

Preschool Newsletter

Class of 2015

Summer 2006

As we enjoy the slower pace of summer, it is not too early to think about the changes that are in store for the fall. You probably have many questions about the start of school and this letter attempts to answer some of those questions. After a careful reading, consider posting this to your refrigerator for handy reference!

"When should I start to talk about the beginning of school with my child?"

It is probably not necessary to talk about school until a week or two before school starts. When your child begins to ask questions about school, keep your responses positive and simple. Then, you may involve your child in preparing for school by shopping for a full-sized backpack and appropriate play clothes.

"What kinds of clothes will my child need for preschool?"

Clothing that allows for safe play and that can withstand exuberant exploration of messy art media (paint, glue, clay, etc.) is essential. **Pull-on shorts/pants and sneakers with Velcro closures** encourage your child's independent dressing and independence in the bathroom. Climbing and crawling are necessary for a young child's large motor development. Well-fitting sneakers are required for school each day. **Dresses, skirts, and sandals are not suitable attire** for the preschool program. SIMPLICITY IS KEY.

"Will we have a chance to greet the teachers before school starts?"

Yes! There will be an Open House for preschoolers and parents Tuesday morning, September 6. Tina Thompson will call you during the summer to provide exact times of this event.

"What time does school start?"

Children may begin arriving in the Preschool classroom at 8:00am. The program begins promptly at 8:15am.

- ***"What will my child need for school?"***
- a change of clothes, each item labeled with the child's name: underpants, shorts, a shirt, socks
- a full size back pack to accommodate snow pants, boots, mittens, hat, art work, mail, and, if applicable, a lunch box (smaller, child-sized backpacks will be too small for our purposes)
- a plain, solid color bath towel (24"x48") labeled with your child's name (limited floor space will not accommodate larger towels for our rest period)
- a recent candid photograph (4"x6") of your child that will become part of our permanent bulletin board display

The Mission of Friends School Haverford is to foster a lifelong love of learning, grounded in an appreciation of that of God in everyone.

We provide a learning environment that challenges and stimulates our students to achieve their full potential.

We strive to be a diverse school family, practicing the Quaker values of integrity, equality, service, community, simplicity and peaceful problem solving.

"Am I expected to walk my child in to school?"

The first day of school, you may choose to accompany your child to the classroom. Your child will appreciate your positive attitude and reassuring tone as you say "goodbye". After the first day, an Intermediate School SAFETY will assist your child from the car and to the classroom. It is the SAFETY'S responsibility to open the car door for your child at curbside. The SAFETY will escort your child to the classroom each morning where the teacher will be waiting at the door. This responsibility is taken seriously by the Intermediate School students, who fondly remember their Heritage House days.

If your child arrives at school after 8:15am, he or she is considered late. Please deliver your child to the classroom before going to the Main Office to inform the staff that your child has arrived.

"Where and when do I pick my child up for dismissal?"

Depending on your program, preschool children are dismissed at 11:45am or at 2:45am from the front of Heritage House. Please stay in your cars and wait for instructions from the teachers at dismissal.

"I still have more questions. What should I do?"

By all means, be in touch with classroom teacher, Tina Thompson, by phone or email at (610) 649-6346, tina81450@hotmail.com

Tina Thompson will be calling each preschool family in August to discuss the opening schedule of school. Please feel free to be in touch with her before that time if you feel there is a need.

Childhood is a fleeting moment! We look forward to working with you as advocates for your child and to understand how we can protect and celebrate this precious time in your child's life.

We hope that the remainder of your summer is filled with good health, good books and time to enjoy simple pleasures.

Tina Thompson, Preschool Teacher, (610) 649-6346, tina81450@hotmail.com

Jen Furlan, Preschool Assistant

IMPORTANT:

Please email Tina Thompson (tina81450@hotmail.com) all email addresses both parents will be using for Preschool communications.

Take a moment to set your email account settings to receive mass mailings. To ensure that preschool mailings do not get sent to your "junk mail" folder, please add to your address list tthompson@friendshaverford.org and tina81450@hotmail.com.

All preschool newsletters and class announcements will be delivered electronically beginning August 2006. Please check your email regularly.