

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015



# Preschool September News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

September is off to a great start! The first few days have whizzed by, we are starting to get to know each other, students are separating from their parents more easily each morning and everyone is working on settling into new routines. As preschool teachers, our goal is to cultivate personal strength and self-sufficiency, strong social and interpersonal skills, and a lifelong love for learning that we hope our students will carry forward with them. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about your child's schedule for the rest of the year, give you a preview of this month's themes and school events, and inform you of preschool's goals, guidelines, and policies.

## LOCATION:

Ms. Benson's class (taught by Mrs. Darko at the moment) is located in room 214, and the children have their naps and meals in room 212.

Ms. Emily's class is located in room 210, and the children have their naps and meals in room 213.

## PRESCHOOL SCHEDULE

Attached you will find a copy of your child's timetable. As we progress through the year, aspects of the schedule might be subject to change but we will keep you informed of any major adjustments. Here is a summary:

- Mandarin: Students practice their Chinese daily with Mr. Li for 45 minutes in room 102.
- Music: Taught by Mr. T twice a week, for 30 minutes on Tuesdays and Fridays in room 303.
- Centers: At this age, children learn best through playing. Centers is a time during the day when students can pursue their own interests, choosing to play in a Center that appeals to them. The Centers are carefully stocked and organized to promote the Preschool Prescribed Learning Outcomes that we use during Report Cards. It is also a valuable time for the teacher to engage with the students in order to teach and assess in a casual environment.

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

- **Theme Work:** Every month preschool will have a theme (Fall and Harvest, Oceans, Pirates, Insects etc.) and during this time we will have fun crafts and activities to learn about the specific topic.
- **Library:** Starting after the October holiday, every Friday preschool students may borrow one English book to take home for the week. Please remind your child to return their library books by the following Thursday so they can pick out a new one. Children love stories so be sure to read it with them at home 😊
- **Buddies:** Each year we pair up our preschool students with older students during "Buddy Time" to read and do activities together. We will be starting Buddies towards the end of September.
- **Cooking Club:** Every month preschool does a food-related activity to encourage students to take an interest in food and nutrition and learn about food preparation. We ask for 100RMB from each student to cover the cost of supplies.

## September Sneak Peak

- September is a month for settling into preschool, learning classroom rules and routines, and being introduced to the self-help skills that our students will be practicing all year. The work we do this month will set the stage for the rest of our fun, exciting year together.

### SELF-HELP SKILLS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

- Getting dressed/undressed
  - Washing hands
  - Going to the toilet
  - Organizing and putting on a backpack
  - Folding a blanket
  - Eating
  - Putting away toys and books
- Our annual International Walk/Run for World Peace is coming up later this month, so we will be enjoying several peace-related activities and learning that peace and love can change the world! ❤️☺️
  - Field trips: We are still ironing out the details but preschool is hoping to have TWO field trips this month (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week in September), one to the SweetLand indoor playground and one to the Dalian VITUP health clinic to learn about health and personal hygiene (brushing teeth, healthy foods etc.) Stay tuned for more details!

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

## Upcoming September events:

Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> - Meet the Teacher Night at 6:30pm \*\* If you think you might have trouble understanding some of what is said on the 10<sup>th</sup>, please do not be shy to bring a translator!

Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> - Class Picture Day (dress nicely!)

- Student Presenting Assembly at 10:30am at 78 Cai Yun Lu

September 17<sup>th</sup> - International Walk/Run for Peace, Xinghai Square, 2:15pm start

September 24<sup>th</sup> - Last day of class for students, beginning of National Holiday

## Preschool Policies

### Celebrations

If your child wants to share his/her birthday (or other) celebration with the class and you would like to bring treats, please let us know in advance to give us time to prepare. In the afternoon after naptime, around 2:15 is ideal 😊

### Naptime

Our preschool maintains a strict policy on naptime. All students must either sleep or read quietly in their beds during this time. We care deeply about all our students and have found this to be the best compromise.

### Snack time

Your child's health is important to all of us, so please remember to send healthy snacks to school, especially fruits and vegetables. Please avoid very sugary snacks, including chocolate and cookies.

### WeChat

Below are the WeChat QR codes for Ms. Emily and Ms. Helen. WeChat can be an extremely convenient mode of communication and organization, however there are some guidelines and restrictions:

1. Ms. Emily will continue to send home paper Newsletters, Notices and Reminders. Please do not ignore them! WeChat may be used for translation or clarification but will not replace this paper form of communication.
2. WeChat is primarily for the teacher to contact the parents, not the other way around. If you have questions about your child, please make an appointment with me! WeChat may be used for small things, but discussions or questions about your child's progress should take place in the classroom.

Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

3. No WeChat during teaching time. We care deeply about your children and want to give them our undivided attention. You may send a WeChat message during the day but please do not expect a response until naptime or after school.
4. No WeChat in the evenings and weekends. Teachers work very hard and are very tired at the end of the day! If you send a WeChat message in the evening or on a weekend, do not expect a response until the next morning or until Monday.
5. Don't abuse this tool! WeChat can be used as a convenient and efficient tool, but if Ms. Helen and I find that it is being overused we will stop using it. We cannot give daily updates about progress, moods, water and food consumption etc. for each student AND provide them with a good education. Please use WeChat wisely and sparingly.
6. WeChat Bonus: Ms. Helen and Ms. Emily will sometimes use WeChat to send pictures of your sweet, smiling children so keep your eyes open for this special surprise every now and then! 😊

Ms. Emily



Ms. Helen



We thank you sincerely for your understanding on the above policies. Your cooperation is much appreciated. Collaboration and communication between parents and teachers will be essential to ensuring your child's best preschool experience possible.

Thanks for taking the time to read our September Newsletter, we look forward to meeting you on Meet the Teacher night!

Ms. Emily and Ms. Helen

