



BEST BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS FROM SALLY - OCTOBER 2016

It took a little bit of time this year but slowly the children have adapted to being left at school, settling into their routine, and making new friends. Now the learning can really begin. October speaks to all the things preschool children love to explore. For the children this is a fun month of learning about fall changes, creepy crawlies, spiders, bats and of course Halloween.

CURRICULUM MEETINGS: I hope everyone found the curriculum meetings to be informative and helpful. There is so much learning that takes place throughout the year. Working in partnership with you to help your child reach important milestones starts with learning about their school day and the goals we have for your child.

PICKING UP AND STEPPING FORWARD: Parents, rather than having children run to you amidst a crowd of people, could you please step forward when your teacher has your child at the front of the line. It would help teachers make this transition a safer one for the children. Remember if you can't see your child's teacher, she can't see you!

PUMPKIN CARVING NIGHTS: Pumpkin carving nights are a truly wonderful event at Best Beginnings. Families come, carve a scooped out pumpkin, bring a treat, enjoy some entertainment and **the GRAND UNVEILING** of the beautifully carved and lit pumpkins. More information will be coming closer to the actual event but the dates are scheduled for Oct. 24th and 25th.

FUNDRAISER: We will kick off our annual "Stuff the Pumpkin" fundraiser on October 10th. It will run until Oct. 31st. Your monthly tuition covers the cost of salaries, upkeep of the building, educational materials and supplies. The purpose of the fundraiser is to raise funds to cover the cost of items that fall outside of these categories. A successful fundraiser also makes it possible for us to continue offering scholarships to families in need. We hope that you will support this fundraiser in any way you can. This year we will be raising funds to purchase a new monkey bar set. More information and a little "pumpkin" reminder will come home the week of October 10th.



LATE PICK-UP: September was sort of a month of grace for everyone. Now that all the parents have met, I am hopeful that you have found a friend who could watch your child on the playground should you find yourself running late. Beginning in October we will follow the procedures in the handbook regarding late pick-up. The traffic in and around downtown Redmond is going to be bad all year long. Remember to allow time for getting around this mess!

(turn over)

TUITION INFORMATION: A reminder that tuition is due the first class day of the month and is considered late on the 10th.

If you are writing a check please make certain that you are writing the correct amount:

3's 2 days/week - \$210

4's - 3 days/week (9 - 11:30) - \$275/\$340 LB

3's 3 days/week - \$275

4's - 4 days/week (12:15 - 2:45) - \$315

Transitional Kindergarten - \$385

4's - 3 days/week (9 - 1:00) - \$340

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK AS THIS IS HOW THE COMPUTER KNOWS YOU.

There are 3 mailboxes available to you for tuition drop-off. One is located by the business office door, one in the north hallway, and one at the east hallway by Teacher Chris's room.

CLASSROOM HALLOWEEN PARTIES: Please check your child's calendar and the website for class party dates and times.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS: Most months throughout the year we will be sending home a book order. It is best if you order these books online. However, if you are going to pay with a check or cash, please bring the order to the office. Once the order deadline has passed we aren't able to add more requests.

UPDATING INFORMATION: If you need to update information on forms such as address changes, cell or work phone changes, please put them in writing and give them to your child's teacher. Also, make sure that anyone picking up your child is on your alternate pick-up list. If they are not, please send a written note on the specific day. Legally we cannot release your child to a stranger or friend unless we have written permission from you to do so. If you know you are going to be out of town please be sure to inform your teacher in writing and in a **timely manner prior to teachers assigning snack days on the following month's calendar.**

SCHOOL BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS: Unless every member of the class is being invited, birthday invitations should not be passed out at school. Thank you for helping us be mindful of hurt feelings.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Oct. 24 - Pumpkin Carving - all 3's classes, Pre-3's, Split and Transitional Kindergarten

Oct. 25 - Pumpkin Carving - all Pre-K 4's classes

Nov. 11 - No school - Veteran's Day

Nov. 24 & 25 - No School - Thanksgiving break

Be sure to take a walk down the halls as bats, spiders, and leaf prints make their appearance. I wish everyone a wonderful October.

- Sally





HAPPY HAUNTINGS!!

Halloween will soon be here. What does that mean for a preschooler? Are they happy, excited, or a little scared? Preschoolers can fall anywhere along the continuum of those emotions.

Five year olds tend to be pretty excited about the whole Halloween thing. They have figured out the candy angle and are a bit further along with the concept of "make believe". Mostly they need to be reminded to slow down and say thank you.

Three year olds on the other hand can find this Halloween thing a bit unsettling. Sometimes they don't want to put on the cute costume you purchased; sometimes they don't want their face painted or tattooed. They don't yet always understand the difference between make believe and reality. Watching at preschool can be helpful in preparation the big night out.

Four year olds fall somewhere in the middle. Most are excited and can hardly wait to tell you all about their costume. Still others are a bit shy and are comfortable with the costume piece but not the face decorations.

The week prior to Halloween we bring in the dress up clothes and let the children start to feel comfortable being someone else. Some children love this but for many it's a watch, wait and see attitude. And that is just fine (they all catch on soon enough).

The one nice thing about this holiday is that it belongs to the children and there isn't a right or wrong way for it to happen. If your child feels comfortable dressing up and playing a part for an evening of fun that is great. If not, put a coat on them and let them go anyway. We'll practice the whole trick or treating thing at school so they get the idea and for many that will be enough with just a few neighborhood houses added in.



October is often a beautiful month of cold crisp sunny days. All the classes will be talking about the Fall changes. Spiders, bats and pumpkins will adorn the halls. Enter at your own risk!!

- Sally