**Sorry, this newsletter is lengthy, but I try to explain as much as I can so parents understand what is happening in the classroom. Please keep it for future reference. Many questions can be answered here.**

**Communication**

Communication between families and school is important for your child’s success. Newsletters and other papers will be sent home on Fridays in their school folders. **Please empty your child’s folder every Friday and check for important notices. Send the folder back on Monday.** I am also going to put newsletters on the Internet. They can be accessed our classroom blog at www.**mrssian.weebly.com**

Communication from parents should be sent with your child in a **labeled envelope**. Pinning the letter to their jacket is also helpful. The students tend to forget what they have brought and what they are supposed to do with it. Labeling the envelope helps if they happen to drop it on the bus or in the hallway. **All money sent in needs to be in a sealed envelope and marked clearly with their name and the purpose for the money.** Children often do not remember what the money is for and sometimes will give it away on the bus. **Please** put it in a sealed envelope and label it.

**Attendance**

 **Attendance is crucial for school success.** Students cannot learn if they are not in school. School begins at 8:05 and ends at 3:25. It is important that students are on time (especially if they want breakfast). Breakfast is not served after 8:20. **It is very disrupting to our routine if students are not on time.**

**Classroom Rules and Policies**

The rules are:

 Treat others the way you like to be treated.

 Keep hands and feet to yourself.

 Raise your hand and wait to be called on.

 Listen when other people are talking.

 Follow directions.

 I use praise, proximity control, and positive reinforcements as much as possible to control behavior. When this doesn’t work and students are being disruptive they are reminded of the rules and are asked to move their name on the behavior chart. The chart has green, yellow, orange and red levels. Each level has a consequence. The first is a warning and they move their name to yellow. The second time they are asked to move their name to orange and are given a time out. The third time they move their name to the red level and they are given time out and depending on the situation may be given another consequence. After the red level, depending on the behavior, they may lose recess or gym time, be removed from the classroom and sent to the office to do a plan. Any physical misbehavior (biting, hitting, kicking, punching, pinching…) results in immediate removal from the classroom and they are sent to the office for further discipline. It is my job to keep all students safe and hurting other students or staff will not be tolerated.

**Drop Off**

 **Please drop your child off at the double doors**. Let them hang up their own things and take care of their belongings. They will know the routine within a week and Mrs. Keyser and I will help them if needed. The sooner you encourage independence the easier it will be on them and you. It is normal for kindergarten students to cry when mom or dad leave them. The students who adjust the best are the students whose parents leave them at the door on the first day. They get the message right away that they have to stay and will quickly learn that they are going to be okay and you will return. They are being left with people who care about them and will help them. This is hard on parents (as a parent with a child who went through this I **completely** understand how parents feel), but it is the best thing for your child (and all the other students because it does affect them and sometimes a parent hanging around causes other kids to start crying). If you think your child is going to have a hard time separating from you, please let me know and we will discuss a plan of action. (I can meet you at the front doors; we can get Ms. Rosekrans or an aid to help, etc.).

**Backpacks and Lunch Boxes**

Backpacks are very helpful. I encourage all students to bring one. Please make sure the backpacks are labeled clearly with your child’s name on the inside and the outside of the bag. Please label all lunch boxes as well. It also helps if you put my name (Mrs. Sian) on them in case they get lost. We often have several kids with the same backpacks and lunch boxes. We have no way of ensuring they return home unless they are labeled. Also, at this stage we are trying to help children develop independence. We do not empty their backpacks. They are responsible for getting their belongings out of their bag when they need to. We remind them to check, but try to respect their right to privacy and develop independence. Any important notes or money should be labeled and pinned to their backpacks or jackets. Please help encourage your child to be responsible and take care of their belongings. Responsibility and independence start as soon as they begin school.

**Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfast is free for all students this year. Everyone can get a breakfast if they would like one.

Hot lunch is free to all students, but they do have to pay for milk if they need one with their cold lunch. If your child is a picky eater, you may want to send a lunch. Often children will think they can get something other than what is on the menu, but they cannot and they have to choose something from the menu. Again, **please label the lunch box with their name and my name. Please place milk money in a labeled envelope and seal it.** **Please tell your child not to give their money away to other students (they like to share it).**

**Extra clothes**

 Please send in extra underwear, socks, and pants labeled that can be kept in your child’s locker. **Make sure they are labeled**. Many students will have at least one accident (even if “he/she hasn’t had an accident in years”). They feel more comfortable if they can change into their own clothes instead of clothes from the community pile. They will be expected to change themselves and will bring the soiled clothes home in a plastic bag in their backpack. You may want to check the bag periodically for soiled clothes. If you do not send in extra clothes, you may be called to bring in clothes for your child.

