

# Preschool/ Pre-K 2021-2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Preschool/Pre-K! My name is Mrs. Cynthia Clark, and I am very excited to be your child's teacher. I am looking forward to an enriching and rewarding school year. So many great things will happen in our class! Our orientation will occur in two different sessions. Session 1 will go from 8:30-9:30, and session 2 will run 10-11. I will email you as we get closer to what time slot your family will be in. They will start the following day, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This year we will work on self-help skills, small and large motor skills, letter and number recognition, communication, and several other cognitive and social skills in the Preschool class. We will cover these areas using various methods to ensure that learning is always fun and exciting for your child.

In Pre-K, our objectives this year are to help better prepare your child for Kindergarten emotionally, socially, and academically in a positive and nurturing environment.

Below you will find some of the skills focused on in Pre-K and preschool:

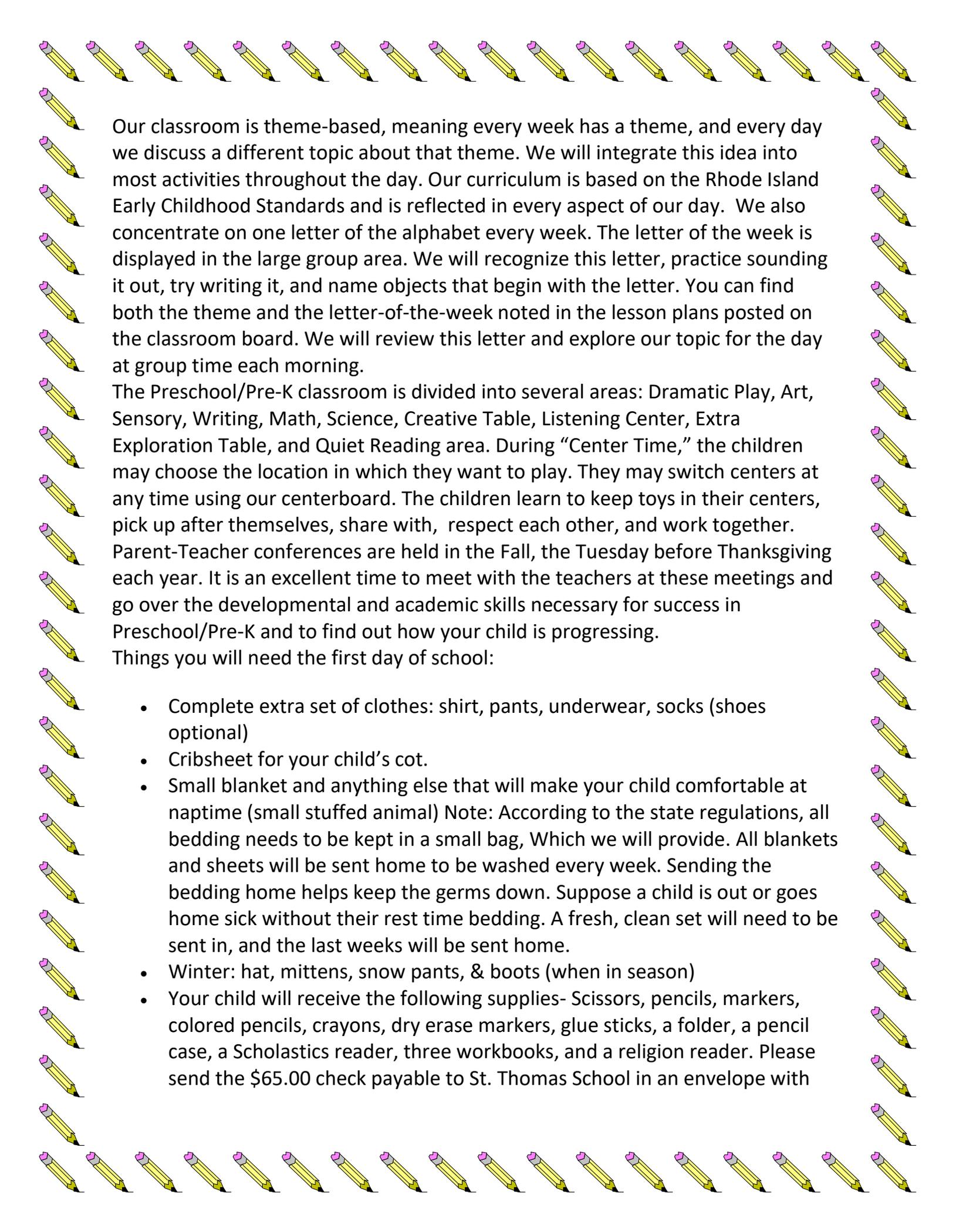
**Reading Readiness:** Listening to and following directions, left to right correct progression when reading and writing, letter identification, and letter sounds.

