

Little Red Schoolhouse Newsletter- September 2017



Welcome to another fun-filled school year at Little Red! We are excited to begin our 17th year (wow!) with your children, and have a lot of fun and learning in store. We are starting the year with an "All About Me" week, which will be a great way to get to know new friends, and explore our feelings, families, bodies and senses. If you have a family photo to add to our family tree in the entrance, please bring one. The kids love to look at pictures of their families!



Some important notes:

*We will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day. Enjoy!

*You'll notice a registration fee on your invoice for September. This is a once a year fee to help with the mounting costs of supplies and manipulatives for the kids to enjoy. It is only charged in September every year, or whenever you 1st enrolled. Thanks!

*Please put your child's name on all of their belongings! A great name sticker website is www.namebubbles.com. Those labels are washable and don't come off! Then, we can easily get your child's stuff back to them when it's misplaced. If you are missing something, please check the lost and found in the cubby room for those items.

*If you are interested, I do take credit cards for tuition payments. Please give me your number to keep on file, and I will automatically charge it on the first of

each month... 😊 Payment is due on the 1st of each month, and please try to be prompt. I appreciate it!

*Please check your child's art file at least once a week to collect all of their beautiful artwork! Those files are located in each of the cubby rooms, and are in alphabetical order.

*If your child is in diapers, please bring wipes when you bring diapers for your child. It's best to bring a big pack of diapers and wipes each time, and we will let you know when we are running low.... Thanks!

*If your child is PreK (Bud) this year, they will be sometimes upstairs, and sometimes downstairs this year. If they are upstairs, we don't have a refrigerator up there, so it'd be best to put an ice pack in their lunch to keep it fresh. Please check the board in the cubby room to see where your child will be that day, and please stress the importance of being flexible with the upstairs/downstairs situation (and try to be understanding and flexible yourself 😊). The curriculum will be the same for both upstairs and down, and I am trying to have them all be upstairs every afternoon so they all have time in their "new" space each day. They will all be assigned a cubby downstairs, but when they are upstairs you can just help them find a cubby that's open for the day. The check in board will be the same so they can take their person from their cubby and put it in their location with their teacher each day. Thanks!

*Please pack enough lunch for your full day child for us to pull out 2 things for afternoon snack. I would suggest packing 4 things for lunch and 2 for snack just so they have some variety. We are able to heat up lunches so you can be a bit more creative if you'd like. 😊 www.snacktaxi.com is a great place to go for reusable and fun sandwich and snack bags, fyi.

*If you are on the snack calendar to bring snack, please bring enough snack for 30 hungry kids by 9:15am on that day. We have one peanut allergy this year, so are restricting nuts on Mondays and Wednesdays only. Otherwise, you are welcome to

bring nuts for lunch or snack. It's great to bring snack that relates to the theme or letter of the week, as it ties into what we are learning for the week. Variety is key, and please bring more rather than less.... They eat a lot! If you'd like me to cover your snack day, I can do that and put a \$20 charge on your invoice instead. Just let me know with a little notice... thank you!!

*If your child is a Sprout or Bud (3-5 years old), they will have a sharing day each week. Those days will be posted on the parent board above the red sign in table at Little Red. I am also emailing the sharing schedule to you along with this email. The theme for sharing will be posted on the same board, and it will be consistent with the theme on the snack calendar. Please help your child find something related to the theme each week to bring in for sharing. The kids love it! They should be able to answer some questions about their sharing and talk about how it relates to the theme.. It's a great time to work on the concept of questions with these kiddos! Please discourage your child from bringing toys to school (in general)... sharing is not meant to be a random toy, and often it becomes an issue later on in the day when they want to take it out again. Thanks!

*When you bring your child to school each day, please help them find their name on their cubby and put it on the attendance board at the entrance to the school corresponding to which group they are in for the day. This is a great way to check in at school, and really helps with name recognition as well. They can also see who their teacher is, and who is in their group, which is fun for them as well. 😊

*If your child is a Sprout, they will be periodically bringing home the Alphabet bucket to fill with things that start with our letter of the week. Please help them fill their bucket and make it a fun and educational family activity. They can bring it back to school on the next day they come to share with their group! It's lots of fun!

*If your child is a Bud, they will be doing 2 new curriculum programs which are fundamental in teaching them to write and read. They are awesome! Our handwriting

out the program on www.hwtears.com. Our multi-sensory sound program is called "Lively Letters, or Telian", and is great for teaching sounds in an understandable way for the kiddos. The website for this program is www.readingwithtlc.com. More info will be given at our Back to School Night in mid-September!

***Please keep in mind that with fall approaching, the weather is very hot and cold. Please pack a light jacket or raincoat every day with your child's belongings just in case. The kids like to go outside in any weather!! Thank you. This winter, we will need snow pants, hat, gloves, and winter boots, as well as sunglasses.**

***We open as early as 7:30 am and close at 5:15pm. If you need a drop off time earlier than 9am, please let me know so that I make sure to bill you properly for that. If you will be arriving past 5:15, please give us a call so that we won't worry about you. Please drop off at your scheduled time, and not earlier... Thanks!**

***We are on a very positive behavioral system at Little and Teeny Red (the Pyramid Model for Social/Emotional Health- www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu), and try to keep a 10:1 ratio of positives to negatives. We also try to tell the kids what they should do instead of what they shouldn't. The star chart which is on the wall of Little Red is a positive system we use to "reward" children's good behavior. When they do the right thing, they get their star moved up and when they get to the top they get a prize. It really makes them feel proud, so asking them about their star is a fun thing to do at pick up!**

***The code for the doors at both Little and Teeny Red is 4234. It's been great having a keyless entry, and we all feel much better knowing that whoever walks in the door has a child enrolled at the school. 😊**

***A great place to check out any new happenings is my website at www.crestedbuttelittlered.com. There you can access the snack calendar and list of closures regularly, as well as my parent handbook. It's awesome!**

***Included in this stack of "paperwork" is a list of groups and names so that you can know which group your child is in based on when they will go to Kindergarten. Please**

reference this for peer names, and group name so that when I say something about "Buds" for instance, you will know it refers to your child. Soon, I will send out an email list with that, so please let me know if you would not like to be included in this list.

