

September 8, 2021

Dear Families

The literary merit of corporate America's children's films and T.V. shows is slim, so we thank you for remembering that it is easier for the teachers to bring the acclaimed, but subtle children's works to the forefront. If you eat a Disney diet, it's harder to appreciate Shakespeare later.....

Thank you for being patient with us with the First Day "roll out." We evaluate ourselves every day. As you can imagine, it's sometimes hard to focus but we're always cheerfully working on it. This staff is a gem mine, fruit orchard, day at the theatre, not to mention beach!

About 75% of you are connected to Class DOJO. Tell us if you need help connecting.

On a rainy day, you will be happier, if you bring an umbrella at drop-off and dismissal times.

If your family, as mine, lost a member on 9/11 our still shaky hearts are with you...

Best,
Joanne

September 13, 2021

Dear Families

A word about week 2!

Children who marched in happily and did not show sadness week one, may display a whole range of heartache on week 2 or even six months in. We offer reassurance and a timeline for when you are returning.

Example

Dad is driving to work while we play with blocks. Then he is in a meeting while we sing songs. Then he is working at his computer while we eat snack. We are doing yoga while he writes at his desk. He will be driving back to Sprout House while we play in the side yard.

Each teacher has a certain style for comforting. We will however call if that seems to be the best strategy. There is one maxim for this situation: Never lie to a young child....

If you haven't already done so, please accept your DOJO invitation.

Best,
Joanne

Sept 23, 2021

Dear families

The way we celebrate Halloween is more about the richness of the harvest season. In fact, we really don't celebrate it per se, because of its complicated nature (and it is an interesting subject for older children). We will, however, decide on poems, songs and stories that are age-appropriate. Costumes, which are dangerous to wear and terrifying to a few children, are not a part of our program. Thank you for understanding. Tricks or Treats are not on the agenda as I'm sure you can imagine.

Rain gear reminders may be in order. We must go outdoors every day....it may be more comfortable to stay dry when it gets colder.

I am sure you have been reading about the challenges of the Child Care industry. The greater community and our specific circle of friends will be better off considering ways to solve these huge issues. Childcare centers are closing near and far.

If you use Amazon, a good way to make them more honorable, is to support Non-Profits, by using smileamazon.com We hope you will consider Sprout House.

Saturday is Fishawack which in English means "crossing of the Passaic" in Chatham. Fishawack is a Lenape word for the time of year when it was possible to cross the river easily. We are guilty of commercializing this thoughtful Native American perspective of noticing important transitions. Visit our booth at Post Office Plaza. We will be selling a Sprout Nature Guide and some T-shirts, but in our hearts thinking "Fishawack."

In the past few days, we received new mandates from the state. Indoors, everyone is required to wear masks. We try to be outdoors as much as possible.

Here is a note from Miss Danielle. It is NOT a strict goodbye. She will be a substitute teacher in the future.

Dear families,

I am writing to let you know that I have made the very difficult decision to leave sprout house. I have recently enrolled in a grant writing program and it will require a great deal of my time and focus. While I am sad to say goodbye, I am very excited to embark on this new chapter. I have really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of your children and will miss them all so much, but they are in great hands with Ms. Griffith and Mr. Mustaffah! I wish everyone all the best and am confident it will be an amazing rest of the school year!

Warmly,
Miss Danielle

Tonight is Back to School Night. The teachers are sharing info about a day in the life.... but be assured no two days are alike, with an Emergent Curriculum. We know this is an awkward time of night for putting children to bed so we will keep it to....strictly classroom info to keep it as short as possible. Have fun.

Best,
Joanne Lockwood White
