the 2010-2011

SEED newsletter

6630 S. 40th Street • Phoenix, Arizona • 85042 • (602) 454-2606

August 23, 2010 • www.awakeingseedschool.org

New Parent Orientation

This Wednesday, August 25th, is New Parent Orientation. All new parents are encouraged to attend. Free childcare is available for preschool and elementary students. If you are the parent of a toddler, if possible please have one parent stay home with your child and send the other one to the meeting. A roomful of tired, crying toddlers at 6:30 in the evening is not much fun for anyone. The meeting starts at 6:30 and ends at 8:00. Members of the Seed Board of Directors will be present to talk with new parents from 7:30 to 8:00.

Student Files and Information

Kristen is working hard to pull together all student information and files. Please get your paperwork in as soon as possible to help speed up this process.

Medication Alert

We want to remind parents (especially toddler parents) not to carry loose medication in your pockets when you're doing drop-off or pick-up. We found someone's medication on the floor in the toddler room last week. Staff have been notified of this as well.

Volunteer Committees

Check out the bulletin board across from the bathrooms to see all of the volunteer choices for this year. Each family is asked to volunteer a minimum of ten hours per year. Please take some time to check out the board and the committee descriptions. If you have any questions, see Mary or send an email to seedsdirector@me.com.

After School News

After school is starting off on a great note. We have two new after school assistants, Nancy and Emily! If you see them out on the playground or in the multi, be sure to introduce yourself. The theme for August is all about the great outdoors. We started off by making egg carton caterpillars and digging for bones in the sand. We'll also make recycled planters, birdhouses, wind chimes, and coffee filter flowers. The girls are excited to start cheer and dance with Candice. Diane is also going to start knitting club within the month, so look for a flyer in your mailbox!

Toddler 1s
Sarah/Meryl/Danielle

Our first week went quite well considering it was the first time many of the students had been in a setting outside of the home. There were very few tears and many happy faces at the end of each day. During the first few days, the children explored the room and were given opportunities to play with new and interesting toys such as the Weebleville Castle, Treehouse & Playhouse. The children also enjoyed meeting our music, Spanish, and P.E. teachers. During quiet times we read stories, gave hugs and rested on cozy napping cribs and cots. If you have not completed and returned the Toddler Questionnaire, please do so soon. Extra copies are on the front counter.

Toddler 2s
Jamie/Lyndsy

Welcome to the Toddler 2s classroom! Last week we met our new teachers, explored our new classroom, made some new friends and probably the most important. . . found the new toys. Our first activity involved experimenting with different painting tools. Some of us used brushes, others liked the gloves and then there were the swatters! Flying paint was not on the lesson plan but it sure was fun! Don't forget to check out the classroom website for updated information every Friday.

naeyc Accredited

Preschool 2.5s/3s
Carly/Melanie
Melanie and I are so excited for this school year! It was an amazing first week of school. The kids jumped right into the routine with ease and are forming bonds with each other quickly. The class explored their new surroundings with excitement and energy. We have been focusing on getting to know one another and soon we will be working together to brainstorm our first major study. It is starting off to be a great school year!

Preschool 3s
Kevin/Katie
The 3s resolved the final cadence of their prelude of summer with eager exploration, as they familiarized themselves with the room and each other. We'll continue to focus on daily procedures and self-help skills like pouring juice, packing lunch boxes and putting on shoes. The subject this week pertains to details of routine such as "Popsicles, please...melt", watching for the timer, and pointing out helpful choices. Please be sure to check the yellow bulletin board to learn about different ways you could help our class. Katie and I thank you for helping your child's transition go so smoothly!

Preschool 4s
Deb/Billie
The sounds of excited children filled the hallways during Open House as the Preschool 4s located cubbies, searched for circle spots and plucked up the courage to ask teachers a question or two. The first week of school was spent learning classroom procedures, practicing clean up routines, testing out the new doll house (thanks to Dina Tseffos) and personalizing cubby labels with liquid watercolors, glitter glue and sparkly bits. Two new Seedlings and their families have joined us this year. We warmly welcome Marius Bradley and Jack Nelson to the school!

PreK
Emily/Tatiana
Building rules. Discovering sap. Writing names. Singing new songs. Introducing computers and butterfly wings. It was a full first week. Eager smiles and quick responses accompanied our circle times; evidence of our comfort in a new setting among old friends. "We are pre-kindergartners now!" was a common, proud statement heard throughout the building. Each day, students worked on their friend books, in which they de-scrambled a student's name, wrote it out and drew a picture. Some students are already making sound/letter connections. We are looking forward to another great week, filled with junk collections and family photos.

K-1
Kerri/Michelle
We're falling into a comfortable routine with our days already full of math, writing, reading, art and free choice. Science interest will soon soar as we anticipate the arrival of caterpillars during Spanish class with Diane and study the life cycle of butterflies. Pirate, the hermit crab, is currently the most popular name for our classroom pet. Kindergarten students have begun exploring math materials and 1st graders are already working on math facts to sums of 10. Student reading conferences are nearly complete and we will begin reading groups (and homework) next week. We're off to a great start!

1st/2nd Grades
Becky/Dina
Carefully we create an atmosphere in our classroom as we choose the arrangement of the furnishings and placement of all the little things we grow so accustomed to seeing that we only notice when they are missing. The second graders have scanned the room for any changes that have been made. They have all been eager to teach the first graders about the routines of our learning community that they remember from last year. The first graders are miraculously learning and following the flow of this 1st/2nd grade group. We all celebrate this brand new school year.

3rd/4th Grades
Aimee/Kaylee
The 3rd/4th graders are proving themselves to be a small but mighty group. By the end of the second day of school we had already created some amazing works of art, self portraits now on display in our classroom window. They're made from clear vinyl and permanent markers. First, we took photos of the children at the Open House or on the first day of school. Then, we added a filter in Photoshop and printed them out. The children traced their faces and then colored them in and added decorative borders with our names hidden in them. The finished products are incredibly realistic.

Mark Your Calendar

New Parent Orientation/ Meet the Board
Wednesday, August 25th
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

APA Meeting
Wednesday, September 1st
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Room Rep Meeting
Thursday, September 2nd
9:00 a.m.

Parent Night Week
Mon-Thurs, September 13th-16th
times and dates to be announced by classroom teachers

Tie Dye/Tile Day
Thursday, September 23rd
3-6 p.m.

Quote of the Week:
Alejandro Solis, age 2, didn't waste any time getting his social life going. He leaned over to his classmateand asked, "Faith, do you want to go to Mimi's with me?

August Birthdays
Lauren Bell
Carter Walsh
Nizhoni Deschene
Chloe Conrad
Emma Schultz
Jaden Zorensky
Zoe Blocher-Rubin
Blaine Butler
Lily Sar