

## Little Red Schoolhouse Newsletter- September 2019



Welcome to another fun-filled school year at Little Red! We are excited to begin our 17<sup>th</sup> 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 2nd for Labor Day. Enjoy! We are also closed this coming Friday, 8/23 for a teacher workday. Thank you!

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> enrolled. Thanks!

\*Please put your child's name on all of their belongings! A great name sticker website is [www.namebubbles.com](http://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. We will be taking the lost and found to 6 points at the end of this week, so please check for lost summer belongings quick!

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Upstairs kiddos will have their own art file box up there, so please check that box instead this year.

\*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 upstairs every day this school year! They will have a cubby upstairs and their very own check in board as well with their picture. The check in will be based on a question/graph that they can put their picture on to answer (like- favorite color, dog or cat, etc). We have a small refrigerator upstairs for snacks, but it would be helpful to include an ice pack in your child's lunchbox since we can't fit them all in the fridge. Thank you!!

\*Please pack enough lunch for your full day child for us to pull out 2 things for both morning and afternoon snack. I would suggest packing 4 things for lunch and 2 for each 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. If they are a half day or a 3pm pick up, they will only have morning snack at school.

\*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 and the list of themes for the school year to you along with this email. The theme for sharing will be posted on the same board. 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 picture 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 establishes a great routine for the kiddos. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu)), and try to keep a 5:1 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! Pyramid is also big on using visuals, picture schedules, and setting up expectations. These are all valuable tools to use at home as well! You can reference the above website and click on the Parent Resources tab to find many pertinent articles and visuals for you to print out and put together at home as well. As always, I am here to talk about any behavior issues that may arise, and work together with you to guide the kiddos in the right direction. It is so much more effective to be consistent with any behavior system, so working as a team is the best bet!

\*The code for the door at Little is 3138 and Teeny Red is 5688. 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. 😊 I will be changing the code in a couple months, here, so be looking for the new code when I do that. Thanks!

\*A great place to check out any new happenings is my website at [www.crestedbuttelittlered.com](http://www.crestedbuttelittlered.com). There you can access the newsletter, list of themes, 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, including emails to reference for birthday party invites and playdates.

Hope this is helpful for the school year!

## Colorado Shines rating!!

\*In November, we will be going through our 2<sup>nd</sup> Colorado Shines quality rating. We were happily rated a 4 out of 5 a few years ago, and are of course shooting for a 5 this time! Part of that rating is a Parent Questionnaire that Colorado Shines will send to each of you that is different from the one I sent out last month. In October, I will review the info on that questionnaire in hopes that you will be able to answer "yes" to all of the questions in a positive way. I hope that my communication is enough that this will be an easy sell, but I am here to answer any questions regarding parent trainings, parent/teacher conferences, meet and greets, and more!

I sent out a Parent Survey last month, and am very happy with the results of that survey (so positive!). With those results, I made some immediate changes to improve our parent communication. The feedback we have received has been great! We now have daily 'child's day' sheets so that we can make sure to communicate any pertinent info and behavior things that occur during the day, and we have all curriculum info on a big board in the cubby room each day as well. Adding another form of daily communication has been valuable I believe. This newsletter is a great form of communication each month, and I really appreciate you reading it! In addition, there has been feedback on wanting more parent get-togethers to get to know families within the school. I have a goal this year of making this happen! I am planning on facilitating get togethers every other month or so for parents to get together and socialize, and hope they will be well attended. If anyone would like to help facilitate those, or if you have good ideas for places for meet and greets, please don't hesitate to ask. I love the help!

*More Business Reminders...*

\*I do billing on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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! We had a wonderful year of consistent teachers, and in this crazy valley I am so thankful for that. This summer, we have had several great teachers move on to other things, which is always unfortunate. I have had many people tell me that I hire the best teachers in the valley, and for this I am so grateful. I take time to hire only the best, and am super happy with the staff I am setting up for the school year (and hopefully beyond)! Please let me know any feedback you have on teachers- both negative and positive, as they are the most important people in your child's daily lives at school. I try to create a family at school, and we are all very open to conversation and feedback- especially bucket fillers! My teachers work very hard and love the praise as much as anyone.

This year, here are the teachers for each group:

**Teeny**- Miss Chloe M-Th (aka Baby Whisperer), Miss Jenn M-F, Miss Lane M-F, and Miss Emily T and Th mornings. I believe everyone has gotten to know Miss Jenn and Miss Lane-they are awesome!!

Miss Emily has lived here for years, and actually worked at Tzeny when she had her first baby who is now in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Her son Ronan is attending Tzeny, and Emily is happy to be back! She has a degree in Early Childhood Education, and is passionate about this field. She is a mom (like I said), which makes her even more sensitive to the needs of the littlest ones in our care. I am so happy to have her back!

**Little**- Miss Amanda T-F- Upstairs with the Buds on W-F, helping all around on Tuesdays (Amanda is on year 9 with Little Red!! She is amazing.)

Miss Leah Mae – M-F with the Sprouts group (same kids as last year). There are 2 groups of Sprouts this year since it's a big class, so we have the advantage of placing them in groups according to who works well together and who doesn't. They will all go outside together and spend afternoons together as well, so it's just a matter of the morning curriculum times.

Miss Kerry- M-F with the other Sprouts group. Kerry is just starting now, so if you haven't met her please introduce yourself! She is such an asset to Little Red and excited to begin her journey here. She comes from Kansas City but worked at the CBMR nursery years ago with some of my teachers (who recommended her). She is passionate about kids, and excited to take some more Early Childhood Education courses and delve into this career!

Miss Leah W- M-F. Leah is sharing the upstairs classroom with Amanda and will be teaching the Buds on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wed-Fri she will be the Seeds teacher for our littlest ones. She is

excited to bring her teaching knowledge to both sets of kiddos! Leah grew up in Crested Butte and just received her Elementary Ed degree last Spring. Her son Niko attends Little Red, and she is really excited to be at the school loving and teaching the younger set all day. We are really lucky to have her!

Miss Katie- M and T's with the Seeds. Katie has been working for months over at Teeny with the infants and toddlers and has decided to move over with some of the kiddos and teach the Seeds for a couple days a week. She has a quiet and gentle nature that works well with the 2s, and is thrilled to be furthering her knowledge at the "big" school. She just moved here this summer, and has been live in nannying for a family with 3 kids ever since. She has a special way with kids, and I am thrilled to have her team teaching with Miss Leah for the Seeds this year!

## 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 5:1 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](http://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

