

Mrs. MacDonald's Multi-age Classroom



Welcome Back to School

I am looking forward to our new school year together. I know we are going to have a great year.

This is going to be a year of growth and adventure. You will be amazed at the new knowledge and skills your child will have at the end of the year. To ensure maximum growth for the children, we will be working together in a three-way partnership- Child, Parent, and Teacher. My responsibility is to provide a posi-

tive learning environment and prepare the children academically. Your child's responsibility is to come to school regularly, on time, and ready to learn. Your responsibility is to help your child understand the importance of education and provide the time, space, and materials for your child to practice at home and to offer encouragement. Your support in this three-way partnership is crucial to your child's

success.

To help your child's success they will need to bring papers safely to and from school in a folder, in a school bag or backpack. At home, your child needs to have pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, writing paper, glue or tape. These supplies will be needed to complete assignments at home from time to time.

THE ACADEMY
MINDS IN MOTION

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Important Dates

- ☉ Picnic at the Academy August 27th at 5:00
- ☉ Start of school August 29
- ☉ No School September 4th, Labor Day

Language Arts

The scope of language arts includes all aspects of English, writing, reading, spelling, grammar, usage, listening, speaking and different genres of literature. We will continue to work on skill development in reading as it is needed, but more time will be spent on literature and non-fiction reading. We are transitioning from "learning to read" to "reading to learn". We will be focusing more on the aspects of spoken and written language that will allow the students to become

more efficient and independent readers and writers.

We will continue to build upon spelling and vocabulary skills and learn more about the conventions of grammar. We will continue to work on research skills and follow the steps of the writing process to produce descriptive and creative written work. As writing becomes stronger, students will have more responsibility for organizing and revising their own work and proofreading for errors in spelling, usage, and mechanics. Students will be responsible for monthly writings in the newsletter.

We will also be studying a variety of English sayings and phrases, learning both their literal and figurative meanings and also discussing how these sayings and phrases are used in everyday conversation.

Students will continue to learn how to convey effectively their own thoughts and idea using spoken and written words. By building a strong language arts foundation, students will be better able to read increasingly sophisticated literary and non-fiction works and write with clarity and fluency.

Mathematics



In math we will be working daily in small groups mastering the concepts of the Singapore Math Series. We will work together on applying math skills to our units of study. (Learning about the depth of the oceans and percent of water covering the Earth for example) This year we will learn about ratio and percent, probability and statistics, and some pre-algebra. A successful math foundation is dependent upon students' mastery of multiplication tables and other basic operations that have been taught in previous years. I will work to ensure the understanding of the concepts behind these operations and develop positive, repeated practice that gives students the knowledge, mastery and confidence to proceed with what they will learn this year which includes:

- Number sense (dealing with exponents, squared, cubed and nth power)
- Ratio and Percent (express simple ratios and use ratios to create simple scale drawings, express equivalences between fractions, decimals, and percents.
- Fractions and Decimals (determine LCD of fractions and unlike denominators, add subtract multiply and divide both fractions and decimals)
- Geometry (using a compass to draw circles given a diameter or radius, finding the area of a triangle parallelogram, and irregular figures)

Classroom Rules

Four simple rules to follow:

- Raise your hand to speak...preventing interruptions of others!
- Follow directions the first time.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Science and Social Studies

We will begin this year with a study of the oceans and the creatures of the oceans. We will take a field trip in the fall to the Newport Aquarium. We will learn and apply geographic skills that have been introduced in previous years and move into more abstract concepts, such as, longitude and latitude and map projections. We will learn more about additional features of the landscape. We will learn more about history and the learn about the Renaissance and the Reformation and learn how the Renaissance was a springboard to the European exploration. We will learn about the competition among European Atlantic trading nations-Portugal, Spain, England, France and the Netherlands. We will learn why and how the African slave trade became such an important part of the growing trade network with the Americas. We will learn about important rivers, mountain ranges, time zones, and reading maps.

In Science, we will learn how to classify animals, study cells, and review and extend our understanding of tissues, organs, and body systems. We will re-examine plants and plants structures and learn more about the process of plant reproduction and photosynthesis. We will study the life cycle of a plant and monitor plant growth. We will study matter and examine the elements of which all matter is made. We will learn about atoms and how atoms combine to form molecules. We will learn about scientists. We will learn more about the world around us and why it is the way it is.

Snack and Lunch

We will have a snack mid-morning. Please be sure to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat. Fruits and vegetables are recommended, however, oranges can be too messy. Try to avoid high sugar snacks. Try to make it something simple to help break up the time before lunch.

