

August 30, 2012

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful beginning to our year in Kindergarten. Thank you for your support and being so prompt with all the paper work and projects. We have 19 children, 14 boys and 5 girls in our classroom. Yes, it is an active class with many boys. However, the girls do hold their own! We have spent much time learning the routine of our day. I know many have commented how they have learned so quickly how to unpack their things in the morning and pick a Center to use. We are very proud of them and most proud of you! It is not easy to let your child do things by themselves. It is OK if they forget or make a mistake, we all forget at times! Mrs. Clyde and I are happy to help them. Often time the children will help each other. We have learned much already in Kindergarten.

Religion We learned that our names are very special and that God loves all of us. We celebrated our names and continue to work on calling one another by name. We play a little game each day to encourage this.

Reading We began our first unit reading a story called **The Little School Bus**. The children were introduced to the characters in the story. We also learned about "first, next and last." We review the letters and the sounds each day. The children created their first class book and each child will have the opportunity to take this book home to share.

Math We discussed sorting and the various ways that you can sort: shape, color, size. The children have also been practicing printing their numbers.

Computers Mrs. Albanese is our computer teacher and ask that I share a few words with you about the program. It will be listed in future newsletter under "Technology News." *UPSK has long recognized the potential for technology to improve and enhance the educational experience of our Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten students while introducing 4 year olds to the world of computers. The 1st quarter we will be working on the following in Kindergarten: They will be introduced to the keyboard, be able to locate letters and numbers on the keyboard, and introduce left hand position to keyboard. Programs on the computer will be letter recognition and letter sounds using keyboard. Mrs. Albanese adds: "I consider it a great privilege and responsibility to be your child's computer teacher."*

As you can see, we have accomplished much in these first few weeks of school. We are so blessed to have your child in our room this year. We look forward to forming a wonderful community with each other.

A few reminders:

- Hot Lunches begin on Tuesday, Sept. 4th
- Snacks are to be sent in everyday marked with your child's name
- Pizza will begin on Friday, Sept 7th for \$2.75 (pizza, drink, cheese balls/fruit snack)
- Please return all papers from Open House if you haven't.
- Parking Lot is **ONE WAY, thank you for following arrows on lot.**
- Reminder: No sandals on the playground. You are welcome to leave an old pair of shoes for your child to change into for the playground.
- Send jacket or sweater, as the room at times gets a little chilly.


At our Open House I shared with you the importance of all of us working as a team to help your child develop to their best potential in all areas. I share the quote about teamwork with you again.

TEAMWORK

Teamwork means that we share a common ideal and embrace a common goal. Regardless of our differences, we strive shoulder to shoulder, confident in one another's faith, trust and commitment. In the end, teamwork can be summed up in five short words... "we believe in each other." (author unknown)

Thank you for believing in all of us at Ursuline Preschool and Kindergarten. Enjoy the long weekend and don't be concerned if your child has a little problem "readjusting" to school!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Ann Critell