



Dear Parents,

What a FUN year we have had!!!! As we comb through the thousands of photos in preparation for our yearbook, we are taken back to so many amazing memories of great times together. I think that is truly what sets us apart from everyone else. The opportunities for these children are way beyond the 1 or 2 trips a year afforded children in other schools. As we look forward to another exciting year with our special families, we find it time once again to get out the packets for next year.

We have many advanced enrollments from families wanting to secure their space on our waiting list, and are giving tours every day to new families. State law requires that we not discriminate and fill available spaces based upon date of enrollment completion. All our current families are considered enrolled, and do not have to re-enroll, but do need to secure their position with updated information and packet completions. Additional siblings are not considered “enrolled” and must be added immediately so we can ensure them a spot. We have allowed April 1st – 20th for those decisions to be made by our current students, and will then open up the available spaces on April 21st to those that have already pre-enrolled. All remaining spaces will then be filled based upon the stated enrollment guidelines. If you have friends and relatives that you were planning to bring into our group, please do so this month so they don’t miss out. The Public Schools have mandated 37 to 40 per teacher for next year, so we have many families finally making the decision to move to our program for some personal attention and a loving environment.

We have enclosed this year’s Tuition Chart. We have researched prices and programs throughout the Valley and find our rates still remain below all the rest, while still providing nicer facilities and a never-ending program of activities and opportunities for our children and families. We appreciate your support as we all move through these challenging financial times together.

Kindergarten Funding has become quite an issue. I have forwarded you some information to read. The challenge the Charter schools have is that they don’t receive any building money, no transportation money, and none of the money voted into the district through bond elections. The area public schools have decided for next year to use some of that bond money to fund the other half day of kindergarten. That leaves the Charter schools with quite a challenge without that money. I have been working with our landlord over the past few months to negotiate our new lease to allow us some available funds to be able to continue to help our families out and offer free full day for one class of Kindergarteners. This should be a decision we can work with for this upcoming year in hopes of Arizona finally bringing education up to a higher priority for the next.

Lunch: The votes are in, and I'm afraid that we are going to have to drop the delivered lunch program. Food preferences have become such a major issue with our families that our hands have been forced to allow for too many personal choice options. I don't have any food companies able to meet those needs, and we can't get any companies to drive all the way up here without full participationso for next year our students will bring their own sack lunches.

P.E.: As our children are growing up and moving into a more sports based Physical Education program, we will be taking them to the park in our shuttle vans to enjoy their sack lunch and P.E. class in the middle of the day. We will fill you in more on the details in our Welcome Back to School newsletter.

After School Programs: The votes are in here, also, and we only have 5 families interested in after-school, so that program will also be put on hold. We cannot afford to staff the building for so few. The families up in this area feel strongly that 1:00 or 3:00 is a long enough and are in a position to take their children home or to various programs in the area. These changes are all reflected in the updated enrollment information packet.

DHS Licensing up 300% - Go figure that one out! Where's the justification for such a jump? That, of course, has to be passed on, and is reflected in the new Tuition Chart.

Snack Program: This was an item everyone wanted to keep, but requested we try and cut back on the cost. To help our families out financially we are going to cut back on some of the extravagant recipes at the snack table, and provide more basic fruits and vegetables. The reduction is reflected on the new Tuition Chart.

Thank you once again for all the warmth and support you have shared with us this year. It is such a pleasure working with such wonderful families. We truly value and appreciate the opportunity to share in your children's lives.

Lovingly,

Marcia Lee

Founder & Program Administrator