

September 9, 2008

Dear Parents,

The start of the school year has gone very well. The children have done a fine job settling into their classroom routine and looking for how to be successful throughout the school. Our CARES program has helped them focus on how to be successful on the playground, at arrival and dismissal, and throughout the school environment. We have already begun practicing our safety drills.

Here is information that I hope will help keep you well informed.

1. **Calls home** by children are limited to emergencies. An “emergency” does **not** include a call home
 - to request that someone deliver an musical instrument,
 - to drop off a bag lunch or lunch money , or
 - to “save the day” by getting someone to rush deliver a homework assignment.

2. **School Cafeteria Information** Children who do not have lunch money or who forget to bring a lunch from home will be offered a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with a Suncup juice or a cheese sandwich with a Suncup juice. Children being offered that meal will receive a call home after three days informing the parents that the child needed replacement lunches.

Our cafeteria serves a breakfast that is available for \$1.00. The cafeteria line is not open in the morning for the purchase of just a juice or water. Children wishing to buy breakfast go to the cafeteria directly from the bus before going to their homeroom.

3. The **VFES “Lost and Found”** box is located in the main office. For items left on the bus, always check with the bus driver directly. Those items are usually not brought to the school building “Lost and Found”.

4. **Health Office Notes**
 - **Head Lice** Please review the attached information about head lice. Periodically throughout the year, check your child’s hair. If you find a problem, communicate with the health office immediately. During the next week of 9/15, all children will be checked at school. Keeping long hair up helps control possible problems.
 - **Please include medical diagnosis** (strep, coxsackie virus, etc.) on your child’s absentee note. If your child did not receive a diagnosis, please include the symptoms your child had, such as fever, vomiting, etc.). This information is helpful in identifying clusters of infection as early as possible if they do occur.

5. Children should leave **trading cards** at home. Disgruntled children upset by lost cards or “poor trades” have difficulty focusing on learning tasks.
6. Parking for Evening Events- Parking space along the side of the building (where buses line up) can accommodate 55 cars **IF** folks park **close together and perpendicular to the building rather “one car per each bus slot”**. This makes parking easier (adds 30 spots) on crowded evening nights.
7. **Parent Open House Nights** will begin at 7 PM in the cafetorium on these dates:

Thursday	9/11	Grades K and 1 and Mrs. Sullivan’s class
Monday	9/15	Grades 2 and 3 and the BOCES program classes.
Wednesday	9/17	Grades 4 and 5, Mrs. Cowburn’s class

4th grade parents meet in Music Room # 3 from 7-7:30 PM
5th grade parents meet in the Cafeteria from 7- 7:30 PM. **There will be a discussion of the May field trip to Ashokan at 7 PM.**

This is an “Adults Only” night. Teachers will share information about the classroom and grade level expectations. It will not be possible to have private conversation with parents about their child’s strengths or needs at this time.

Come early! **Please allow yourself plenty of time to**

- **park your car**
- **stop by the PTA table in the main lobby to become a PTA member** There will also be a table for parents to sign up to help at some of the great school events we have planned.
- **and still get to the cafeteria by 7 PM!!!!**

Sincerely,