

Sierra Montessori Academy

Weekly News

August 31—September 4, 2009

Week 2 has come and gone and my does time fly! I want to thank all the parents and students and staff who worked tirelessly to help make our first Family Night Dinner a great Success! As the weeks go by I will continue to work on the many aspects of our school to make it even better than it is. I have ordered new curriculum for our classrooms and expect its arrival within the month. Should you have any ideas you would like to share, PLEASE DO!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to give me a call or email me –Mrs. Beilby

School Lunch Program

I am looking into the feasibility of having our own school lunch program. I am in need of data, so attached to this weeks Newsletter is the state school lunch form. It is very important that all information is filled out completely and returned for each family in our school. I have also attached an envelope for you to put this confidential information into and return to school. It is very important that you answer each question carefully and put the household income as close to the actual as possible and sign at the bottom. Meals, foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet state and federal requirements based on the USDA Dietary Guidelines. All meals, foods and beverages will be prepared and served by qualified child nutrition professionals. We should be able to provide students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students. I have attached a sample of a menu for you to look over. The cost of each paid meal is yet to be determined based on the information I receive back from you. Thanks so much for your time in this matter. Should you have any questions please call or email me.

Parent Club Meeting

Wednesday night, after the back to school meetings, we met to discuss what would be the best way to utilize parents at our school. Last year a PTA was formed but by the end of the school year the numbers had dwindled. With that being said, the consensus of the group was to have a parent boosters group which would work with the student body on various projects to enhance our school. It was requested that I review the current bi-laws and make suggestions which might help to revise to work toward revising the bi-laws of the PTA that were started and revisit with the parents at a later date.

Stickers & Such!

Wearing sandals and open toed shoes is probably not a good idea with the type of grass we have at our school. There are many stickers and they are

finding their way into little toes! Time to take out the tennies to keep tender feet protected!

Flu Season

Unfortunately is going to be a big issue this year with the H1N1 flu virus also joining in the mix of the regular flu season. I am receiving updates weekly from our county health department and so far I have been told there have been more than 14 cases in Nevada County. All have been mild, but as it becomes more frequent we must all follow CDC's recommendations which are attached in a letter that describes the precautions we must all take to stay healthy. The major recommendation is to keep sick children home with flu-like symptoms until they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever. In a school as small as ours, illness spreads quickly, so we really need to take extra precautions.

Before/After-School Kids Club Program

Sierra Montessori Academy is now able to provide services through the Sierra Nevada Children's Services. This program helps with the cost of before and afterschool care if you are eligible. SNCS is assistance program which may provide full or partial payment for child care services for enrolled families. Eligibility requires for child care assistance are: a family enrolled in Cal WORKS, a family that is eligible based on income, or a family that has been referred by an agency. In addition to the above eligibility requirements, the family must have a need for child care. For information on all programs SNCS please visit their website at: www.snscs.org

Cell Phones & IPODS

Hot topic these days! Cell phones can be brought to school, BUT must be turned off and stay in backpacks at all times. Students can use them when school gets out. I know how important these little items are and how expensive they are as well. Students choosing to take them out and use them during school hours run the risk of me taking and putting in my office with parents will only be able to retrieve.

Now IPODS, music players and such are items that do get stolen most often. They can be used in the morning before school, during recess and after school. If a teacher wishes to allow students in their class to be able to use, possibly as a reward, I will leave that to their discretion. Unfortunately, neither I nor the teacher can be responsible for its theft or loss, so bring at your own risk and it must be kept in backpack during school hours unless the classroom teacher says otherwise.

Drama & Dance

Our students have the opportunity to be a part of the Kadie Brock's Acting and Dancing Company. It is an after school program which will meet 1 hour weekly. The cost is \$48.00 per month. Sign up sheet is in the office.

Have a great week!