Thanks!

Some "business" reminders...

*I have recently updated my parent handbook and would love for you to read it when you have time—it's on my website at www.crestedbuttelittlered.com under Enrollment. Thanks!

*I do billing on the 20th of each month for the following month, so you are always paying ahead of time for preschool. If you tell me about any upcoming vacations by the 20th of the month prior, I will take off up to 2 weeks of vacation per school year from your invoice. If you have a last minute vacation, I cannot refund money for it, so try to plan ahead. ☺ For sick days, you will receive make up days (up to 3 weeks of your child's schedule per year) to be used on a day your child doesn't normally come to school. Please make sure when you are scheduling a make-up day to let me know you'd like to use a make-up, or I will put it on your next bill (some people like to save make ups). Please make sure to keep your child home when they are sick!! We really try to keep germs out of school. Please see attached notice of when your child is too sick for school for a good guideline. PS- Anything that you add to your child's schedule for the month will be put on the next month's invoice, so no need to worry about it on that day...

*As far as closures go, I am emailing you a list along with this newsletter for your convenience. Just to remind you, your monthly fee

is based on an average of the number of days that we are open each month and thus doesn't change with a closure. Essentially, some months you are receiving extra days for free, and some months you are paying for more days than you get so it all averages out. This is why your invoice will not reflect days that we are closed. Any questions, just let me know. Thanks!

*All paperwork must be filled out and given to me for your child's file at school. Please make sure all phone numbers and contacts are correct, as we use these in case of illness or emergency. Keep in mind that physical forms and registration forms must be updated once a year in your child's file, so if you have an appointment for a physical, you can print out the form I need at www.crestedbuttelittlered.com for the doctor to fill out. If your child is at Teeny, please give me one of the physical forms for each well-child check they have. For some currently enrolled kids, I have no paperwork as of now. If you think you are one of those people, you can print out all the registration forms on my website and get those to me asap. Thank you!!



Teacher news:

I am very happy with my fabulous group of teachers and hope you are too! Everyone at Little Red is staying on for the school year, which is great! At Teeny, Miss Ami has moved to Denver quite suddenly, and while I look for a fabulous replacement, my long time old teacher Miss Annie is filling in. Miss Annie just graduated from law school and is awaiting results of her BAR exam while she enjoys time in CB and Gunnison. She worked for me for almost

4 years a while back, and is a wonderful teacher and person.
Happy to have such a great sub while I find a permanent teacher!

Apple Picking Time!

I am organizing a fun field trip to Paonia to pick apples with the kids! The trip will be in early October (date TBD), and will be from 9-3 and an all-school field trip! I will definitely need driving help, so please contact me with the number of kids you can drive in your car, and I will put together a list and send out more details. This is a great trip, and a lot of fun for kids and adults alike! Please let me know if you would like to be involved. ☺



Social Corner:

At school we have been implementing the Pyramid Model for Social/Emotional Health for a few years now, and I thought I should give you an overview of what we are doing for those of you who are new to Little and Teeny Red...

Every day, we are teaching social skills to the kids and helping them to solve their own problems. We have a social skill of the week and consistent rules and expectations that we refer to all day long. They are "Keep yourself safe", "Keep your friends safe", and "Keep your school safe."

The expectations are: Gentle touches, inside voices, walking feet, we take turns, and we clean up.

Telling the kids what they should do instead of what they shouldn't is in line with our 10:1 ratio of positives to negatives, and gives the kiddos clear expectations for their behavior. We really try to point out what the kids are doing right and set up the environment so that the kids can be successful and have less challenging behavior instead of "putting out fires" all day. We give the kids the words to use

when talking to their friends so that they can begin to solve their own problems without teacher help, It's amazing to see how effective it can be!

For discipline, we try to teach the kids appropriate behavior up front instead of having to remove kids all the time. When kids are physical, we remove them away from the group to talk to them about gentle touches. Often the things that the group as a whole is struggling with socially are the topics for our social skill of the week, so that really helps.

The other language we constantly use is **"If you choose, then you choose"**. This gives the kids responsibility for their behavior and helps teach them that their choices impact the consequences for their actions (a life-long skill). It's important to say the "you" part on both ends of that. 😊

Social skills **MUST** be taught, and it takes a group effort and a home/school connection to really be effective. Please visit the www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu website and look under Parent Resources for scripted stories and solution cards to use at home, or check out other information that may be useful. I will also notify you of any upcoming parenting workshops that may be helpful when they arise.

If you ever have any questions as to social/emotional issues, please feel free to chat with me anytime!! I also have great parenting tips and am more than happy to help at any time you may need it. It truly takes a village!

Thanks for your support, and here's to a fantastic school year!!!

Jessica 