

The Acorn - A School for Young Children
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Kindergarten

Dear Parents,

We are excited to start another school year. We will be having a special parent-child orientation on **Tuesday, August 29th from 11-11:45**. This will be an opportunity for parents and children to tour the classroom together, explore the playground and meet your child's teachers and classmates. Your child's first day of school will be Tuesday, September 5th, when the children come for only two and a half hours from 8:40 to 11:10. Your child's second day of school, Wednesday, September 6th, we will begin the regular class times: 8:40 - 12. **Kindergarten will be dropped off at the south entrance to the building but will be picked up at our main playground. When dropping off, please avoid backing up to Broadway. If there are several cars in front of you, please circle through and return.**

Beginning the second week of school (September 11th) and for the rest of the first semester, class will begin at 8:40 and end on Monday, Thursday, and Friday at 12:00, while on Tuesday and Wednesday it will extend until 2:00, and the children will bring a lunch. Starting the last week in January and throughout the rest of the second semester, Thursday will be added as a longer day, with dismissal at 2:00. (Please note that the dismissal time on the short days is staggered from the preschool dismissal time of 11:30 to help ease the traffic flow through the driveway.) Our schedule is for specials (Music, Spanish, and Art) to begin the week of September 11th as well.

The Kindergarten Class will be using our downstairs Kindergarten wing, and your child's Head Teacher is Ashleigh Smyth. This is Ashleigh's second year at The Acorn, having quickly become a favorite of the children and teaching staff alike. Ashleigh grew up in Zimbabwe and South Africa and received her BA in English and Psychology from Rhodes University, and her post Graduate Higher Diploma in Education from University of South Africa. She is married and has three grown sons and two daughters-in-law! She loves exploring trails, rivers, and lakes around San Antonio. With 26 years of prior teaching experience, Ashleigh devoted time this past spring shadowing in The Acorn's unique kindergarten in anticipation of her new role and we are so happy to have her. You will love Ashleigh's warm personality, happy enthusiasm, and lovely accent.

Joining Ashleigh is Melonie Harrison as a Co-head teacher in training. This will be Mel's 11th year of teaching. She graduated from Indiana University where she received a degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Science Education. With experience in kinder, 2nd, 5th, and 6th grade, she not only has a deep understanding of how children learn and develop as they grow, Mel also knows what they need to become life-long lovers of learning. She embraces problem/inquiry-based learning, a strategy that is all about harnessing children's natural curiosities, letting their ideas lead the way, resulting in problem solvers and critical thinkers. Most importantly, Mel teaches with her heart and is so excited to be a part of The Acorn family! Mel is married and enjoys building relationships with her 3 stepchildren, ages 17, 15, and 11.

Ashleigh and Mel will introduce your child's other Lucy Warner, in the first newsletter. You will get to meet her on orientation day! During your child's orientation, we would like for you to provide **one** change of clothing for your child, which we will keep here all year, just in case we need it. Please include underwear, socks, a shirt, and pants, and put them inside a zip-lock bag with your child's name clearly marked on it. If your child ever needs these clothes and wears them home, please return them the next day to replenish their bag.

Many thanks: we do appreciate your support. We are really looking forward to classes beginning on September 5th. We all can't wait to get started on a new school year! Enjoy the rest of the summer, and we'll see you soon!

Wendy and Rich