Students will bring their lunches from home.

Lunches will be provided if your child forgets, but we will not be able to warm up, or refrigerate student lunches. Last year we provided a lunch service- hot dogs or pbj sandwiches, but due to our increased numbers, we will not be providing lunch options this year. Each Friday is Pizza Lunch Day for the Pre-Paid price of \$18.00 for 9 weeks.



Transportation and Drop-Off Time Pick-up Time

Safety in the parking lot is of the utmost concern. Be careful dropping your child off in the lot. We will review at the beginning of the school year safe parking lot procedures.

For safety reasons, do not attach additional items to your child's backpack.

Academy students can be dropped off at 8:45 and will be allowed into the classroom at this time to prepare themselves for the day. Promptness is important. Late arrivals cause a disruption for the whole class.

If your child is going to ride home in a different manner than usual, you must send me a written note. Please, do not rely on your child to tell me this in-

formation because children often become confused and relay messages incorrectly.

Pick-up from school will be at 3:15. Students will be packed up and ready at this time. We will dismiss students on the front walk. Parents are to pull around to the front and we will load the students in your cars. If for some reason you need to park in the lot, we ask that you park in the center section of the lot. Students should then be walked across the lot for safety reasons.

Thank you for your help and patience in drop off and pick up time.

Money

On occasion it will be necessary for your child to bring in money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information written on it:

1. Your child's first and last name
2. The amount of money
3. The purpose for the money (book order, lunch money, field trip)
4. My name

This will help out tremendously and reduce the likelihood of errors. Also, if the envelope gets dropped in the hallway, this information will help the money to be returned to my classroom.

**The future
belongs to
those who
believe in the
beauty of
their dreams.**

Eleanor Roosevelt

Book Orders



order, simply fill out the form and

Your child will be bringing home a form to order books about once a month. If you wish to

send the correct amount of money or a check made out to the book company in an envelope.

These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their children at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on books, the class earns bonus points which are used to purchase books for classroom

use.

This is a win-win situation because you get quality literature at a low price and you are helping provide quality literature for the classroom. Of course, you are never under any obligation to order.

The Academy Minds in Motion

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Legacy Project



This year, the 3-6 multi-age class will be participating in the "Legacy Project". More information will come home once the school year begins, but for now I would like you

and your child to be thinking about someone they want to interview and learn more about. It can be a grandparent, great aunt or uncle, neighbor or friend. I would like for them to learn more about this person and the differences of the chosen person's childhood and their own. There will be interview questions, and other tasks associated with this "Legacy Project". This person should be at least 50 years old or older. We will be working on this project in conjunction with history and writing skills and interviewing skills. It is meant to be a year long learning project that may bring your child closer to this person. We will plan a day at the end of the school year to invite this special person to school. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for all children. We would like to celebrate birthdays in a simple way. Due to a variety of allergies, I would like to request that your child celebrate their birthday with the class by bringing a wrapped book or card game for the class instead of a sugary treat. The book would get a sticker that says "This book was donated to the class on _____'s birthday." Games would get a similar sticker. I do not want anyone to go to a big expense, but I am just suggesting this as a possible way to celebrate birthdays. Go Fish, Old Maid and Uno card games are a lot of fun. This could help out during winter months when recess may be indoors. The birthday child would be able to unwrap the gift for the class. Summer and Christmas Break Birthdays may choose another day to celebrate.

Students will bring home a birthday bag that they will share with the class about how they celebrated their special day.



Speedy and Pokey

This year we have two travel turtles, Speedy and Pokey. They followed me home from Vero Beach. While all the other Loggerhead Turtles headed out to sea, these curious creatures hitched a ride back home to Ohio and are restless for more travels. They are ready to go with their own backpack, travel journals, and cameras.

If you, or anyone you know, will be going on a trip and are willing to photograph Speedy or Pokey in various spots around the world, please let us know and sign out a turtle. We would like to get the turtles to cross all five oceans and land on all seven continents. In previous years, I have sent bears and dogs around the world to places like Hawaii, India, Australia, Texas, Disney and even ANTARCTICA with the Air Force. We will be keeping a journal of the turtles' travels and locate the sites on a map. Travel brochures and inexpensive souvenirs are encouraged.

I appreciate your cooperation with this project. The digital cameras they travel with help me to download the pictures. If you have your own digital camera and do not want to take an additional camera along, please burn the pictures to a CD so I can easily post them on our website. Photographs are great to share with the class, but a CD of the prints helps me to use them with the computer.

