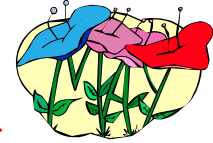


## Little Red Schoolhouse Newsletter- April 2024



Happy Spring! I can't believe how fast the school year is going, and that I'm already planning for a great summer. Your kids have been such a JOY to be around, and have grown and learned so much this year. I hope it has been a positive experience, and hope to continue it through the summer!



Some notes...

\***Tuesday March 26th will be Summer Registration.** Please email me your preferred summer schedule on that day (and not before!!). This is first come, first served so please mark your calendar to get me those schedules on that day. If you don't, you will likely not get what you ask for as I will be full very quickly. Due to rising costs that we are all well aware of, I will need to do a slight rate increase that will begin in June of \$2/day more per child. Though slight for you it will help offset the cost of my unbelievably high property taxes and retain wonderful teachers by providing awesome benefits and great pay. Please see rate sheet for new rates effective June 2024. Thank you for your understanding!

You will need a new Registration form, immunization record and Dr. form each year of registration, so if it's been a while please get those forms on Brightwheel and upload them to me before summer begins. If you choose to opt out of immunizations, you need to go on a statewide database in order to legally do this, so please contact me for info on how to do that. I will do my best to give you your first choice, but may not be able to accommodate everyone's requests especially if you are wanting to add any more days- things are very tight as always! Please let me know also if you are at all flexible with your days so that I can figure it out a bit easier. Also, please let me know what drop off time you would like so I can bill accordingly. 😊 If your child is a Sprout or Bud they will be going on an excursion outside of school for at least one of their mornings each week! These outings are really fun and allow the kids to learn and grow outside of school... The littler ones will still get lots of outside time and environmental learning as well- sunshine is good for the soul! 😊

In my original closure list it said we were closed May 31<sup>st</sup> for teacher work day, but I am switching that to Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the closure. **We will be closed Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** to get ready for summer and begin our programming Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup> instead. We will therefore

be open Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>. Fall will start Monday August 26<sup>th</sup> and we will have 2 teacher workdays on Thursday and Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fall registration will be held in mid-late May, so you can pick a different school year schedule then!

\* **We are closed the week of April 15-19<sup>th</sup>** for Spring Break. Hope you can get out and do something fun! As outlined in my handbook, you will be charged the same monthly fee for April even though we are closed that week. The monthly fees are calculated as an average of open days through the year so some months you are paying for more than you get and some months you pay for less than you get- it all averages out! This week will not be deducted as vacation days either, although I hope you go on one!! If you will be around and can feed and take care of Sal the turtle, please let me know as well!

*\*Kindergarten registration at the "big" school is ongoing right now so please make sure you have registered your upcoming big school attendee! We will be having graduation at the end of the school year before summer as well as a big school visit. Info will be sent out soon on those events!*

**\*Universal PreK is happening again this next school year and it looks like all of the upcoming Buds have registered for this program. I will confirm when I accept your child and you should receive an email as well confirming that you are attached to Little Red. Yippee!**

\*Please remember to help your child find something to share that is related to the theme each week for sharing time at school. It is helpful to guide them through answering simple questions about what they are bringing beforehand as well, since during this time we are teaching them about asking and answering questions. Make sure they can describe what it is they brought, and answer where they got it, when they play with it, and things of that nature. It really helps expand sharing time to work with them ahead of time on this. Thank you!

\*As always, please remember extra clothes for your child's cubby, wipes when you bring diapers, & to check art files at least weekly. Thanks!

**\*We are doing our best to clear water from melting snow and keep ice at bay, but sometimes as you know it can be a full time job during snow melt season! Please walk with caution in my parking lot and entrance areas! In addition, when muddy and slushy please**

take boots off in the cubby room when entering the school. It's going to be a long mud season!

*\*As a reminder, tuition payments are emailed out the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and due by the 1<sup>st</sup>. I am recently having an issue with late payments, so ask that you try your best to make timely payments. If it helps, I do take credit cards, and you can pay directly from the invoice by credit card or ACH payment! Thank you.*

*\*Though it is considered "off season" in Crested Butte, it's not at Little Red ☺ Please keep in mind that I don't do off season schedules and do encourage people to keep their children's schedules as consistent as possible. You do get 2 weeks of vacation time for the year deducted from your invoice if you tell me by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior (no last minute trips deducted), but this does not include closure weeks. Also, if your child is sick, you get up to 3 weeks of make-up days for the school year of their schedule. These must be used before the end of the school year, or they will expire. Just thought I'd reiterate the policies a bit. ☺If you'd like to read more, please go to my website at [crestedbuttelittlered.com](http://crestedbuttelittlered.com) and click on Enrollment and then Parent Handbook. Thank you!*

*\*Occasionally, it's nice to check your child's school water bottle and make sure it's appropriate for them still. Sometimes they get worn over time, and also become less developmentally appropriate as they get older and older. Just let us know and we'll pull it out for you! ☺*

**\*If your child had a vision screening a couple weeks ago at school, their screening came back normal unless I have told you otherwise. Grateful that they came to do those screenings!**

**\*Your kiddos have really enjoyed the yoga and mindfulness classes I have been providing through Jessica Noll every other Wednesday for 15 minutes per group! It's great to see them using breathing techniques and learning how to calm their little bodies and channel their emotions through the techniques she teaches and we reiterate throughout the day.**

**\*Our Nordic skiing program starts this coming Thursday for the Buds with lessons from 10-12 for 3 weeks. I'm so excited to add this awesome program to all the extras that we facilitate for your kids!**

## Upcoming Events:

\*Parent/teacher conferences will be held towards the middle of May for Seeds, Sprouts and Toddlers and in April and May for Buds, and will not be mandatory except for the Buds (but of course recommended!). I will email a sign-up sheet in April for those of you who would like a conference, and your child's teachers will be happy to chat about your child's progress in May!

