

August 2017

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! A fresh, new school year is just around the corner. We are extremely excited to meet your child and hear about their fun summer adventures. We have already started planning for a fantastic school year full of exploration, self-discovery and amazing learning. As a team, we believe communication is a powerful tool. Soon you will receive information that will help ensure a smooth transition for your child during their first few weeks of school.

Our very first Kindergarten theme will focus on Community. We will utilize the first six weeks of school to get to know each other, learn classroom routines and rules, as well as become familiar with the Columbus Academy community. By investing this well-planned time to ensuring our students feel comfortable and successful we find there is a notable positive impact on the remainder of the year. We look forward to building a strong community foundation right away.

A valuable part of each day is our Morning Meeting. Each morning we will start the day with a greeting, fun-filled activity and an opportunity to share. This time helps to build positive relationships, confidence and trust. Also in the morning a small optional snack will be provided. You are welcome to send fresh fruit for your child to have in addition to the optional snack provided by the school. If you choose to do so, please make sure the fruit is already peeled and/or sliced if necessary.

The academic learning blocks, which occur throughout the school day, consist of Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop and Math. Each class will participate in a co-curricular class both in the morning and the afternoon. The Kindergarten classes enjoy recess together and share family-style lunch in the Dining Hall. Following lunch, we have a brief rest time. A small blanket or small stuffed animal is acceptable for rest. The blanket or stuffed animal must fit comfortably inside your child's backpack, and the blanket should be no more than four feet in length. Children are not required to sleep. Rest is a time for students to relax and recharge for the afternoon.

#### First Days of School:

- On the first day of school please walk your child inside to his or her classroom. After the first day, we encourage the children to come to their classrooms independently.
- Starting on the second day, please drive your child to the Lower School entrance for morning dropoff. This is a great way to encourage independence. A faculty member and a Kindergarten teacher will be there to greet students beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- Morning recess is available for children that arrive between 7:30 and 7:55 a.m. This is an opportunity for the children to play with their friends on the teacher-supervised playground. We will begin greeting the children and celebrating their arrival at 7:55 a.m.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Kindergartners begin school on Tuesday, August 22.** The school day is from 8:05 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- **Parent Night is Thursday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m.** This evening is designed to share with parents (no children, please) news about the school year.
- **Parent "Get to Know You" Conference Day is Friday, September 1.** This conference gives us the chance to get acquainted and learn about your child. There is NO school for children on this day. You will have an opportunity to sign up for a conference time online prior to the start of school. Information regarding the online scheduling for conferences will be sent to you within the next week.
- We hope you enjoy the remaining days of summer vacation and we look forward to meeting you and your child at the **Ice Cream Social/Meet-Your-Teachers event on Monday, August 21.** You are welcome to visit the Kindergarten classrooms from 4:00 until 4:30 p.m. that day. Ice cream will be served outside from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jodi Bergere and Mrs. Debbie Newman (KA)  
Mrs. Krystal Mitchell and Mrs. Terri Paulson (KB)  
Mrs. Catherine Peterson and Mrs. Anne Schreiber (KC)