Dear Parent(s),

Well you made it through your first ten days of kindergarten. CONGRATULATIONS!

This is the first issue of our KINDERGARTEN newspaper which we hope to publish at the beginning of each month. These news issues will include previews of what the kindergarten students will be learning at school, upcoming activities and other important information.

We are all extremely excited to be here this year and are looking forward to working with your children. We can’t wait to provide your child with a successful learning experience while having lots of fun at the same time! Please don’t hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lanzot, Mrs. Mazzalonga, Mrs. Monte and Miss Quiles

DON’T FORGET …
Meet the Teacher Night is on Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM. See you then!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

9/17 KDG Meet and Greet (6:30 PM)
PTA MEETING (7:30 PM)

9/20 HOMECOMING PARADE
(12:00 PM) Meet at St. Patrick’s parking lot
FOOTBALL GAME (2 PM)

9/25 SCHOOL CLOSED

9/26 SCHOOL CLOSED

9/30 Meet the Teacher Night
(7:00 PM) K-2 parents only

10/1 Meet the Teacher Night
(7:00 PM) 3-4 parents only

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

MAIN OFFICE  673-2090
ATTENDANCE  673-2143
KINDERGARTEN NEWS

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KINDERGARTEN builds the foundation for reading success. Using the TREASURES reading program, the kindergarten classes will “start smart” with lessons that reinforce phonemic awareness, listening comprehension, the alphabet and beginning reading concepts. The students will also be introduced to different genres using a variety of trade books and will have daily opportunities to develop their oral language (vocabulary) skills.

NUMBERS, NUMBERS and more NUMBERS!
Math is everywhere and a big part of kindergarten! For the month of September, the kindergarten classes will be working with numerals to five. The lessons will begin with attributes of two related objects, classifying to make categories and counting. The students will also be using different configurations (vertical columns and horizontal rows), math drawings and expressions to create these numerals.

Check out the “math vocabulary” on page 3 to familiarize yourself with the terms your child will be using when completing their math homework assignments.

Why was 6 afraid of 7?
Because 7, 8, 9 (seven “ate” nine)
* we promise the jokes will get better eventually

This month in science the children will be learning about THE FIVE SENSES

and in social studies they will be discussing CLASSROOM and COMMUNITY RULES

LETS READ!

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FOLDERS
Your child will be bringing his/her FOLDER home every day. Please be sure to look inside the folder each night for HOMEWORK, as well as important notices and send it back to school EVERY day. Any notes that you need to send to the teacher or to school can be put in the folder as the folder will be checked each day.

SNACK
Please send your child to school EVERY day with a snack and a juice box or water in a paper bag or lunch box, labeled with your child’s name and “snack.” This helps alleviate any confusion. Due to school regulations, we are not allowed to provide students with snack if they should forget to bring one.

LUNCH
If your child chooses to bring lunch, please send it in a bag or lunchbox labeled with your child’s name. If your child chooses to buy lunch and you are sending in money each day, please place the money in a baggie or envelope labeled with his/her name on it. You may also purchase a pre-paid meal plan for your child from the cafeteria.

SCHEDULE
Each kindergarten class has their own schedule of specials which you should have already received from your child’s teacher. On gym days, please make sure that your child comes to school wearing sneakers. On library days, please have your child bring his/her book with them to school on that day.

BIRTHDAYS
Due to school regulations, we are not permitted to have any food, (store-bought or homemade) sent into school to celebrate. We will have other fun ways to celebrate the birthdays in the classroom which will be discussed on “Back to School Night”

MEDICAL NEEDS/CONCERNS
If your child has any specific medical needs, allergies, or anything you feel I should know, please let me know. Any concerns or issues in general, please don’t hesitate to contact us via a note or at 673-2090.
Homework will be given Monday thru Thursday with very few exceptions. Please look for your child’s homework in their “take home folder” on the nights mentioned above. Your child should be getting 2-3 pieces of homework each night which should not take more than thirty minutes to complete.

