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**Mrs. Gaito’s Kindergarten Newsletter**

**Friday, September 6, 2019**

We are off to a great start in kindergarten. During our first week of school we’ve spent a lot of time learning the rules and daily routines. We have met the principals and most related arts teachers. We have spent time learning and practicing our classmate’s names. Ask your child if he/she can name 3 classmates for you. I think you’ll be impressed!!

**Supplies:** Thank you to parents for sending in school supplies. It is a big help to have the children prepared. And thanks for being so prompt in sending back the heaps of paper work. If you have not finished the forms and/or sent in the needed items, please do so as soon as possible. I am still missing a few forms for a few children.

**Spirit Day:** We celebrate spirit day at Rehoboth Elementary School on the first Friday of each month. It is just fun to wear school colors (blue and/or yellow/gold) and show our school spirit. Spirit t-shirts will be for sale soon. It is not necessary to have a Rehoboth Elementary shirt to show spirit. Anything with school colors is great! Please don’t go out and buy something new.

**Snack:** We have a small snack each day. The students definitely enjoy the quick snack break in the afternoon. We have the class snack all together. All contributions are greatly appreciated (i.e. pretzels, goldfish, crackers, fruit snacks, napkins, etc…). I will keep an on-going supply in the classroom, and send a note when we begin to run out. You may send something when it is convenient for you☺ Thanks!

**Lunch & Breakfast:** Our lunch order, as well as lunchtime in the cafeteria is getting smoother each day. Breakfast is also served everyday at school. Please talk with your child about eating breakfast at home or school. Please send a note to let me know if your child is NOT permitted to eat breakfast at school. If a child tells me they want to go to breakfast and have not eaten at home, I will let him/her go to breakfast. Also, if you want to send money (cash or check) to school for breakfast or lunch, please remind your child to hand it in to me. You may also send me a Remind message letting me know it is in their book bag so I can ask them to get it for me. You may also go online to: paypams.com to set up an account for your child. Thanks!

**Birthdays:** We will celebrate each child’s special day. Please see attached birthday menu for some ideas.

**Helper:** Each day I will have a helper in my classroom. I choose the helper by going right down my class list in alphabetical order. The helper is responsible for leading the class whenever we leave the classroom, checking/coloring the weather graph, reading our morning message from the SMARTboard, helping me pass out materials, taking the attendance to the office, helping with snack, and anything else that comes up that I may need assistance with during the day. Everyone will get several turns throughout the school year. I know the children really look forward to this important job. If they happen to miss their turn to be the helper because they are not in school I will give them a turn when they return…so no worries!

**Rules:** We continue to review school, hallway, playground and cafeteria rules. Please keep reminding your child about the rules and how important it is to follow them. We are working on a rules book in class. It should come home next week. Hopefully your child can teach you about the rules and you can reinforce them at home.

**Kindergarten Rules**

* ***Listen when someone is speaking.***
* ***Follow directions.***
* ***Be a caring friend.***
* ***Raise your hand to speak.***
* ***Keep your hands and feet to yourself.***
* ***Help clean up.***
* ***Make smart choices.***

**Language Arts**: Next week we will be learning more nursery rhymes. We will practice many different nursery rhymes for a few weeks. Rhyming is an important language arts skill. We will read many nursery rhyme stories and do many art and music projects with nursery rhymes. It is fun to sing/say nursery rhymes. We will have begun reviewing and practicing alphabet letters and sounds. We will learn about our names and friends in many fun ways. Please help your child to write his/her name and name the letters. Can your child name the letters out of order? In order to prepare for more writing, we will practice the formation of letters. We use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting program.

**Math:** We have begun doing Number Corner. Some of the Number Corner skills are calendar, 1:1 counting, collecting, number recognition, estimating, patterns, shapes and sequencing. During our Number Corner the students are encouraged to share thoughts, ideas and strategies about numbers. Number Corner time allows the students to come up with their own ideas, talk through and analyze those ideas and then make conjectures. The children are also free exploring Math tubs filled with manipulatives. They will use these manipulatives for many work stations, skills, activities, games and projects throughout the school year.

**Show-and-Tell:** Each Friday, starting with next week, we will have Show-and-Tell. This may be anything your child wants to show his/her classmates…. except live animals (of course stuffed ones are fine). If your child doesn’t want to bring anything or forgets then he/she can tell us something that might be important to them at the time…or simply pass. After they share they call on one other child in the class that may ask a question or comment about their show-and-tell. They really look forward to this fun activity each week. We talked about it today and they are all very excited!

**Remind**: If you haven’t signed up for Remind yet, please try to do this. I will send many class reminders and class information this way. Please let me know if you have difficulty accessing the internet and/or our school website.

If you would like to receive notices on PTO events and volunteer opportunities please contact the PTO:

respto2010@gmail.com

Reminders:

* + When checking your child’s folder and book bag, please be sure to remove all papers so their book bag is cleaned out each day.
	+ Please send the yellow daily folder back to school everyday so your child has a place for their papers.
	+ Please send any cafeteria money, paperwork or notes for me in your child’s daily folder.
	+ Please send in all paperwork by Wednesday, September 12th.
	+ Please remember to send a note on days when your child is a parent pick up from school.
	+ Please remember to send notes when your child is absent or has an early dismissal. Absences will not be excused without a note.
	+ One of the most important parts of your child’s success in school is keeping open communication between us. I really encourage parents to come in to see me, send in notes, message me on Remind, email or call me whenever you have a question, comment or concern. You can reach me during the day at school at **227-3068**. If I am with my class when you call, please leave a message with the office and I will get back to you. You can also email me at **maria.gaito@cape.k12.de.us**. Don’t ever hesitate to get in touch with me. We must keep the lines of communication open! ALWAYS! IT IS SO IMPORTANT!

Again, welcome to Rehoboth Elementary! I am so happy to be your child’s teacher and look forward to an exciting and busy year. Give your child a hug for a successful first week of full- day kindergarten! I know they are ready for the weekend. It is a big adjustment for them and we work hard ALL day long!

Enjoy the weekend!☺

Mrs. Gaito