



# News Flash... from Room 24

8/10/10

Dear Families,

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer with your children, and that it has brought lots of opportunities for outdoor activities, reading together, and relaxation! I wanted to touch base with you before we begin to slip out of summer vacation and into the school routine.

We will be spending our first few weeks getting to know each other, establishing expectations, and learning and practicing classroom routines. Using the "Responsive Classroom" approach, we will engage in many activities that will help us to build our classroom community. We will begin to ease our way into the academic areas after the first week of school.

At this time, I thought it would be helpful to share some important information with you about this school year.

## **"Specials" Schedule:**

Mondays: P.E. (kids need to wear sneakers)

Tuesdays: Music

Wednesdays: P.E. (sneakers) and Learning Center (every 6 weeks)

Thursdays: ART

Fridays: Music and "Learning Opportunities" (Health, Wellness, Foreign Language, Learning Center)

## **Science and Social Studies Units of Study:**

Lake Champlain Valley Region

Eastern Woodlands

Samuel de Champlain

"Plants on the Grow"/Trees

"Let's Rock"/ Rocks and Soil

"Matter Matters"/ Energy: Matter, Light and Sound

*(If you have any expertise in any of these areas, please know that there is an "open invitation" for you to share it with our class)*

### **Homework Guidelines:**

Homework contracts will be sent home for you to review and sign at a later date. I will notify you at that time when homework will officially begin! Until then, please encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes each night. Reading will continue to be a nightly homework expectation. Please note that homework at the third grade level should not take longer than 30 minutes. If homework routinely begins to take longer than 30 minutes please let me know and I will make necessary adjustments.

### **Snacks:**

Children need to bring in a healthy snack daily as we do provide a snack time. Snack milk or juice can be purchased through the breakfast cart. To prevent any food allergy problems with any student, there will be no sharing of snacks at any time. If your child forgets his/her snack, the breakfast cart (through the hot lunch program) is available. I encourage your child to bring in a water bottle filled with ice cold water. We have a "water bottle parking lot" on the back counter where they stay. If they drink all their water, students are allowed to go outside the classroom and refill it at the water fountain.

### **Birthdays:**

If your child celebrates a birthday during the school year I am requesting that you **do not** send in any food items to share. I encourage your child to bring in a favorite "just right" picture book or poem to share with our class as a way to celebrate his/her special day. Summer birthdays will be celebrated the same way prior to the end of the school year. In an effort to respect each student's feelings, please refrain from sending birthday party invitations to be distributed at school, unless the entire class is to be included.

### **Daily Schedule:**

As soon as our daily classroom schedule is finalized, you will receive a copy. Also, please be on the lookout for other program information that I will be sending home over the first few weeks of school. Information regarding opportunities for volunteering in the classroom will be posted at Open House (9/21 ) so stay tuned! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is by e-mail

(mpeet@ccsuvt.org) or by calling the school secretary (878-1384) and leaving a message on my voice mail.

I look forward to working with you and your child in helping to make third grade a great experience! Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Peet☺

***P.S. Please note that there is also a letter for your child and you to read together enclosed in this same envelope.***