

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN



Welcome to Sonshine Preschool and Kindergarten! My name is Janice Armstrong and I will be your child's teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. I am very excited for this year and I look forward to getting to know each of you. Together we will make this the best year possible for you and your child!



The First Day

This month your child will complete one of the most important milestones in his/her life-the first day of school. I understand that you and your child may have met this day with excitement or apprehension (or a little of both) and I hope that this letter will help you to know what to expect in school this year and answer any questions you may have. I will do everything possible to make this a wonderful year. I am looking forward to working with your child and helping him/her to achieve his/her full potential.

On the first day and following days, please follow these steps to make sure your child gets off to school on the right foot.

- Please take time before the first day to prepare your child for the separation

- Please make sure your child has a good nights sleep (doctors recommend at least 10 hours a night for the five and six year old child).
- Please make sure your child has a good breakfast and has plenty of time to get ready for school in the morning.
- Please solve any morning conflicts before school even if it means you are a bit late (unresolved conflict can weigh heavy on a child's heart during the day).
- Make sure your child is dressed for the weather
- Take your child to the restroom upon arrival and before he/she enters the classroom (hand washing is the best way to keep colds and flu away).
- Bring your child into the classroom and help him/her get seated in the circle time area (after the first day there will be a greeter at the front door and you can just drop your child there)
- Have a great day and know that your child is loved and cared for at school!



Enrichment Class for Pre-k

If you would like your Pre-K student to be a bit more challenged, have more time in the classroom and have great opportunities for learning things like canning, photography, extra help with academics etc. then the new enrichment class is for you. The class will meet every Tuesday starting in October. There is a \$25 registration fee. Cost for the class is \$50 dollars a month.

Lunch Bunch Extended Day



Lunch bunch is an extended day program that will give parent's an extra hour and give children the opportunity to socialize with their friends and expel a great deal of energy. You can sign up for the lunch bunch by day or weekly. You can do one-five days per week, just let us know. The hours are 11:45-12:45. Please send your child with a lunch! (this is for three's classes and pre-k only) Cost for this hour is \$5 a day.

Parent Helpers



Parents are always welcome in the classroom. There are many ways you can volunteer here at SonShine.

- Pray for our staff and the children in the school each and every day.
- If you have a special gift or talent, don't let it go to waste, share it with the class.
- Volunteer in the classroom once a week.
- Volunteer for special party days.
- Be on the look out and pick up good deals on dress up clothes, craft items, floor puzzles etc.

If you would like to volunteer please see Miss Joanne for a Washington State background check. Classroom volunteers can begin as soon as they have taken a class from Miss Joanne and have passed the background check.



Weekly Folders

Your child will bring a folder home every Thursday. This folder will have all of your child's work from the week, calendars, communications from me, reading logs, homework, etc. Please return this folder **every Wednesday!**



Scholastic Orders

Scholastic books are a fun and inexpensive way to bring new books into your home every month. Order forms will go home in your child's folder at the beginning of the month. Please return them the following Wednesday in your child's folder. **There are a**

variety of forms stapled together that go home each month. You only need to write one check. Please total all orders and write one check payable to Scholastic Books.



Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are so much fun and so important at this age. We will celebrate birthdays at school. Parents will bring snack on their child's birthday. You are also welcome to bring hats and party favors. If you are having a birthday celebration outside of school and you do not wish to invite the entire class, I ask that you mail your invitations. **If you are inviting the entire class I will be happy to distribute invitations at school.**



Learning Time In Kindergarten/Homework

In Kindergarten children are expected and encouraged to do their best work. There is a good balance of paper pencil and hands-on work done in class. There is a combination of large and

small group learning centers. Your child will be placed on a team. This team is for small group learning, outside and snack time. Teams change once a month.



Snack

Please bring snack on your assigned snack day. You can also find a snack calendar posted outside the classroom. Please bring snack for 20 children. Snacks should be healthy and filling. Please try to avoid crackers. Fruit, vegetables and dip, pancakes, chicken nuggets, sandwiches, bagels and cream cheese or jelly and yogurt make great snacks. Please bring juice or milk with your snack.

NO PEANUT BUTTER OR NUTS!

