's first grade classroom on the elementary floor.

Please send in a spiral notebook for your student if you have not sent one yet.

There has been some confusion, but the light blue polo shirt is not part of our dress code.

Enjoy the weekend with your child and do some fun, relaxing things together as a family. These final days of summer are perfect for outdoor activities and enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Have a restful weekend!

In the Master's service,
Mrs. Trof

P. S. Tomorrow is Picture Day. If you want to buy pictures, you must send the order form and payment with your child tomorrow morning. Children may wear either school uniforms or their "Sunday best" (dressy outfits) for pictures. Don't forget to wear that SMILE!!!!!!