**Student of the Day/Snack**

 A calendar will be sent home with your child the first day. Each child will be assigned a day to be the student of the day. On their day, they get to be the assistant teacher. I am asking that students bring a snack for the class on their assigned day (for 25 students). It doesn’t have to be anything expensive (crackers, fruit roll ups, pretzels, etc.), just something to hold them over until they get home. This year we have a refrigerator in our room so you can send in snacks that need to be refrigerated or put in the freezer. We have an early lunch and the students often get hungry in the afternoon. We are following the national push for healthy food in classrooms. The snacks should be healthy. The students will be talking about healthy foods in health class. Please assure your child they will get a turn to be the student of the day. In the beginning, it is hard for them to wait their turn.

**Toys and personal belongings**

 **Toys and other personal belongings need to be kept home.** We do not have a show and tell time with toys (we share our reading, writing

Or talk about an experience they have had). Toys cause disruption, hurt feelings, jealousy, stealing… The school will not be responsible for toys that are damaged, stolen or lost. Toys that are brought to school will be taken away and returned to the parent. We have lots of things in our classroom to occupy everyone.

**Recess**

Students go outside for recess everyday unless there is extreme weather. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. I do not have extra clothes in the classroom to give students if they have not come prepared for weather. Students are expected to go out for recess everyday. Students will not be kept in from recess unless they have **a doctor’s note** and then they have to go to the nurse’s room. We do not have staff to supervise students who stay in.

**Illness**

 There are instances in which absences are unavoidable. Please keep your child home if your child is sick or has any of the following symptoms:

 Nausea or vomiting

 Excessive Coughing

 Diarrhea

 Fever

 Earache

 Red eyes with a discharge

 Chills

 Sore throat

**Please do not give your child medicine and then send them to school**. The child will still not feel well and should be at home resting. They are also still contagious and it is not fair to the other students and staff who will come in contact with your child. They should be free from a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school unless it has been okayed by a doctor. I realize this is difficult for working parents, but please respect others who will be exposed to your child’s illness.

**Visitors and Volunteers**

Parent involvement is greatly encouraged and appreciated. I like to wait until all the children have adjusted to school and separating from their parents before having volunteers in the classroom. Once everyone has adjusted and we have gotten through this phase I would be happy to have volunteers. Please contact me if you are interested and we can schedule a time for you to come in. All visitors/volunteers **must** sign in at the office. They will give you a visitor’s pass. Please arrange any visits ahead of time.

**Classroom Pets**

 I have done a lot of research on the benefits of pets in the classroom. In the past this has been very beneficial to many aspects of learning. We are going to have a frog and hatch chicks in the spring. I am also known for bringing in various animals for lessons. **If your child is allergic to animals, please let me know right away** so I can come up with a way to incorporate animals without bringing them in the room.

**Pictures/Internet/Computer**

I began a website last year and plan to develop it further this year. The address is [www.**mrssian.weebly.com**](http://www.mrssian.weebly.com). I have had websites in the past and this year I plan to update it weekly. Please check it out. I post student work and pictures. Attached is a permission slip for me to post your child’s picture on the school website (I do not use names). If you do not want your child’s picture or work to be on the website, please let me know by filling out the consent form. I also plan on doing a lot of things on the computer in which I will use student pictures. All pictures I take of your child are returned to you in the form of art projects or in an album at the end of the year. I do not keep any pictures. At the end of the year, I will give you an opportunity to bring in a CD or Flash drive to download projects your child has done on the computer. I am planning on incorporating more technology this year. I will be sending information as we do it.

**Dismissal**

The principal’s newsletter has dismissal information. **Please do not pick your child up early to avoid the traffic.** I know the traffic is annoying, but it is disruptive when children are picked up early. Often they miss out on things being passed out at the end of the day. We are busy right up until 3:20.

**Contact Information**

**1. You can contact me at school by calling 539-3259. The phone is not answered after 4:00.**

**2. You can email me at julisian@gmail.com.**

**3. Send a note with your child and I will call you or write a note back.**

**4. Stop in at the end of the day and I will be happy to talk with you as soon as students have left the classroom.**

**Please know that I am here to make sure your child has a great year in kindergarten and to ensure they get the best education possible.**

**Sincerely.**

**Juli Sian**

**Kindergarten Teacher**

**Photo Consent**

**Check One:**

**\_\_\_\_I give my permission for my child to be photographed for educational purposes. All pictures will be returned in some form by the end of the year. Please note: many of these pictures are used for art projects to be taken home.**

**\_\_\_\_I do not give my permission for my child to be photographed.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CONSENT TO POST PICTURES ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

**Check one:**

**\_\_\_ I give my permission for my child’s picture to be posted on the classroom/school website for educational purposes and to share our year with the students and their families. I understand only their first name will be used and the pictures will be deleted at the end of the school year (unless I contact you and ask permission for them to stay on).**

**\_\_\_ I do not give my permission for my child’s picture to be posted on the school/classroom website.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE**

**Please return this form to school ASAP. I start taking pictures right away.**