

# September News

Room 101- Sarah Mitchell



Welcome to room 101 at Lake Harriet United Methodist Preschool! I am excited for the new school year. We have a lot of fun things to do and learn in the months ahead.

## **September Learning Theme- My Classroom, My Friends, Myself and My Family**

This month as we begin a new school year together, we will focus on becoming familiar with our new classroom and classmates. We will have opportunities to share about ourselves and our families and learn about each other and our similarities and differences. We will also talk about ways to treat each other with equal respect and consideration to help build positive self-identity. Many of our activities will help lay the foundation of how our class will operate throughout the year as we work and play together. This will include discussions of how we treat our friends and the many ways we can express our feelings and emotions.

## **September Dates**

### **Open House**

Monday, September 10, 5:00-5:30 (classrooms) 5:30-6 (playground)

### **First Day of School**

Tuesday, September 11

## **Looking Ahead...**

### **Field Trip- Children's Theater- The House on Market Street**

Wednesday, October 3

### **Picture Day**

Thursday, October 11

### **NO School- MEA**

Wednesday, October 17 & Thursday, October 18

### **Pumpkin Patch & Petting Zoo**

Thursday, October 25

### **Halloween Party**

October 31

**Housekeeping- Please refer back to this newsletter throughout the year as it contains important information about our classroom.**

**Arrival** When students arrive each day they will hang their preschool bags and outerwear on their hooks. The purple bag should come to school each day and be checked and emptied at home each night.

After hanging up their things, the kids will wash hands before signing in and starting the day with free play. This habit is important not only to help stop the spread of illness but also for our students with allergies. Once the students have washed their hands, they will sign-in and begin the day with free choice.

It is amazing how quickly the students will pick up the new routine. After the first week or so, please say your goodbye at the classroom door. This will help foster independence and encourage the students to be responsible for themselves and their belongings. I will try to greet them at the door each day and help, as needed. We will also be working on cooperation and relationship building so the students can help each other. Parents are always welcome in the classroom but please allow them to do these things independent of you.

**Daily Schedule** Our daily schedule is posted in the classroom and online under the Room 101 Home Visit Documents. We may vary from this occasionally as projects and needs require.

**Mailbox** Forms, notes, supplies, etc. that need to get to me can be placed in my mailbox on top of the students' cubbies. If you are sending anything with your student, please remind them to give it to me. I will check bags initially but would again like to make this one of the student responsibilities.

**Snacks** Each child is assigned 1-2 snack days per month. The schedule is posted outside the classroom and can also be found on the website. On your child's snack day, please bring enough of the same item (same color, flavor, size, etc.) to share with 12 children. Please try to have snacks be as healthy as possible. Save sweets and special treats for birthdays. Some ideas are carrots and dip, bread sticks, bagels and cream cheese, yogurt, dry cereal, apples and dip, granola or cereal bars, dried fruit and cheese. All snacks must be store bought and packaged. Please avoid snacks containing nuts. Water will be provided by school. Please, no juice. If your child has food allergies, please send a separate snack for them to leave a supply with me in case we need it. If you have a conflict with your scheduled day, please switch with someone and let me know any changes. If your student is ill on his or her snack day, please do not make a special trip to school to deliver it. We always have extras on hand and just ask you replenish our supply with a non-perishable item when your student returns to school.

**Sharing** We will begin sharing later in the year. This is a great way to work on verbal and listening skills, as well as develop confidence speaking in front of others. Stay tuned for details and schedule.

**Learning themes and lesson plans** Each month we will base many of our projects and activities on a learning theme. These activities will be based both on student interest and needs. Each theme will incorporate opportunities for learning things such as letters, numbers, colors, shapes, problem solving, critical thinking and appreciation for the world around us. Each theme will also incorporate content, concepts, and activities that foster social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development. Weekly lesson plans will be posted outside the classroom so you can see what we are up to each week.

**Classroom Expectations-** During the first couple of weeks, the children and I will discuss and create classroom rules and expectations that will help make our learning environment a positive one.

**Birthdays** Each child's birthday will be celebrated either on his or her birthday or half-birthday. If your child shares a birthday with another student or falls on a day where we won't have regular snack time, I will assign a day as close to the day as possible. The day of your child's birthday celebration will be noted by a "B" following their name on the snack schedule. On this day it is not necessary to bring a healthy snack. Please have your child bring a favorite book to share, as well. We will read it during snack time. If you would like to attend your child's birthday celebration and be our guest reader that day, we welcome you!

**Parent Volunteers** There will be days during the year when we will invite volunteers to come and assist us in class. I will let you know of these in advance and have opportunities for you to sign-up either in person or via email. The first opportunities will likely be in October so that we can establish our classroom routines and expectations beforehand. As always, please know that parents are always welcome!

**Class Pet** Our class pet is a Betta fish. We will learn about this type of fish and how to care for it during the first weeks of school.

**Communication** All classroom newsletters will be available on the school website. Our weekly lesson plans, snack and sharing schedule are posted outside the classroom. In addition, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, updates, etc. either in person, by phone or text (612-810-5906), or by email ([smitchell@lakeharrietumpreschool.org](mailto:smitchell@lakeharrietumpreschool.org)).

Please look back at this newsletter for reference as it contains a lot of important info.