August 2020

Dear Parents,

Your child’s first day of school will be **Monday, August 17.** **This will be a special orientation day, when the children come for only two hours from 12:40 to 2:40.** This is an extremely important day, because it helps each child ease into school and have a totally positive first experience. It gives each child a chance to get to know the teachers, the campus, and the other children. This year we are limiting adults in the building but parents can remain in the “Parent Parking Zone” where they can sit or stand and watch their child on the playground from outside the gate.

Your child’s second day of school, **Tuesday, August 18,** we will begin the regular class times: 12:40 - 3:30. Most children will be ready to stay on their own, though if you feel your child needs you to stay, you may remain in the parent parking zone, outside the gate. Parents will remove their children from the car where teachers will take touchless temperatures and ask you a series of screening questions.

The Five Year Old Class will be using our downstairs classroom, and your child’s Head Teacher is Lourdes Rohde. Lourdes is in her 16th year at The Acorn. She taught in our Kindergarten program for four years, and two of her children attended The Acorn when they were younger. After a few years at home, she returned to teach with us in the Four Day Afternoon Class. Lourdes holds her Bachelor’s Degree from Trinity University and has a Masters of Education from the University of the Incarnate Word. Previously she has taught in Spanish Immersion and Bilingual Education. Lourdes will also be leading the Spanish Class for your children. She and her husband, Tommy, have three children, Madison, Alexsandra and Cuatro, and three grandchildren. Lourdes’ energy and enthusiasm is evident in all she does. She brings fun to the program and helps each child rise to their full potential. Her hobbies include reading and gardening.

Pertinent contact information will be given to you on the home visit; please add these to your lists so you will have them handy. This year our child-teacher ratio is better than 3:1. Our tentative schedule is for specials (Music, Spanish) to begin in September.

During your child’s home visit, we would like for you to provide **two** changes 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. For day-to-day wear, please dress your child in play clothes so that he or she can move around freely and comfortably and participate in all motor and outdoor activities without worry. Every child will get dirty on the playground or in the art room from time to time, so please expect it and dress your child so it won’t matter to you. Please have your child wear closed toe sport type shoes, as they are the safest footwear. Crocs, sandals, or boots are not safe for play.

Many thanks! We do appreciate your cooperation. We are really looking forward to classes beginning on August 17.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and we’ll see you soon!

Rich, Wendy, and Mara