**Math Concepts:** Patterning, sorting, one-to-one correspondence, greater than/less than, shapes, size sequencing, number recognition, number writing, simple addition, and subtraction.

**Fine Motor Skills:** Manipulating small objects, tracing, painting, coloring, pencil grip, correct letter formations (writing), and cutting.

**Science:** Cooking, measuring, weighing, simple experiments, and predicting the outcomes, open exploration.

**Awareness of Self:** Respect of self, others and our school community, waiting for one's turn to speak and play, and completing daily tasks.

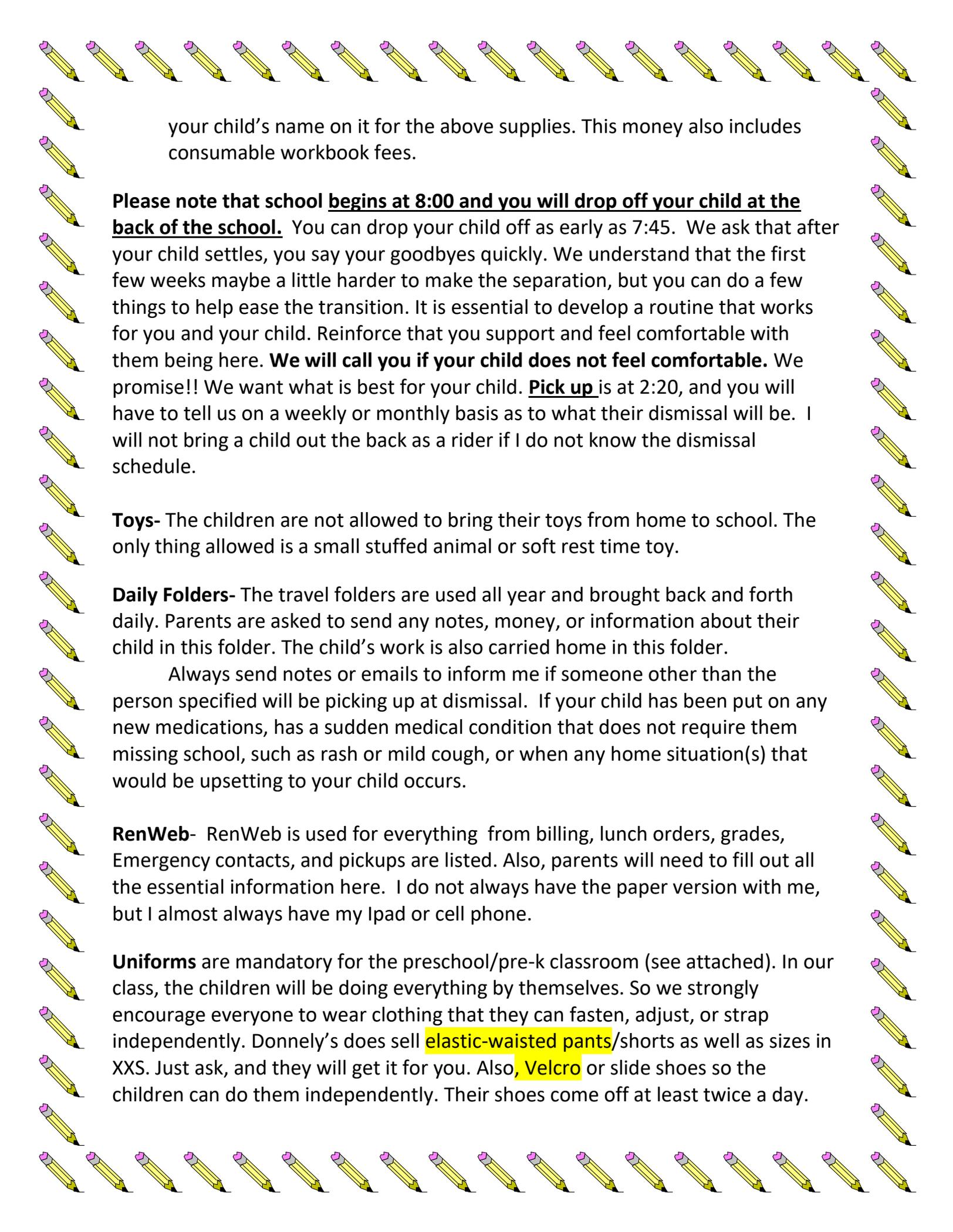


Our classroom is theme-based, meaning every week has a theme, and every day we discuss a different topic about that theme. We will integrate this idea into most activities throughout the day. Our curriculum is based on the Rhode Island Early Childhood Standards and is reflected in every aspect of our day. We also concentrate on one letter of the alphabet every week. The letter of the week is displayed in the large group area. We will recognize this letter, practice sounding it out, try writing it, and name objects that begin with the letter. You can find both the theme and the letter-of-the-week noted in the lesson plans posted on the classroom board. We will review this letter and explore our topic for the day at group time each morning.

