



Sharing Times



Kirkland Preschool
 802 - 2nd St., Kirkland, WA. 98033
 Carolyn Wirkman, Director & Editor
www.kirklandpreschool.org
 wirkmanc@frontier.com
 425-822-4450



CALENDAR

Sat. 8/24 *If you live nearby, join us at the Norkirk & Highlands Neighborhood Picnic – Crestwood Park, 12-4.*

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS – 7:15 – 8:30:

Wed. 9/4 *is for Tues-Wed-Thurs-Fri class (4 to 5-1/2 yr. olds)*

Thur. 9/5 *is for Tues-Thurs class and Mon-Wed-Fri class*

***** *Parent Information Nights – 7:15 – 8:30 – at the preschool (802 – 2nd St.)*

Please join us to meet the teachers and other parents and to receive important information about our school year. You also sign up for your child's special before-school visit, so please bring your personal calendar.

Sorry, no child care is available.

If you are parents of siblings in different classes, you are welcome at both or either evenings. You can pick whichever is most important or convenient, although each class has important unique information for you.

Week of 9/9 *Each child and parent comes for a special before-school visit with his or her teacher. Appointments are made at the Parent Information Night.*

***** Please bring your personal calendar so you can select some of your Family Helper days < 2nd of the 10 tuition payments due. please >**

Week of 9/16 *Classes begin.*

Tues. 9/17 *First of our new Lunch Plus sessions! (see article on p.4)*

Mon. 10/7 *First class for our Treasure box Book Club*

Fri. 10/25 *Field trip to a Farm for all classes (except Treasure Box Book Club)*

Fri 11/1 *School closed for our Teacher In-Service Day.*

(More calendar information is on p.5, and will be in your School Handbook and on www.kirklandpreschool.org .)



We are very happy you are part of our Kirkland Preschool community, as we start our 44th year!





Carolyn's comments

WELCOME, EVERYONE!

We love our summers – especially ones as pleasant as this one. But we REALLY love getting back to school, seeing old friends and meeting many new ones. We are planning wonderful new learning adventures for all the children. And we are READY! TO! GO!!!

Our older students usually are also quite ready to go. Even if they are new to our school, they often have the confidence to walk in the door eager to find something fun to do and someone fun to share it.

Our younger students, however, may be a little more tentative. Think of it like this ---

With this wonderful summer, you and your family might have had some swimming time. How do you like to first get in the water? How does your child? Are you so eager you just jump right in, splashing and laughing? Do you like to dabble your toes first and get used to the temperature? Are there days when you just want to stretch out on a lounge chair, reading a book, and your child just wants to play near but not in the water?

Just like your feelings about getting in the water, you and your child have many feelings about “jumping into school”. How can you eager ones, cautious ones, and really-not-so-sure ones “test the waters” and all end up feeling positive and successful?

At home, you can help your child develop a comfortable anticipation for school. You can “play school”. With stuffed animals, puppets or dolls, children can practice how to ask for a turn with a toy or how to join a group who are already playing together. You can reinforce how to ask teachers or other children for help, thus empowering your child. Besides pretending to be “the student”, children like the power of being the one in charge and telling their grown-ups what they need to do!

It's helpful to keep a positive, calm attitude about school, even if YOU are the not-so-sure one. Establish ahead of time some kind of good-bye ritual that you use whenever you separate (even if it's only to the bathroom!) Possibly, you have a secret wink or a special combination of hugs and kisses or some silly good-bye rhyme.

When the first day of school arrives, even all these preparations may seem to fail. Still, it's best to keep the positive, calm approach. Use your special good-bye and reassure your child that you will be back after school. Since young children hear us talk about their “school day”, please be sure to specify how long school really is --- morning children's parents come back before lunch, for instance.

A warning --- children are terribly confused and distressed by lingering good-byes. If you ask, “Are you ready for me to go?” you can imagine the answer. If you keep saying that you're going and don't, or if you keep coming back for one more hug, your child may become more and more upset. Your positive, calm and predictable approach will demonstrate that you have confidence in your child and the teachers.

