

## Kindergarten October Family Newsletter, 2021

I apologize for being so tardy with getting out this newsletter. October has been a very busy month and our staff has experienced a multitude of life's surprises and tough lessons. We have tried diligently not to let these affect your child's care and experiences. If there are any issues that arise concerning your child's care, please do not hesitate to talk to me.

With half the month being over, we have had several activities that we didn't announce. The first two weeks in October we focused on fall and all the changes that we are seeing because of the seasonal changes. We also celebrated fire prevention this week. The firetruck and three firefighters came to visit and tell us about fire safety. Everyone got a fire hat and we took pictures. I have not had time to send the pictures to you but they will be coming as soon as life settles down.

### **Food Drive**

We are collecting canned goods for **ACTC Pathfinder Pantry**. There is a box in the foyer and we ask that each child bring at least one can of food to donate. We think it is good for children to learn early how to give and share. It is not something young children do instinctively but they are instinctively loving and that is a great place to start. If you are able to bring a can, please let your older children put the can in the box. It just makes it a little more concrete or real to life. **Food will be picked up on November 11<sup>th</sup>** and delivered to families on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for any support you can give this project.

### **Halloween Week**

This is completely optional. For costumes, it often works better if children wear pajamas or onesies with the Halloween theme or to dress up as something like a Disney character, animal, or superhero. No masks. They can have a little face paint but it works better to have little on the face or head. If a child wants to wear something Halloween related every day this week, that is fine and we will celebrate it all. Below is a guide for the week of Oct. 25-29, but it does not have to be followed.

**Monday** wear something about your favorite sports team

**Tuesday** wear something about your favorite animal

**Wednesday** wear something about your favorite character (Mickey Mouse, etc.)

**Thursday** wear something about your favorite super hero or real hero

**Friday** wear something for Halloween (black, orange, jack-o-lantern, ghost, etc.) We will also have a pumpkin hunt and a small party on Friday. Each child will come home with their own small pumpkin.

If you would like to send in a treat or small bag of treats, cupcakes, or cookies that is fine. Since candy is not very appropriate for little ones, pick treats that your child likes. Simple cupcakes and/or cookies will be eaten during afternoon snack for their “party.” You can check with your child’s teacher for numbers. We will take pictures and send via Procure or Miss Merry’s phone. At this time we still can’t have parent activities so we will make sure that we share pictures (along with the Fire Truck pictures).

### **Holidays**

The center will be close for these upcoming holidays/breaks. Families will not be charged for any days we are closed.

- November 25 & 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 20 thru Jan. 3 – Winter Break
- January 17 – Martin Luther King Day
- February 21 – Presidents Day

### **Vacation Weeks**

Even though vacation season is drawing to a close, 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.

### **Safe at the Center**

The staff is still wearing masks. We are still asking families, when you enter the center, to wear a mask. We have plenty on the front table in the foyer if you need to grab one upon entering. We still are only allowing one person into the building with a child and to escort him/her to the classroom.

We ask that on a normal day when we are fully staffed, that you enter in the front door, sign-in your child, take him/her into his/her room, and exit out the outside classroom door. That way there will be no cross contamination. I know this is a little extra trouble but your children are worth it!

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 enter. 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.

We cannot thank all of our families enough for their responsibility and care as we continue to fight to stay well and safe during the continuation of this pandemic. Your seriousness is a huge part of us staying well. I want to also thank my staff for their effort as well. We are all fully vaccinated and are being careful to stay safe at home too. We are hopeful that all of you who are not at risk, are also vaccinated or considering this option.

### **Lunches**

When Boyd County Public Schools are in session, families are able to purchase school lunches from Summit Elementary. This is available for any child who is eating table food. The lunches are **\$1.75 per lunch**, and are delivered to KC daily. There is a **monthly menu** that will be available on the front desk in the foyer. Families may select meals that are to their child's liking or sign up weekly. There will be a signup form on the front desk where families can order lunch on a weekly or daily basis. Lunches are usually ordered around 9:00 AM each morning. If your child arrives after lunch count and families have not signed up in advance, he/she may not have a lunch.

If you choose to pack your child a lunch, there are specific stipulations from the KY State Department of Childcare Licensure. **All lunches must contain a child serving of the basic five food groups:** vegetables, fruit, whole grains, protein, and dairy. Milk must be served at lunch and counts for the dairy requirement. We are not able to heat or refrigerate food. Please do not pack food that needs to be heated or refrigerated. All lunch bags must contain a small ice pack and be labeled with your child's name and left in his/her cubby. Do not send Kool-Aid or sugary drinks. Juices may be sent for snacks but not for lunch. We will provide diluted fruit juice and/or distilled water for snacks. KC will supply a morning and afternoon simple snack including drinks. Sending anything for snack is optional. **Please send a note for us to keep on file, if your child has any food or dairy/milk allergies or sensitivities.**

You have several options in paying for lunches. If you know you want to order lunches every day, it can be set up in Procure and it will be a part of your weekly payment. However, this cannot be changed week-by-week. You may pay cash day-by-day or at the end of the week. You may also write a check but we

are not able to take a credit or debit card unless you use the Pocare option. If you are paying cash, put your money in an envelope with your child's name, date, and amount enclosed. Give this directly to Miss Merry. Envelopes will be available on the foyer front desk.

### **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 an educational experience and it cools everyone 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 something special. Put play clothes/shoes in the backpack/ bag to bring to the center. We will change your child as needed. You may also keep clothes at the center and replace as needed.

### **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) of changes as your child transitions between formula and variations of milk, to baby food, and then to table food. As you experiment with 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.**