

Miss Maria's Classroom Updates for the 2016-2017 School Year.

There are New Things Going on Here at School this year

- I have made new parent/teacher communication sheets.
- New behavior Management plan. Making Red and Green Choices.
- Class Project about the seasons.
- Other announcements

New Parent teacher Communication sheets:

I have updated the parent/teacher communication sheets this year. Most of the information remains the same. I am working on the part where the students will report on some parts of their day. What they ate, behavior, and if/what they did something special that day. I will still be letting you know extra details about what is going on in their day and if something happens I will be informing you with any concerns or information that I have about the classroom/students. This is to get the students to be more in control of what you hear and give them some responsibility. I was waiting to get a copy of the lunch/breakfast menu so I can make picture choice cards (which will be no small chore) for each kid to place on the laminated page that will go back and forth with them from home and school. Until I get those made I, or the other staff members, will be writing down just like last year what the students ate and drank throughout the day. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know I can add something to the note if you want more detailed information than what is on the sheet every day.

New Behavior Management:

I am implementing a class wide behavior management system to encourage the students to make green choices. **Green choices** are made when we observe expected behaviors “walking feet, quiet voices, calm bodies, being a good friend, cleaning up” etc. **Red choices** are made when we observe unacceptable behaviors such as “hitting, spitting, running in class, yelling, refusing teacher directives (clean up toys, sit at table, etc.)” This is a positive behavior system no punishment is given for misbehaving. Students will be rewarded for making green choices in class. They will fill out a paper daily to report to you if their day was filled with red or green choices. I will make a note in their daily communication sheet if I see something really good that your child has done that day or explain what happened if they make some red choices that day. We will be talking about different green choices that we can make in class (and in the school in general). We will also discuss how red choices make us feel or how can we change that to a green choice. This will talk about behaviors and how they are your choice and how to make more acceptable choices in class. We want to focus on the good “green” choices instead of focusing on the red choices that the students may make.

Classroom Project

I did not start until January last year and I found that most of the kids had a hard time deciding if it was hot or cold outside and what that means during the weather time. Since I am starting out this year from the beginning I want to focus part of the day during calendar time discussing the weather and the seasons. For this I will need your help. I want if possible for you to send in pictures of your child playing or doing different activities throughout the seasons. For now we are going to start with summer. Please make sure that it is ok that these pictures may not come back in one piece. I want to have the kids look at

pictures of themselves doing summer activities like camping, swimming, playing outside in shorts, going to watch parades, etc. I will be displaying them on the bulletin board in the summer section. When the season of fall rolls around we will do the same thing. We can then compare what we wore during different times of the year. What types of activities we did? What holidays happened? We will do this for the entire school year. Feel free to keep sending in pictures. The more the merrier. I think this will help the students since it will be people that they know (classmates and themselves) in these pictures. A lot of the time we see pictures of kids that are drawn or are strangers. This will hopefully help us to make stronger connections to the changes, similarities, and differences in the seasons. If you please send me pictures you can send them to my email straight from your smart phones at mwhite@sese.org or you can send them with your child in their backpack. Just remember they are going on a bulletin board and sometimes these get ripped or torn so keep that in mind when you send them in. Thank you for your assistance in this manner!

Other Announcements:

- I will be sending home personal data sheets we will continue working on items this year with the students. Please check it out and let me know if any changes need to be made. I do not want to practice wrong information here at school.
- We will also be working on safety survival signs. This is a list from our PCI curriculum. This is a list of 40 indoor signs with pictures that we will practice we practiced with these some last year and we will continue to work on them this school year. Some of these

are difficult for our age group but, this is something that is used in the MSI program through high school. We are hoping by starting out at this age by the time they get to high school and beyond most of these signs will have stuck and allow them to live a safer and more independent life after they graduate.

I am looking forward to this school year and I think it will be a good one. I am more familiar with the kids and their strengths and needs. This will help make things more consistent and help keep our learning and skill building on course. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this newsletter, the classroom, or anything else please don't hesitate to give me a call or shoot me an email. I am more than happy to talk with you and answer your questions the best I can.

Email: mwhite@sese.org

Classroom Number: (618) 544-5510

Thank you and I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer!!

Miss Maria

Remember send in those pictures we would love to see the fun that the kids had over the summer!!!