Even if there are a few tears, teachers are wonderfully comforting. Most children calm down and become interested in activities shortly after their adults leave. Of course, you are left with the image of an upset child, so practice positive thinking so you don't feel bad!

Remember, though, not everyone is the sort to dash into a situation and feel immediately comfortable. Some like to find a quiet spot to watch before venturing out. Adults should acknowledge those children's powers of observation and gently help them feel comfortable in more parts of the room. Some like to shadow a teacher before wanting to go off on their own. Adults can let those children know how appreciated their companionship is and slowly introduce them to other children. Some have to voice objections every single day before arriving at school and by doing so, release their anxieties. Understanding teachers can compliment the grown-ups on their patience(!), acknowledge to the children that it is hard to make the change from being at home to being at school, and matter-of-factly get them involved in the daily routine.

At the end of the day, keep up your adult positive tone. Rather than asking “How did it go today?” or “Did you make any friends?”, try “What made you feel good today?”, “Tell me about story time” or “What do you think you want to try tomorrow?”

Whether it's the water or school or any new situation, acknowledging your feelings and recognizing those of your child, and then working with these feelings, will eventually add up to a positive, empowered outcome.

HOW DO WE START SCHOOL?

Kirkland Preschool is YOUR school, so we want all our families to feel comfortable here. One way is to know what's happening and for you to see how everyone and everything fits together.

We start with our evening Parent Meetings for each class. We plan a lively evening, well worth your time! When you come, you get to meet other families and the teachers in your class. We go over some basic information so you know our school routines and culture. This is the basis for feeling like you are "in the know". It's always awkward when a family doesn't get some important piece of information and then feels left out of the loop.

Special note to our returning families: THIS EVENING IS FOR YOU, TOO! We have lots of important new information to share and besides, we miss you! And, you are our most excellent resources for the new families so we want you all to meet and start developing friendships.

Also at this evening meeting, families sign up for short family visits which take place the week of 9/9, so bring your personal calendar that night.

Please note this is a parents' meeting. We cannot offer childcare.

Then at the family visit, your child gets the chance to meet one of his or her teachers in the classroom and find out important stuff, like "Are there any toys at school?" and "Where's the bathroom?" We take photos for the coat hooks and cubbies or baskets and for our family bulletin board. You sign up for some of your family's classroom helping days, so please bring your personal calendar. We count on a helper for each school day in each morning class. But, we also want families to spread out their own days, so others don't have to wait a long time between opportunities.

Classes actually start the week of 9/16, and then we're off and running.



This brings up the point that parents really have the responsibility to read school notices and make note of important dates and details. Life is busy and complicated for all of us, but it's hard on your child and you if you always feel out-of-step.

Our School Handbook is on-line at www.kirklandpreschool.org. We send home monthly class calendars, full of information, and these are also posted on the website. Extra copies are available on each class bulletin board. It may be difficult, but at least one adult in the family should take the responsibility to sift through whatever comes home each day, admire the unique art projects AND find the school notices AND read them.

And be sure to find us on Facebook by searching "Kirkland Preschool".

All the teachers, Carolyn and Jennifer, our fundraising chair, try to be accessible to answer questions and explain the "mysteries" of preschool. Please just ask! We don't want you to feel left out of anything.



WATCH YOUR EMAILS ...

... for messages from Jennifer Wirkman, on behalf of Kirkland Preschool.

Jennifer is our school's office assistant, event coordinator and our school nursing consultant. She handles much of the electronic communication to our school community. She gives us advice on our "illness" policy and sends health alerts to you if someone comes down with a contagious illness. Some parents use her as a texting contact if, say, their child is staying home sick, because she actually sees text messages more quickly than the teachers and Carolyn do. She oversees our Facebook page, produces our school phone lists, and is in charge of our social events --- including our fundraising efforts. She is one organizin' gal!





LUNCH PLUS = FUN! FUN! FUN!

