

## *Kindergarten July Family Newsletter, 2021*

### **Holiday**

Kindergarten will be closed Monday, July 5, 2021 in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There will be no charge for that day.

### **Alert**

**As of June 28, 2021** we have 4 confirmed cases of **Pink Eye** (conjunctivitis). Please be on the lookout for this. It is not following the normal pattern for this illness. It has hit our allergy kids first. There is no pinkness in the whites of the eyes. However, the children appear to have allergy shiners (the skin under the eye is swollen and reddish/purplish). This may be under one eye or both eyes. When children are crying or have just awoken, they often have green gunk in the corner of the eyes. After you wipe it away, it usually doesn't reappear right away but may reappear later.

There are four types of conjunctivitis. One is allergic conjunctivitis and it is not supposed to be contagious. However, it is suspicious that we have 4 confirmed cases (and possibly 5 within 7 days) but all of these children have very bad allergies. We do recommend if you see these symptoms in your child, please take him/her to the Doctor and get the medicine as soon as you are able.

### **Extra Clothes**

Please continue to keep extra clothes and/or shoes in your child's backpack or cubby. Sticking an old towel in the backpack or cubby may also be a good idea. As it keeps getting hotter and hotter, we are more tempted to engage in water play and water play brings about wetness. We are teaching while we are playing in the water so it is definitely educational water play and it cools us down too.

It would probably be a good idea to dress your child in play clothes every day. However, I know what it is like to be late for work and your child is insistent on wearing her princess outfit and heels—just let her, and stick play clothes/shoes in a bag to bring to the center and don't lose a beat. We will change your child as needed. You may also keep clothes at the center and only replace as needed.

## **Covid-19 Regulations Easing Up**

The Governor has lifted many of the Childcare Covid-19 regulations within the last couple of weeks. At first we were keeping many of the precautions in place because we had been able to stay healthy at work so well and we wanted to keep that up! However, we have decided to relax a few things.

Unless we are re-mandated to do otherwise, we will no longer wear masks or ask families to wear masks when they drop off and pick up children. However, there are some things we will keep doing at least for the time being. We will continue to:

- **Keep the front doors locked**  
Keep knocking when you do not see anyone in the front office. If no one comes, walk to the outside side-door of your child's room to be let in. We do not plan for this to happen often but it is a good alternative if no one is available to come to the front door.
- **Sign your child in and out at the front desk in the foyer**
- **Take temperatures and complete a health check on each child each morning.** We like to know this information each day but if we are having a hectic morning or are short staffed, we will still be in compliance if this is not completed.

We cannot thank all of our families enough for your responsibility and care as we fought to stay well and safe during the pandemic. Your seriousness was a huge part of us staying well. I want to also thank my staff for their effort as well. We are all fully vaccinated. We are hopeful that all of you are also vaccinated. If you are still deciding if this is right for you, we hope you will reconsider for our children and all the children you come in contact with.

## **Fiscal Years**

Most schools and colleges have their yearly budgets running from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 31<sup>st</sup> of the next year instead of the calendar year. Since we are affiliated with both BCPSs and ACTC, our budget also follows those dates of July 2021 to June 2022. So we will be having some changes starting July 1, 2021 (which is coming very soon). Below are a few items that could affect you.

### **Vacation Weeks**

We went to full-time childcare with payments of \$125.00 a week, with no part time childcare in the fall of 2020. There are discounts for ACTC students and staff, as well as BCPS staff. Since you pay whether your child is here or not, we decided that it was fair to offer 2 weeks of non-tuition vacation per year. So each family qualifies for vouchers good for two tuition-free weeks between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

You must let the director know at least two weeks ahead of time and it must be in increments of a week/five days. This will be reflected in the Procure system as a credit.

**State Subsidy**

For our families who are receiving state subsidy, I will be sending home a letter soon explaining which benefits will continue and which ones will end, including dates. I will also send a personal summary per family explaining all costs associated with your specific child care fees.

**Procure**

I am hearing that Procure is working well for most of you. It sure has made my life easier and it sounds like it has made things easier for most of you. If you have not used this program for billing, you may want to try it out, at least once, to see if it can make things better for you too. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or text the Director. Adjustments will be made in the system for vacation days, days the center is closed, and/or covid-19 related illnesses. The adjustments, could take up to a week to be entered. It is always acceptable to check with the director if your account is in question.

**Remember:**

It is the responsibility of families to keep all personal/emergency information and immunizations up to date with the Director. For the safety of your child, this is critical. Often staff do not know when changes occur. Thanks in advance for updating all paperwork as needed.

Also keep us updated (preferably in writing) in changes as your child transitions between formula and variations of milk, to baby food, and then to table food. As you experiment in these forms of nutrition, make sure to keep us informed.

**As always, thanks for all you do in support of your children and all of us at  
KinderCollege.**