

## **Kindergarten 2010 - 2011**

Welcome to kindergarten! We are looking forward to a great year ahead. This packet is full of information about your child's year. Please read it carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

### **Beginning of the Year**

You can drop your child off at our classroom at 8:15 am. Attendance is taken at 8:20 am. Your child will be marked tardy if she/he arrives after that. If you arrive after 8:25 am, please stop in the office to pick up a tardy slip.

Everyone who enters the building must get a visitor's pass from the office. Kindergarten families have special passes (a paint stick with your name on it), which are located in a can just inside the office door. Please be sure to pick up your pass whenever you are in the building. If you are bringing your child to school, please escort him/her to the classroom. For children who are riding the bus, we will meet the busses and bring them to the classroom.

**Dismissal for the first nine days of school is 12:00 pm for kindergartners.** If you are picking your child up, please get your pass from the office and come to the hallway outside the classroom, where we will dismiss him/her directly to you. If you would like your child to ride the bus, this is a good time to let them "practice". During the half days, the teachers ride the bus home with the children to teach them "bus behavior" and to help them get familiar with their bus stop before they ride with the big kids. Due to the fact that we do all three bus routes, it can take time, depending on how many children we have riding. Some days we may not reach a bus stop until 12:45 or so. There must be an parent or responsible adult at the bus stop in order for a kindergarten student to be left off. If no one is there to meet her/him, we will take your child back to school and reach you by phone. It is important that you let us know each day if your child will be riding the bus home so we may be sure of the different stops we will be making. **On Monday, September 20, we will begin a full day schedule. Dismissal will be at 2:40 pm.** Kindergartners ride the regular bus to and from school beginning this day.

### **After School Plans**

I need to have any changes in your child's after school plans **in writing**. For instance, if your child is normally a bus rider, and she/he is going home with a friend, I need a note from you stating who will pick your child up that day. I cannot release a kindergarten student to anyone other than his/her parent without written permission. If there is a regular routine that is to be established, for instance a sibling will pick your child up to either get on the bus or meet you in

the pick up line, you only need to let me know **(in writing)** once, and we can establish the routine. If there is a regular day that your child will be picked up by someone else or go somewhere else other than home you only need to let me know **(in writing)** once. I post all changes in after school plans and routines to help me keep track.

### **Backpacks / Bags**

Your child needs to bring a backpack or school bag to school everyday. This is important because there are many notices and parent letters, as well as your child's work that are sent home regularly. Without something to carry these in, they can be lost easily. Typically we send papers home on Fridays in a special folder. Please be sure to empty the folder, read all notices and return the folder to school on Monday. Each week your child will get a sticker on her/his folder for sending it back in!

### **Clothing**

It is best for your child to wear comfortable play clothes to school each day. Also, please send in a spare set of clothing for your child to keep in his/her cubby in case of a need for a change. Please send your child dressed appropriately for whatever weather we are having. We play outside everyday if possible and it is important that your child be warm and dry. **Sneakers are required on gym days.**

### **Lunches**

At the Edgartown School, the children have lunch accounts to pay for hot lunch and /or milk. Your child will have a special number that they will use for this account. You may send in money to be deposited in that account. Envelopes used for these deposits can be picked up in the classroom or in the office. You can deposit money at your convenience and it will be withdrawn each time your child makes a purchase from the cafeteria. Milk can also be purchased for snack each day if you wish your child to have it. A school lunch costs \$2.25, which includes milk, milk bought separately is \$.40 and water is \$.50 .

### **Parent / Teacher Communication**

You can reach our classroom by calling the school at (508) 627-3316 and dialing extension 129. The best time to call is between 8:00 - 8:10 am or between 2:45 - 3:00 pm. If you have an urgent message, please call at any time. I do have voice mail, but if your message is urgent, please be sure that you talk to me or leave a message with the office, as I don't always get to check my voice mail until after school.

Every 2 weeks I write a newsletter to let you know what we are doing in the classroom and about any events that are coming up. The newsletter is posted on my web page on the Edgartown School web site, along with other important information about our class. You can access the web site by going to [www.edgartownschool.org](http://www.edgartownschool.org). If you do not have access to our web site, please let me know so that I can get information to you on paper.

## **Snack**

In kindergarten we have a “cooperative snack”, which begins on Monday, September 20. (We provide snack on the half days.) A rotating schedule is sent home every month for you to send in a snack for the entire class. In order to provide variety to the children, I will assign specific foods for you to bring in. We serve water or milk with snack, so you do not need to provide a drink for snack. Please be sure to send in enough food for a hearty snack for 15 children. Kindergarten lunch is at 12:55 pm, so it is important that the children have a health and hearty snack midmorning. **The first snack schedule will be sent home Friday, September 17.**

Your child’s birthday will also be his/her snack day. In addition to a healthy snack, you may also bring in a sweet treat like cupcakes or Hoodies, which we will share after lunch. If your child’s birthday does not fall on a school day, we will celebrate on the nearest possible day. Summer birthdays are celebrated in June.

## **Sharing**

We do not have “show and tell” in our class, but children have the opportunity each week to share about something special that is going on in their lives. This could be something they have done or are looking forward to doing, a special interest or hobby or talent. There will be times when we focus on a specific topic for sharing and I will let you know about that ahead of time. When sharing begins, our procedure will be to sign up first thing in the morning. Each child is able to share once a week to ensure that everyone who wants to has the opportunity

## **Kindergarten Address/Phone List**

I will be sending home a copy of the parent address/phone list sometime during the first couple of weeks of school. This is to ease communication between families for play dates and parties. If you are inviting the whole class to a party, it is fine to send invitations into school, but, if everyone is not invited, please use the list to either call or mail invitations. Children do feel hurt if they see others getting invitations when they are not, and it is important to me that we don't let that happen in our classroom.

I hope I have clarified information and answered any questions you may have had. If not, please do not hesitate to call me. I am always happy to receive phone calls from parents and encourage you to do so.

*Sincerely,  
Maria MacKenty*