Ye-e-es! Some days, you need more school time. This year, we are able to help on most Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday early afternoons.

Our Lunch Plus program is a separate 2-1/2 hour class for your child. You send lunch in an insulated bag. After morning school, your child enjoys lunch with Teacher Patrice and another teacher in the downstairs classroom. Children are picked up at 2:00. That's the nitty-gritty.

Here's the FUN! FUN! FUN! In between lunch and pick-up time, our Lunch Plus kids have time to chill out or have great adventures --- it all depends on the day and their moods. Sometimes the group - and they really do form into a close group of friends - like to engage in low-key indoor play. Other times they are ready for large projects that are special just for them. Sometimes they have small adventures out in the neighborhood, such as their bark-rubbing walk late last winter. And of course, we have our own playground - and it's all for them!

Because this additional program adds more time to your child's day, please consider his or her stamina. We also need to require that Lunch Plus children are confidently potty-trained.

Families can sign up for every day, for some days, or if there is room, on a drop-in basis. A new sign-up form will be available just before each new month.

This separate program costs \$18 per day.

CURRENT OPENINGS – TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Everyone always thinks our school is always full, but right now, we have some openings. Please consider sharing this information with your friends.

- *For children who are older 2's to younger 3's— our T-Th class has openings.*
- *For children who are 3 or younger 4 -- our M-W-F class has openings.*
- *Also for 4's & 5's, our Treasure Box Book Club, which meets Mondays from 9:30-1:30, is now accepting registration. This is our very special literacy-based class, which is organized into 3 different sessions of 9 weeks each.*



WE LOVE YOUR “ODDS ‘N ENDS”!

During the year we'll ask for some specific things for particular projects, but we also love receiving various “odds 'n ends” --- things such as:

- paper grocery bags – the large ones
- those funny pressed cardboard forms found in new shoes
- scraps of soft lumber - small chunks as well as 6"-12" lengths – not too thick, though
- green plastic mesh berry baskets – washed, please
- small Trader Joe's yogurt containers with lids – washed, please
- buttons, if you are discarding an article of clothing and not sending it on to someone else
- all sorts of odd little things that can be used for “inventions” & collages

We use lots of recyclable materials for projects, encouraging children to use their creativity as we keep things out of the waste stream. So if you have some odd somethings or others that need to get out of your house, please check with us. We may very well be able to help take them off your hands!



PLANNING YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR...

Here is a general school calendar so you may plan vacations, etc. As the year progresses, each class shares specific calendars with information about class topics, projects, field trips and goals.

9/4 TWThF parents' meeting

9/5 TTh parents' & MWF parents' meeting

By the 10th of each month 2nd through 10th tuition checks due, please

Week of 9/9 Family visits at school

9/16 MWF class 1st day of school

9/17 TWThF class 1st day of school

9/17 TTh class - 1st day of school for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the class

9/20 TTh class - 1st day for the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the class

10/3 TWThF class' open house night (6:30-7:15)

10/7 - 12/16 1st Treasure Box Book Club session

10/14 No Treasure Box Book Club class today

10/25 Jubilee Farm field trip for TTh, MWF, & TWThF classes - *for everyone!*

11/1 School closed for Teachers' Inservice Day

11/11 School closed for observance of Veterans' Day

11/28 & 29 School closed for Thanksgiving

12/23-1/3/14 School closed for winter break

1/6 - 3/17 2nd Treasure Box Book Club session

1/20 School closed for Martin Luther King Day

Month of January don't forget to register for next year's classes!

2/17-21 School closed for mid-winter break

(note: This time frame is different from Lake Washington School District's)

3/22 Annual School Auction *(tentative)*

3/24 - 5/30 3rd Treasure Box Book Club session

4/7 - 4/11 School closed for spring break

5/26 School closed for Memorial Day

6/12 Last day for TTh class *****(see below)***

6/13 Last day for TWThF class & MWF class, celebrated at the beach *(for all classes, including TTh)*

Summer, 2014 Summer Adventures available --- watch for exact dates!