The Preschool/Pre-K classroom is divided into several areas: Dramatic Play, Art, Sensory, Writing, Math, Science, Creative Table, Listening Center, Extra Exploration Table, and Quiet Reading area. During "Center Time," the children may choose the location in which they want to play. They may switch centers at any time using our centerboard. The children learn to keep toys in their centers, pick up after themselves, share with, respect each other, and work together. Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the Fall, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year. It is an excellent time to meet with the teachers at these meetings and go over the developmental and academic skills necessary for success in Preschool/Pre-K and to find out how your child is progressing.

Things you will need the first day of school:

- Complete extra set of clothes: shirt, pants, underwear, socks (shoes optional)
- Cribsheet for your child's cot.
- Small blanket and anything else that will make your child comfortable at naptime (small stuffed animal) Note: According to the state regulations, all bedding needs to be kept in a small bag, which we will provide. All blankets and sheets will be sent home to be washed every week. Sending the bedding home helps keep the germs down. Suppose a child is out or goes home sick without their rest time bedding. A fresh, clean set will need to be sent in, and the last weeks will be sent home.
- Winter: hat, mittens, snow pants, & boots (when in season)
- Your child will receive the following supplies- Scissors, pencils, markers, colored pencils, crayons, dry erase markers, glue sticks, a folder, a pencil case, a Scholastics reader, three workbooks, and a religion reader. Please send the \$65.00 check payable to St. Thomas School in an envelope with



your child's name on it for the above supplies. This money also includes consumable workbook fees.

**Please note that school begins at 8:00 and you will drop off your child at the back of the school.** You can drop your child off as early as 7:45. We ask that after your child settles, you say your goodbyes quickly. We understand that the first few weeks maybe a little harder to make the separation, but you can do a few things to help ease the transition. It is essential to develop a routine that works for you and your child. Reinforce that you support and feel comfortable with them being here. **We will call you if your child does not feel comfortable.** We promise!! We want what is best for your child. **Pick up** is at 2:20, and you will have to tell us on a weekly or monthly basis as to what their dismissal will be. I will not bring a child out the back as a rider if I do not know the dismissal schedule.

