

FRAMINGHAM CENTRE NURSERY SCHOOL
24 Vernon Street 508-875-8260 www.fcnsma.org
September, 2009

Dear Parents,

Each month you will be receiving a FCNS newsletter. It will help to keep you informed of upcoming events, dates to remember, procedures we try to follow at the school, basic information on young children, etc., which is why returning families will have already seen some of this last year. There's always something new included, though. We urge you to read it and add it to your nursery school file for future reference. Thank you.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- September 16, Wednesday - First PTO Meetings at 9:15am and 7:30pm
- September 22, Tuesday - Family Playground Picnic at 5:30pm (raindate is September 24, Thursday)
- September 28, *Monday - School closed - Yom Kippur *corrected day of the week
- **October 7, Wednesday – FCNS is OPEN (Framingham Public Schools are NOT OPEN)**
- October 12, Monday - School closed - Columbus Day
- October 21-22, Wednesday-Thursday - School Pictures

DO YOU KNOW?

Children are as different in their ways of transitioning into school as they are in doing everything else. Some start off hesitantly or with resistance and take their time becoming more comfortable. Others begin eagerly with a big smile only to have their time for separation difficulties pop up unexpectedly a week, month or more later when they realize that this school business involves being away from what's going on at home.

Both of these styles are common along with every gradation between the two. Our job at FCNS is always to support a child's individual needs and in doing so to make this a place where each child feels secure, nurtured and eager to learn about the world. We can give you some ideas for supporting separation challenges.

TUITION PAYMENTS AND FORMS AND THE BLACK MAILBOX ON THE OFFICE DOOR

We hope to soon start sending email invoices, but for the present it will be email reminders that payments are due in the school office by the 10th of the month. A late fee of \$20 will be charged after the 10th. The September payment is the 2nd of 9. If you are uncertain of any aspect of the payment program please inquire in the office. Please put the checks into the black mailbox on the office door. Please note any difference between your and your child's last names so that we know for which child the tuition is being paid.

Please put any important forms or other paperwork into the black mailbox on the office door. Too many items put on Kay's desk have already gone missing leading to frustration for all parties!

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Thank you for waiting in the entry room with your child until 9 and 12:15 when classes begin – teachers will open classroom doors when it is time for classes to start. A very short lunch break for some teachers occurs between the two sessions. Hours for the various options are:

Early Arrival	8:00am – 9:00am
Morning Session	9:00am – 11:45am or 9:00am – 1:00pm
Stay Day	11:45am – 2:45pm or 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Lunch Bunch (M-F)	11:45am – 1:00pm
Afternoon Session	12:15pm – 3:00pm
Extended Day	2:45pm or 3:00pm – no later than 5:30pm

Respecting these hours means that the program will run smoothly and, in addition, ensures that children will not be upset by being picked up late. Most teachers assume responsibilities for other groups of children in other rooms immediately. If you know that you are going to be detained or there is an unexpected change, please call the school so that you or we can reassure your child.

If you need to either bring your child to school late or pick him/her up mid-session, please let the office know. We keep very close track of attendance during the day. We always want to be sure we know exactly how many children and exactly which children we are responsible for at any given time. This also holds for a change in plans for a child who ordinarily stays for Stay Day or Extended Day. Please let us know if he/she will not be staying.

The other important request we would like to make is that you **always** be sure your child's teacher knows that you are leaving your child in her care or that you are taking your child. With a school as large as ours, as well as with the confusion that necessarily goes along with so many people in the same space, younger siblings entering and exiting the classroom and your child being understandably excited to see you at the end of school, we want to take extra care. Your child's safety is our primary concern.

You can help ensure the safety of other children in your child's class by saying goodbye as you leave to any child talking to you and your child. This will help him/her understand that he/she needs to wait in the room with the teachers for his/her own parent.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

You may initiate a conference at any time with your child's teachers. As soon as we get to know the children a little better and we have all adjusted a little more, the Lead Teacher will be sending home a brief progress report about your child's transition into school. You may then sign up for a short conference if you wish. We keep records on each child's development and will be sharing this information with you as the year goes on. A more formal and extensive conference will be scheduled in the late spring.

SHARING THE WORLD AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

It is our strength and joy that FCNS families come from all over the world, speak many languages and represent an enormous number of religious, cultural and family traditions. We have truly become a global village! In tribute of the richness of our diversity, we would like to honor important family customs. Some of our families always go apple picking or plant flower bulbs together in the fall. Maybe everything else stops while you all have dinner together every night. Many of our families celebrate special holidays

Sharing these traditions is a way to help us get to know each other. Please be thinking about how your family would like to do that for the October bulletin board. We invite you to share your family's most meaningful celebration or family time, no matter when it occurs with a photograph and explanation, a story, a poem, a CD or a symbolic object or anything else that will allow us all to learn more about each other. Items for the bulletin board can be given to Kay at any time. We promise to take good care of your treasures and to return them to you in November. Thank you for sharing your special festive occasions! And thank you for helping us learn from each other.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS – Please:

- Dress your child accordingly or put extra layers into his/her school bag for any weather changes that may take place during the day. This is particularly true for those children who stay at school for Stay Day and/or Extended Day. We play outdoors every day unless the weather is really inclement.
- Be sure your child has sneakers to wear at school on Thursdays and Fridays (gym days).
- Label the **outside** of your child's lunchbox and bag (and everything belonging to your child). It really helps teachers to be able to easily determine which item belongs to whom. Please leave at home any clip-on toys. They are dangerous in our tight space. Teachers and children have been hit in the face with these items.
- Do not send a sippy cup to school except one containing a lunch beverage and packed in a lunchbox. Other children may drink from it. We always have fresh water and cups for thirsty children.
- Do not permit your child to play on the hillside above the playground or on the ramp railings because it is dangerous. The courtyard in the front of our building is much safer and playing there is not a distraction to children who have not been dismissed.

We hope you are enjoying reading the lesson plans posted outside each classroom in the hall about the opportunities presented for your child each day by his/her teachers. You can see that there will be times when there is no artwork going home with your child — the day the group bakes cookies or makes and plays with play dough, when the class is working on the scenery for a play, when the child chooses to have his/her work remain in the classroom hanging on the wall, when it is the group's turn to "do" the bulletin board in the main hallway, or if a child simply doesn't feel like cutting, painting, etc. that day, but instead prefers to build with blocks or engage in dramatic play. Much, much learning goes on here every day in the form of play and just plain fun! In the words of George Bernard Shaw, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."