

Mrs. McDowell's 2018-2019 September Newsletter

The school year has gotten off to a wonderful start! Our class is full of enthusiastic, creative and bright young learners. I look forward to a fun filled year of learning and exploration!

Specials

Five days a week the children have a "special" for forty minutes. They are:

Monday: Music with Mr. Heath

Tuesday: Physical Education with Mrs. Horn (Please wear sneakers.)

Wednesday: Art with Mrs. Fowler

Thursday: Library with Mrs. Gale

Friday: Technology with Mrs. Dunton

Snack and Water Bottles

We have snack everyday. Please send in one item for snack and **we do have nut allergies in our classroom so your consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated.** The children may also bring a water bottle into school that they can keep at their desk. Having it readily available will be best for all and please be sure to write your child's name on his/her water bottle to prevent any confusion.

Classroom Rules

Below is the list of classroom rules that we have devised and discussed together. Please take the time to read them and review them with your child.

- 1.) Be respectful.
- 2.) Keep voices soft.
- 3.) Hands off.
- 4.) Stay in control.

Behavior Policy

On the first day of school we developed our classroom rules. To enforce these rules I have created an "Awesome Worker" plan. Whenever I see a child doing excellent work and trying his/her very best to follow the classroom rules I will have him/her write his/her name on the "Awesome Worker" board. When the whole class gets their name up in one day they will receive a point. When the class receives a total of 5 points they will be rewarded for their tremendous efforts in the form of a surprise.

We also have a traffic light system in our classroom which serves as a visual reminder to follow the classroom rules. We have a green go sign, a yellow

sign, and a red stop sign. If a student is struggling with the classroom rules, he/she will receive a verbal warning. Throughout the day the children who receive 0-1 will stay on green. Children who receive 2 warnings move to yellow but have the opportunity to make better choices and move back up to green. Children who receive 3 warnings will move to red and do not have a chance to move back to green until the next morning. These children will receive a note home in which they will write the rule(s) that were broken, sign their name, bring home for a parent to sign, and return to school the next day. He/she will also spend part of recess with me discussing how he/she could make better choices in the future. All of the children begin on green each day. Please continue to reinforce the classroom rules at home as a home/school connection is the most effective way for students to learn and grow.

Questions or Concerns

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school. The number is 508-529-1020. My personal extension is 206. You could also send me a hand written note or email me at rmcdowell@mursd.org. I am prompt at returning phone calls and emails. In addition, if you need to make a change to your child's dismissal routine please notify our school via a phone call to the office or a handwritten note as technology can unexpectedly have glitches from time to time and we always want to ensure the safety of our students at all times. By working together we can create a fun, exciting, and successful year for all of our first graders.

Volunteers

Many of you have expressed an interest in volunteering in the classroom. Thank you for all of your enthusiasm and efforts as they are greatly appreciated. At Open House I will have a volunteer form that will list specific volunteer opportunities. Please fill it out and return it to me indicating what activities you would prefer to do. A CORI check must also be completed prior to volunteering. This can be done in our central office. To be fair, if I have numerous people volunteer for the same positions, I will draw names from a hat. I thank you in advance for all of your support.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who sent in tissue boxes and baby wipes. They will help to keep our classroom the cleanest it can be!!!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Open House!!!!

