

Simonds KinderNotes

August 14TH, 2009

Welcome

Welcome to Simonds Kindergarten. I am happy to begin a new year and am looking forward to working with you and your children. I will try to anticipate your questions and if I have left anything out or you have any other questions, please call me at 535-6251. I am usually at school between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. It is best to call me after 2:00p.m. when the children are not here so I have time to talk with you.



School Days

School begins at 8:45 and ends at 12:25. Please try to see that your child is here at least five minutes before class starts. Developing good habits in this area is very important as instruction begins promptly at 8:45. In the K buildings the children will arrive and depart from the front door of the classroom. In the E and F buildings the children arrive and depart by the courtside entrance.

Absences - Please notify the school by telephone on the first day of absence. A written excuse will not be needed when your child returns if you have called previously. Please obtain a release slip from the office first if you wish to remove your child from class. Notify the teacher,

by note, if your child will be leaving early for a medical appointment, trip, etc.

Dress – Simonds is a uniform school. All children are expected to wear their uniforms every day unless a free dress day has been declared. Refer to the uniform policy for more information. The uniform policy gives many choices. Please stay within these guidelines. *Take special notice of sweater and sweatshirt restrictions.* **Be sure to label all of your child's possessions that are brought to school.** Our Simonds sweatshirts are all identical. To prevent confusion, you should write your child's name in indelible ink on the inside collar line of the sweaters. Please do not write it on the label for they often rip off. We will be doing activities on the rug daily. It is recommended that girls wear shorts under their skirts. All children should wear tennis type shoes for their safety on outdoor equipment. Please see separate flyer for uniform policy.

Class Rules - Children need to follow classroom rules for their well being and safety. Rules will be handed out and posted in the classroom.

Toys - Please do not send your child to school with toys, markers etc. If your child comes home with something that is not his/ hers, please discuss it with him/her and return it promptly. No child

is allowed to give another child any items to take home.

Animals - Please remember that according to District Policy, there are no dogs allowed on campus at any time.



Snacks

Snacks – This year parents are to supply healthy snack on a daily basis for their own child . Please refer to the SJUSD handbook for healthy snacks. Please bring their snack in a lunch box or bag and please label it with their name. Children should be able to open their own snacks. Snacks to share with the whole class must be store bought.

News



School/Home Communication - Every Monday your child will bring home a white envelope. There will be important information from the school. Please read everything carefully, fill out any forms that need to be returned, sign the envelope and return it to me by Wednesday. It is very important that you return the white envelope every week. If you lose the white envelope you may purchase one in the office for \$0.50.

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We
want
you!

Helpers

Parent Participation – Parent volunteers are a vital component of our Kindergarten Program. Please plan to volunteer each week in the classroom. I will pass around a sign-up sheet so you can let me know what days you have available. There is also a sign-up sheet in the packet. There also may be some work you can do at home. **There will be a parent meeting for volunteers on Wednesday, August 26th at 2:30 p.m. in the Classroom.**

Happy Birthday

Birthdays - Children's birthdays will be celebrated in the classroom by singing "Happy Birthday" and a birthday crown. Due to district policies, no birthday treats may be brought to school. Summer birthdays will be celebrated towards the end of the year.

Phone List - I would like to make a list of all the children's' phone numbers, addresses and e-mails. This can be used for your convenience to set up play groups or to send out party invitations. The phone list will be sent out to all families in the class. Please use this list for

party invitations and do not send invitations with your child to school. This is to prevent children who do not receive invitations from having their feelings hurt. Please fill out the Telephone list form with your permission to have your address, phone number and e-mail listed.

Sharing

Your child will have one day a week to share. I would like your child to share something that follows our weekly sharing schedule. The first two weeks they will share the ME apples they will receive at orientation. Sharing is a valuable learning experience for your child and his/her classmates as it gives them good practice with their communication skills. You may bring in an item or draw a picture. (This is the one time a toy may be brought in if it truly begins with the sound of the week.) **Please discuss with your child the night before sharing why he/she chose the item, where he/she got it and if it has any sentimental value or significance to him/ her. In this way your child will be prepared for his/her presentation.** Your child's sharing day is

Sharing starts on Monday,
August 31st



Homework

Homework assignments are described in the weekly letter. The homework is leveled to meet all of the children's needs. You should spend about 15 to 20 minutes a night working with your child on his/her homework. Keep in mind that you are setting precedence now. If your child complains that he/she does not want to do their homework just remind them that they are in real school and that is their job. Be consistent! You will be glad you were in future years.

Things you can do to help your child learn. Read to your child every day. Encourage your child to watch educational television. Children love to use the computer, get some educational software and play with them. Board and card games are good. Have a family game night. Practice counting and reciting the alphabet while you are driving. Play I Spy With My Little Eye something that begins with (pick a letter). You can play this while you are waiting for something.

Classroom/Home Library Books. Beginning in October your child will be bringing home a classroom library book. . You and your child are responsible for the safety and care of the

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book. **Please be sure to return the books on time, they are scheduled to go home with another child the following week** If the book is lost or damaged you will be asked to replace it. Be sure to fill out the classroom library form.

Student of the Week

Each child will have a special week. During this week your child may have parents or other relatives come into the class and speak to the children about their family, type of work they do or anything of interest.



Field Trips

Your child will be taking several field trips during the year. The school district will not pay for field trips. Therefore, field trips usually cost between \$2.00 and \$6.00 each. When we schedule a field trip, please sign the permission slip and return it with the money promptly. **No Child will be allowed to go on a field trip without a signed permission slip from his/her parent.** Some field trips may require parent drivers. For the safety of all of our kindergartners, siblings are not allowed on field trips.



Finances

In order to enrich your child's kindergarten experience, we need to ask for donations. The children often create projects that require extra art materials. Please donate \$40.00, which covers the costs of costumes, gifts to parents and craft supplies. Please make checks payable to Simonds School.

Other Donations - Donation suggestions throughout the year are stickers, small toys or candy for rewards and empty baby food jars. There may be special teacher requests throughout the year.

Again, welcome. Let's begin a fun year together.

Mrs. Joanne Fong
Mrs. RuthAnne Reed
Mrs. Carmen Lobach
Mrs. Suzanne Baker

