

Dear Families,

### **Open House for Parents**

Ms. Jenifer and I look forward to meeting with many of you at "Open House for Parents" on Wednesday or Thursday this week. If you are unable to attend on your assigned date, you are welcome to join us on the alternate. (Please send us a note.) Assignments: Last names A-M, Wed. 9/2, 4:15-4:45pm; last names N-Z, Thurs. 9/3, 4:15-4:45pm.

### **Parent Education Nights**

You will soon be receiving information from the administration about our Parent Education Nights on Wed. Sept. 9 and Tues. Sept. 15. I will be there on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Jenifer will attend on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Back to School**

The students are doing very well in these first days of the new school year. They are picking up from last year's progress with relative ease. These first few weeks we will continue reviewing familiar lessons and materials, while gradually adding new ones. We will also do informal assessments of reading and math skills.

We are sending home lots of paper today. MJ is still working on updating the teacher pages on our TMES website and the email group lists, so we are not able to be as "green" as we plan to be yet. In the future we'll be able to send letters like this one via email, as well as have them posted on our page.

### **Open Space Permission Slips**

Please return the Open Space permission form ASAP. As soon as we have collected these for all 25 students we will be able to incorporate the open space area behind our school into our activities. Last year we visited this area to observe nature, sketch and write, and to build land and water forms.

### **Scholastic Book Orders**

Scholastic Book order fliers are also in folders today. The due date for current orders will be **Wednesday, September 9**. *(Please ignore the date on the fliers. We intended to send these home on Friday, but the school copier was out of order.)*

I've set up online ordering for our class at [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com). We'll continue to send paper order forms home with the students for more convenient browsing, and of course, you may still submit "paper" orders. (See below.)\* Here's how online ordering works:

1. Use the information below to access the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site.
2. Browse the titles with your child, and place your order with your credit card.
3. Your order will come to me, and your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money to school.
4. After I submit the entire class's order to Scholastic, your order will be delivered to our classroom for your child to take home.

**Scholastic online parent ordering page:** [www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering)

**Class User Name:** mskarenstmesclass

**Our Password:** TMES

Ordering online is a convenient way to use Scholastic Book Clubs. You may order anytime, right up until the online order due date. And this month, our class can earn additional FREE books, just for using this online ordering service.

Paper Orders: Payment must accompany your order, with checks made out to "Scholastic." If there is more than one flier sent home, write only one check. Please return any orders in your child's correspondence folder. Thanks!

### **Spelling**

We are using spelling worksheets again this year. These will usually be sent home Thursdays so that students may review their words for a test on Friday afternoon. This should not entail more than a quick review as the children have practiced their words during school hours all week. Please don't be concerned if your child does not seem to know their words on Thursday. We will be working with them each week to improve their retention and the "tests" are simply a measure of what we need to focus on.

Unless I've written or stamped a note requesting that work be completed and returned, whatever they have completed (even with errors) is all that we're asking for that week. Although this spelling is not a Montessori work, it gives the students a chance to practice other ways of demonstrating comprehension and skills acquisition. Expectations for these are individualized for each child. For very early readers and writers, this may focus on encouraging them to understand the format and to begin to experience success in placing letters and words correctly on the lines. For fluent readers this will include expository or creative writing exercises and refining other skills.

### **Homework**

Except in the case of special projects (such as Science Fair, Art Fair, etc.) or on rare occasions when a child has unfinished spelling or National Geographic work due to time management choices during the school day, we will not have homework. The only "homework" we suggest is for students to practice their violin, allot some time for conversation and for reading with their families, and get a good night's rest!

### **Wish Lists**

I've sent Ms. MJ our wish lists for classroom gifts and volunteer help to add to our webpage. If these are not posted by the Open House nights, we'll have copies for you then.

### **Contact Me**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Sending a note in your child's correspondence folder or emailing me at [kreck@tmesnm.com](mailto:kreck@tmesnm.com) are the best ways to get in touch. I only check this email during the school week.

We'll discuss other areas of the curriculum at the Open House and in future newsletters.

See you soon,

Ms. Karen