The homework assigned is usually a review of the day’s lessons and the completion of it is extremely important. It will hopefully reinforce what was learned, as well as, provide your child with an opportunity to be responsible for the completion of the assignment. Please make sure that your child completes his/her homework and returns it to school in their folder the next day.

Here are a few suggestions with regard to completing homework …..

- Along WITH your child, select a quiet place where he/she can complete their homework assignment(s). Make him/her a part of the process so the likelihood of them complaining later that “it isn’t the right place” will be less.
- Make sure that all the necessary items that he/she may need (pencils, crayons, glue, scissors) are already located in the spot you selected. This will cause less distraction and prevent your child from taking time to “look for” a particular item.
- It may be a good idea to have them use the restroom prior to beginning their homework. Again, this may be used as an “avoidance tactic” when completing homework assignments and turn what should take no more than 30 minutes to complete into a TWO HOUR project!
- Read and explain the directions for each piece of homework to your child. On most sheets the directions are written on the top of the page and if not there, they can usually be found on the bottom (most reading sheets).
- You MAY help your child with his/her homework but we suggest allowing them the opportunity to complete it on their own first. This will help them feel capable and independent.
- You MAY review the homework with your child after he/she completes it and correct those items that are wrong. When doing this, please keep in mind that this is a learning experience for your child and that he/she may need guidance. Do not be critical of his/her mistakes and/or expect your child to “know the answers”. Sometimes they don’t and that’s OK. Constantly remind your child that it’s OK to make mistakes and that we all do. Always remember that how you react to a “mistake” may affect your child’s feelings about doing homework in the future. Even something as simple as changing the tone of your voice when your child makes a mistake can lead to “homework anxiety”. Remember, you have 12 more years of homework ahead of you!
- If your child has a very hard time completing an assignment, please just stop and send in a note to school the next day. In the note please describe exactly what he/she was having difficulty with and we will address it in class. Again we do not want to develop the almighty FEAR OF HOMEWORK!
** IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES **

** ALL VISITORS **

As always, the safety of the children is our first priority. In order to continue to keep Washington Primary safe and secure, doors will remain locked at all times. Someone will be monitoring the Main Entry during the school hours. Visitors will be required to enter at the Main Entry, present photo identification upon request and sign in. For the safety of our children, visitors without photo identification will not be permitted to enter the building. Please do not ask us to compromise the safety of your children by making exceptions.

** STUDENT ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES **

In the morning, ALL students will enter the building via the Main Entry. At dismissal, children who are being picked up from school will exit via the cafeteria door. Please have PHOTO ID ready to provide the staff member when picking up your child. If someone other than a parent/guardian will be picking up your child, a note MUST be sent to school on that day and the person picking up your child MUST go to the cafeteria door and provide a photo ID as well.

** EARLY RELEASE OF STUDENTS **

In order to minimize any unnecessary disruption to the classroom, the early release of students is not encouraged. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling non-related school activities that conflict or interfere with Washington Primary’s regular dismissal times. If it is an emergency situation and/or an unavoidable circumstance, please send a note in with your child that morning listing the time he/she will be picked up so that they will be ready. If for some reason you must pick up your child early and/or change departure arrangements, you must try to contact school BEFORE 3:00 PM. After that time it may be difficult to make sure that your child takes the correct bus home since the office staff will be preparing for dismissal and may not have an opportunity to inform your child’s teacher. Once dismissal starts, your child will depart as scheduled by either taking their assigned bus home or exiting the building as a walker.

Additionally, parents of students who will be taking a different bus home or going on a bus with a friend, must provide WRITTEN NOTIFICATION to have their children placed on that bus.

