



August 2010

Dear Families,

Welcome to kindergarten! Beginning school is a big step for both you and your child, and we are sure that you are feeling both anxious and excited. There is a lot to be excited about, but far less to be anxious or worried about. The kindergarten team at Palmer is eager to meet both you and your child, and we look forward to making this first experience with formal schooling as rewarding and as memorable an experience as possible.

Therefore, we would like to begin by offering a few suggestions so that you can help your child with this new beginning and make the transition as easy as possible. For example, about two weeks before school begins start talking to your child about their new routine. You might also begin by having your child go to bed a little earlier like they will when school starts. Another suggestion is to have lunch together, using their new lunch pail, and try to finish in half an hour. This will show them how long they have to eat during the school lunch period. It will also help you see what they might have difficulty with, as far as opening straws and containers. Finally, try not to show that you are upset as you put your child on the bus. Children react to what their parents are feeling. Reassure them and tell them you will be excited to hear about the day when they come home.

You can also help by doing the following things for us this year:

- Label your child's belongings: lunch pail, coats, backpacks, etc. with a permanent marker
- If your child is absent for any reason please send a note when he/ she returns.
- If your child is to travel home from school in any way that is different than usual, a written note **must** be sent to school with your child.
- A snack list will be sent home each month with your child, with each child taking turns. Don't worry if you are unable to send something or if you forget; send it when you remember, and we will save it for another time.
- Please send a nutritious snack: fruits, cheese, vegetables, whole grain cereals. **Birthday treats are fine.**
- Lunch money should be sent in a separate labeled envelope.

A list of things that your child should bring to school is attached to this letter. We will have more information for you during the first week of school such as a list of special classes. The elementary schools are on a six-day cycle for special classes. We will help you with this by placing the numbered days on the snack calendar. There will be an orientation for kindergarten students and their families during the last week in August. At that time, we will be able to give you more information and answer any questions that you may have. More information about the kindergarten orientation will be coming from the elementary office.

Most importantly, we want you to know that we recognize that you are a vitally important part of your child's education. We want to encourage you to contact your child's teacher when ever there is a concern, and we encourage you to take part in school activities as frequently as is possible for you. We will be looking for volunteers throughout the year for daily center activities, holiday parties, special event days, field trips and more. There will be sign up sheets for parents to volunteer in whatever way best fits their schedules at Kindergarten Orientation. It is important to us that you feel a part of your child's kindergarten year. You can contact either one of us at school from about 8:15- 4:00 during the school year. The number is 655-8225. We can also be reached by email at any time. Mrs. Abdullah can be reached at sabdullah@windsor-csd.org, and Mrs. Hoyt can be reached at dhoyt@windsor-csd.org. E mail is a wonderful way for us to remain accessible to you from both home and school. Both of us will also be in throughout the summer, and if you contact the school office you may very likely catch us in.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your child, and to learning many new and wonderful things together.

Sincerely,

Sheri Abdullah
Debra Hoyt