Toys From Home

Please help your child learn self-control by leaving personal toys at home. Your child will have an opportunity to bring a special toy from home every day while he/she is the Beary Nice bear of the week!



Beary Nice

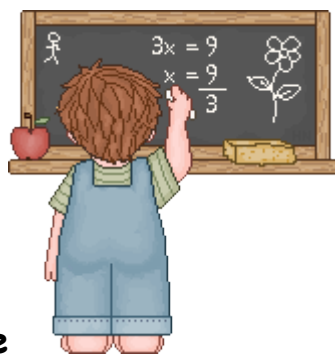
As part of the Kindergarten language arts program, every student will have the opportunity to be the Beary Nice bear of the week.

While your child is the bear of the week, he or she can bring a show and tell each day. You will also be helping your child make a display of pictures about him/herself now and as a baby and a toddler. You can also include pictures of family members, pets, and your home. This should be a fun project to work on with your child. Talk with your child about how he/she has changed and grown over the years. This special week will help foster a positive self-image for your child. I will send home a note with the Beary Nice book and bear on your student's week.



Correction

The supply list asked for \$30 worth of treasures for the treasure box. This was a misinterpretation of what was requested. Please bring \$10 dollars worth of toys from the dollar store in either, September, December or March. The treasure box is a huge incentive in the Kindergarten class. Approximately 15 children will go to the treasure box each week. This adds up to a lot of treasures. In addition, I will ask that you periodically think of the class while shopping at the Dollar Tree and pick us up random or theme based items for the treasure box while you are out. Thank you for your support in this area. If you already donated \$30 worth of treasures, thank you for the blessing, and you are off the hook for the rest of the year!



Classroom Discipline

This year I will be using a system that encourages children to be responsible for their own actions. It is a positive and visual way for children to track their behavior and know exactly what to expect. Each child will have a book worm with their name on it. Every morning your child will start the day with their book worm on the green, smiley faced apple. If your child needs a gentle reminder of what is appropriate they will be asked to move their book worm to a more serious looking apple, the yellow apple! This apple is just a reminder apple. No worries, and most children will move their worm to the yellow apple at least several times in a year. Along with this your child will be asked simple questions about his/her behavior designed to help your child process what went wrong and how they can be successful next time. All discipline is gentle and designed to help the child succeed. If the child continues they will be asked to move their book worm to the sad, red apple. This red apple also comes with a time of "sit and watch". If your child continues to make poor choices they will be asked to put their apple in the apple jar on my desk. This final act comes with a note home explaining the hard choices of the day. It is so nice to come back to school and find that everyone starts out everyday on the green apple. God's mercy is new everyday! At the end of the day every child that stayed on the green or yellow apples will get a sticker. Once your child has earned six green apple stickers they will go to the treasure box.

Only green apple stickers count toward a visit to the treasure box. Yellow apple stickers are an incentive on their own. I know this sounds complicated, but it is really a very simple and successful way for children to monitor their behavior and work toward a goal. We also use Wise Words for Moms when disciplining children. This is a program designed by Ginger Plowman. It is designed to change the heart of the child and not just the behavior. If you would like to know more you can get her book, Don't Make Me Count to Three.



Communication With Your Child's Teacher

I am trying to go as paperless as possible with communication this year. Most communication will be through the form of e-mails. I use a program called icontact. This program allows me not only to communicate with you easily, but it also allows me to see who has been able to open the newsletter, or if the newsletter has been bounced back to me. Something important to know; if you unsubscribe, I can not put you back onto the e-mail list. Another quick and easy way to get information to you is through Facebook! If you send me a friend request, I will put you on my Facebook. I will post snow days, emergency things, etc. If you have a private communication you can send it to my in box or send me an e-mail at SonShinejan@msn.com. I am also available after class from 1:00-2:00 daily. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions, comments or concerns! Open communication is the key to a wonderful parent teacher relationship. Please call me at 360 794-4440 or 360 794-7953. If you have an **EMERGENCY** or an

urgent concern you can contact me at home in the early evenings at 425 218 4567.

In Closing

I would like to thank you for choosing SonShine Preschool and Kindergarten for your child's early childhood educational needs. I look forward to getting to know you, your child and your family. This is a wonderful and exciting time in your child's life and I am honored to be a part of it!