** VISITOR PARKING **

Please follow all regulations when parking at the school. Visitor parking is available in the rear parking. Please park in the designated spots only. Available parking spaces are appropriately lined. Painted lines indicate the correct traffic pattern and no parking is permitted along the front of the building especially during the arrival and dismissal of students. Handicap parking spaces are available and are only for handicapped registered vehicles.
As the new school year begins, we all want to encourage success for our children. However, getting books and backpacks can sometimes overshadow the little things that make for a smooth and successful start to the school year. Here's an alphabetical guide to the 26 details not to forget this Back to School season.

A. Ask questions. Ask your child about her day at school. Try to ask questions that encourage more than yes-or-no answers. What did you learn? Who did you sit with at lunch? What books did the teacher read to you?

B. Breakfast. Kids learn best when they’ve had a nutritious breakfast. Schools often remind parents of this on testing days, but it’s important for kids to get off to a good start every day.

C. Communication. Communicate with your child’s teacher. Share your concerns, what you feel is working well for your child, and ask for clarification if something is unclear.

D. Dates. Check dates of school holidays and plan accordingly. Calendars vary by district.

E. Effort. Praise your child’s best efforts. Not every child is a straight-A student. Let her know how proud you are when your child has truly done her best.

F. Friends. Get to know your child’s friends, and encourage relationships with those who are a positive influence.

G. Guidance counselor. Ask the school guidance counselor to talk with your child if she seems stressed by the birth of a sibling, the loss of a family member, or school relationships.

H. Homework. Provide a quiet place that is free of distractions, and help your child as needed, without doing the work for her.

I. Illness. Keep your child home if she is sick. Germs spread quickly in a classroom, and one sick child quickly becomes 25 sick children.

J. Jot a note. Be sure to send a written excuse when your child is absent. Too many unexcused absences can affect your child’s grades, or raise concerns of truancy.

K. Know the rules. Be familiar with school rules, policies and dress code. If the code of conduct isn’t sent home with your child, check for it online.

L. Listen. Really listen when your child talks to you. Put down the newspaper, turn off the TV, close the laptop and listen.

M. Make choices. With your child, choose which after-school activities are the most important. Kids need downtime, time for balanced meals and plenty of sleep.

N. Newsletter. Read school and classroom newsletters regularly.

O. Open House. Attend your school’s open house. Find out what’s going on in your child’s class, get to know the teacher and look over your child’s work samples.

P. Praise good behavior. It’s easy to take positive behavior for granted, but good kids need to be praised for following the rules.

Q. Quality time. Busy lives make quality family time hard to find. Eat dinner together, go for a walk or play a game with your child.

R. Read your child’s textbooks. Glance through the table of contents to find out what will be taught. Then talk about what your child is learning to help build can be hectic, and a lot of kids bring this stress into the classroom with them. Try to send your child off with a smile and a hug to set a positive tone for the day.

T. Tardiness. In some schools, a certain number of tardy slips count as an unexcused absence. Be careful!

U. Update the teacher. If there are things going on that are affecting your child, let the teacher know. Kids react to separations, friends moving away and the loss of a pet. Teachers can offer extra sympathy, understanding and support.

V. Volunteer. If your schedule permits, offer to help in the classroom each week. If not, help from home by typing the class newsletter, cutting out art projects or planning class parties. A parent’s involvement in the classroom promotes success in school.

W. Website. Check out the school website. You’ll find important information, changes in dates and suggestions for ways to support your child.

X. Don’t focus on the X’s. When graded work is returned, don’t focus on the problems that are marked wrong. Rather than saying, “You only missed 7,” say, “You got 93 right!”

Y. Yell and shout. Be your child’s biggest cheerleader when your child scores on the football field, participates in the science fair or recognizes all of the letters of the alphabet. Your praise is more precious than any prize or sticker from the teacher.

Z. Zip your mouth. When you disagree with the teacher, go to her directly to discuss your concerns. Venting these frustrations in front of your child will undermine the teacher in your child’s eyes, and cause confusion. Work out your differences privately.