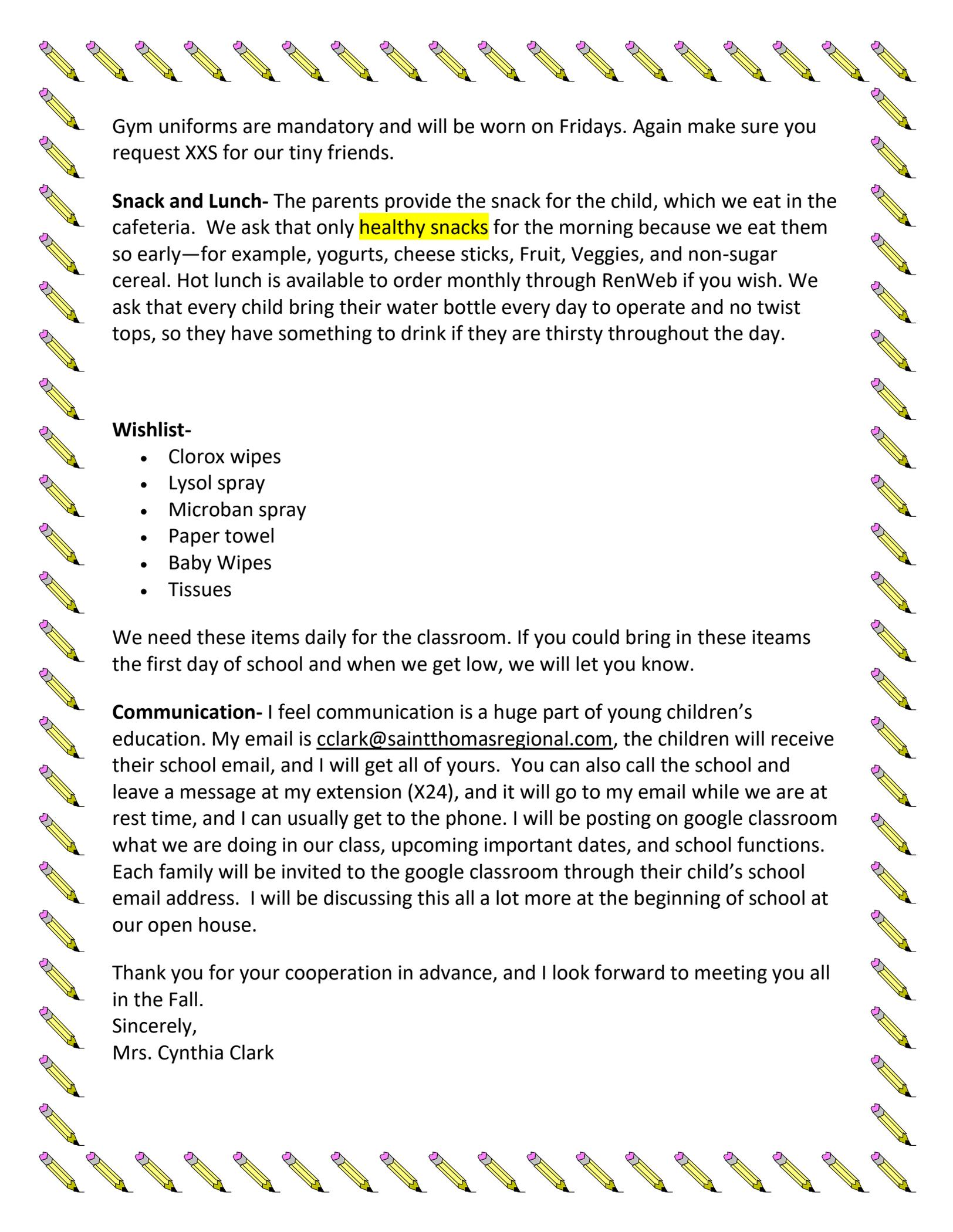
**Toys-** The children are not allowed to bring their toys from home to school. The only thing allowed is a small stuffed animal or soft rest time toy.

**Daily Folders-** The travel folders are used all year and brought back and forth daily. Parents are asked to send any notes, money, or information about their child in this folder. The child's work is also carried home in this folder.

Always send notes or emails to inform me if someone other than the person specified will be picking up at dismissal. If your child has been put on any new medications, has a sudden medical condition that does not require them missing school, such as rash or mild cough, or when any home situation(s) that would be upsetting to your child occurs.

**RenWeb-** RenWeb is used for everything from billing, lunch orders, grades, Emergency contacts, and pickups are listed. Also, parents will need to fill out all the essential information here. I do not always have the paper version with me, but I almost always have my Ipad or cell phone.

**Uniforms** are mandatory for the preschool/pre-k classroom (see attached). In our class, the children will be doing everything by themselves. So we strongly encourage everyone to wear clothing that they can fasten, adjust, or strap independently. Donnelly's does sell **elastic-waisted pants**/shorts as well as sizes in XXS. Just ask, and they will get it for you. Also, **Velcro** or slide shoes so the children can do them independently. Their shoes come off at least twice a day.



Gym uniforms are mandatory and will be worn on Fridays. Again make sure you request XXS for our tiny friends.

**Snack and Lunch-** The parents provide the snack for the child, which we eat in the cafeteria. We ask that only **healthy snacks** for the morning because we eat them so early—for example, yogurts, cheese sticks, Fruit, Veggies, and non-sugar cereal. Hot lunch is available to order monthly through RenWeb if you wish. We ask that every child bring their water bottle every day to operate and no twist tops, so they have something to drink if they are thirsty throughout the day.

**Wishlist-**

- Clorox wipes
- Lysol spray
- Microban spray
- Paper towel
- Baby Wipes
- Tissues

We need these items daily for the classroom. If you could bring in these items the first day of school and when we get low, we will let you know.

**Communication-** I feel communication is a huge part of young children's education. My email is [cclark@saintthomasregional.com](mailto:cclark@saintthomasregional.com), the children will receive their school email, and I will get all of yours. You can also call the school and leave a message at my extension (X24), and it will go to my email while we are at rest time, and I can usually get to the phone. I will be posting on google classroom what we are doing in our class, upcoming important dates, and school functions. Each family will be invited to the google classroom through their child's school email address. I will be discussing this all a lot more at the beginning of school at our open house.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance, and I look forward to meeting you all in the Fall.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cynthia Clark