\*Fall (school year) Registration will be held during the same time at Parent/Teacher conferences (middle of May) as well, so after you figure out summer, please start thinking about next school year as well. 😊

\*Since Easter is not during Spring Break this year, I will be having an Easter egg hunt at the school on **Friday March 29th**! I will send out the times for these quick hunts so that you can bring your kiddo if you don't already come to school. Excited!

\*I will be holding a **Parenting Zoom event from 5:30-7pm on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** to present more information on challenging behavior, setting up expectations for your child at home, and using visuals. There will be a question/answer session for 30 minutes at the end where you can ask any questions that you may be struggling with at home. This is a great way to connect as a Little Red family and learn more about what we do at school so we can bridge the gap between home and school. I will be sending out a zoom link for this and a casual sign up so we know if people are attending. Thanks so much!

## THANK YOU!!!

A big big thank you to Emily Brown and all the parents who contributed to my gift of Cat skiing at Irwin. It means so much to feel appreciated in this way, and I can't wait to ski this coming Friday (hope for some snow!). Thank you SO much!!

Also, I'd like to thank Graham (Jack's dad) from Ketrick and Son plumbing company for donating 2 toilet seats and installing them at Little Red! We appreciate it so much!!

Lastly, I'd like to thank Kevin Williams (Lucy's dad), and Mark Mikos (Kai's dad) for all of the odd jobs/fixing that they do week to week to make Little and Teeny tip top. It is SO appreciated!!



### **Social Corner:**

The kids are doing so well being super problem solvers with our solution kit! We are telling them to try 3 solutions before telling a teacher, unless someone is hurt... this is alleviating some of the tattling that inevitably goes on and helps the kids take control of their situation. The wording we use is "try 3 before me", which means trying 3 solutions before getting a teacher.

We are also working hard on not interrupting teachers and other children when they are talking, especially during group times. We do this by teaching them "touch and talk". They put their hand on the person's shoulder that they wish to talk to and wait until that person finishes their other conversation. They are also practicing saying the person's name and giving eye contact. It's been working well!

We are having a lot of issues with kids being physical with each other at school, whether in play or as a reaction. We are working hard to teach the kids that even if someone else hits/pushes them, it's not okay to do it back. It's a tough thing for them to hold back and not just react, but they are learning that if they do the right thing and tell a teacher instead of hitting, they will be praised and their friend may be the one in trouble.

Another important topic we are discussing a ton at school right now especially with the older kiddos is kindness. Generally, we are talking a lot about the Golden Rule, and treating people kindly by using a sweet tone of voice and filling each others' buckets. Including everyone in play is stressed, as well as being nice even if someone isn't your best friend (you don't have to be best friends with everyone, but you do have to be kind). We are hopeful that some progress will be made as this stuff has been a big issue, especially upstairs. 😊

The home/school connection is really vital for the age group, so please make sure you are carrying through with discipline and discussions regarding things that happen at school and are relayed by myself or the other teachers. If your child had a tough day at school, you should be having a discussion at home for that, and if they had a stellar day, rewarding them is awesome! This way, they are learning that wherever they go the behavior expectations are the same, and all the adults in their life are connected in the way that we all want them to succeed and make good choices. That connection is really beneficial to the desired outcome of great behavior everywhere. Thanks!

Pyramid website with lots of parent resources is- [www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu)

### **TEACHER NEWS:**

With Ms Giovanna moving back to Brazil, Ms Emmie is taking over the Seeds 2 group for her. She is doing awesome and the kids love her! Ms Holly is settling in super well and will mostly be at Little Red with some days at Teeny as well. I am currently hiring one more part time teacher and will keep you posted. I am incredibly grateful for my wonderful team of teachers and I hope you are too! They love to hear positive feedback and feel appreciated so let's fill their buckets. They are amazing!

Curriculum for the Month... (themes can also be found on the website, FYI)

Lively Letters- The kids just finished learning about the skinny air sounds S and Z, and then X and Y. We will keep you posted weekly on which letters they are learning about, so keep an eye out for that!

Handwriting without Tears- The kids are doing great with this program! We have moved on to diagonal lines, so all the letters that involve diagonals (V,M,N,W,X,Z, etc). Remember the verbage of big line, little line, big curve and little curve. It's amazing how well these kids are writing now due to this program, our teachers, and their hard work!

Themes- We are learning all about Europe this month and then heading to Asia to immerse in that culture! It's been super fun bringing different cultures to these kiddos in our small mountain town. They love it.

Letter of the Week- We are now doing 3 letters per week as an added challenge! So- In April we will be on DEF, GHI, JKL. . If your child brings the bucket home, please help them find some things that start with each letter and make sure they can sort them as well. Thanks!

Thanks for all you do!

Jessica 😊