

August 2015

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Inside this Issue

1

Program Overview

2

Helpful Links

Welcome Letter

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a restful summer and is ready for school! This year I am happy to report that we will have the same staff returning and we have moved to the Purple Room.

We are expecting a change in our program times, but this should not take effect until the 2016-2017 school year. I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Dates to Remember:

- 8/10/15 - 1st Day for Explorers
- 8/27/15-Picture Day
- 9/7/15 -Labor Day
 - No School
- 9/16/15-9/18/15 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - No school for Explorers

Class Times:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:
 - 12:35-4:15
- Wednesday:
 - 12:05-3:15

Staff & Service Providers

Cassee- Lead Teacher

Nancy- TA (Green Room)

Deb- TA (Green Room)

Darin- TA (Red Room)

Valeria- Community Helper (Red Room)

Avelina-TA (Red Room AM/PM)

Cindy- HI Teacher (part time)

Cyndie Drye-Speech and Language Pathologist

- Cyndie will work with the afternoon Explorer program. She is the Pre-K-8th grade SLP.

Program

Children attending the afternoon Explorer class will learn sign language in addition to verbal language using a total communication (TC) method. While we will

not have an interpreter in the class, all of the teachers and teaching assistants in the Green Room have knowledge of American Sign Language (ASL).

Fill out and Return...

Registration Materials

-These forms must be returned to school.

- Green Emergency Card
- Blue Emergency Card
- Signed Enrollment Agreement
- Change of address (pink form)
- Media Consent forms
-This year we are continuing to work on creating a more interactive website for parents.

Throughout the year, look for...

- Welcome materials and other announcements regarding preschool and school functions.
- Notes home or emails (if email address is provided).
- Links to the preschool website (if email address is provided)

or recommendations to view the website.

- Sign Language
-Children will receive copies of some sign language that is paired with our weekly story. This is not homework, just an opportunity to learn new signs for telling the weekly story.
-Since some signs can be hard to see on paper, I recommend looking up signs on the computer if you have internet access.

About the Curriculum

Literacy Based Curricula

In my class I employ a literacy based curriculum model that focuses on concepts related to the topics presented in the story throughout the week. All of the concepts and vocabulary we focus on each week is related to the story. Relating all the concepts to

the story allows the children an opportunity to base their learning on shared experiences and follow their individual interests when participating in activities.

Flexibility

The curriculum model is focused on building language and other developmental skills; however, it is also based on following the interests of the children. As a result, the weekly stories and activities are subject to change based on the children's interest level.

Helpful Links

Websites for Parents

Miles Preschool:

<http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/Miles/preschool.asp>

- This is the preschool website. Throughout the year we hope to be able to upload pictures and videos of our class experiences and learning.

American Sign Language

University:

<http://www.lifepprint.com/index.htm>

- This site has a lot of ASL resources including a video dictionary, ASL lessons, Fingerspelling, etc...

Staying Up-To-Date

Our hope for the preschool this year is to build the Miles Preschool website by uploading pictures and videos of some of the activities we are doing in class. Pictorial and/or video documentations help children reflect and expand on their learning. By placing some of these documentations on the preschool website, parents will have an opportunity to view some classroom activities with their child from home.

Class Schedule	
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday:	Wednesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:35-1:00- Arrival/Outside Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:05-12:40- Arrival/ Outside
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:00-2:00- Centers/Inside Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:45-1:15- Library
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:00-2:30- Circle Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:15-2:00- Centers/Inside Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:30-3:00- Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:00-2:30- Circle Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:00-4:00- Centers/Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:30-3:00- Snack
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4:00-4:15- Clean-up, Dismissal, Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3:00-3:15- Clean-up, Dismissal, Buses

*Music with Rebecca-Tuesdays from 1:00-1:45

*Library with Patty-Wednesday 12:45-1:15. Please return checked out books on Tuesdays or Wednesdays so your child can check out again.

*PE is on Thursdays from 1:00-1:30. Please send your child in tennis shoes or shoes appropriate for physical activities.