

August 14, 2009

Dear Friends School Families,

The first day of school is almost here and I am excited. I cannot wait to greet you all by the door. The first day of school represents a fresh start and the beginning of a new year. The first day rings in promise and adventure. Seeing old friends again and meeting new ones. It is a big day, and we all go home tired but not drained as the excitement of the day carries us through the inevitable fits and starts of the new year. The first day sets the cycle of the school year in motion as we learn, grow, stumble, and recover to take on the wisdom of another year. The first day of school is the day to begin our adventure.

In this packet, you will find a class list, a school calendar, forms to complete, several reminders and a description of our after school care program. Some packets also contain a letter of introduction from your teacher. If you did not receive a letter, they will send one separately. Please take the time to read the material and complete the necessary paperwork. Many of the forms need to be completed and returned by the first day.

Our school has a lofty mission to educate children to be responsible citizens and creative thinkers. To meet this mission, it takes devotion, hard work, and long hours from our teachers and staff. It takes an innovative program, an outstanding curriculum, a community of learners, and the teamwork of home and school. And it takes a special day to get it all going—the First Day of School. See you on September 3rd!

My best,

Dan Hendey
Head of School

Celebrations and Reminders on the reverse

Celebrations and Reminders

Celebrations

New Teachers – Please join me in welcoming our two newest faculty members.

Elizabeth Bragg joins us as an assistant in Teacher Dorothy's classroom. A PSU alum, Elizabeth (Elli) holds a graduate degree in Elementary Education and a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Elli's student teaching experience was at Penns Valley Elementary. Elli has worked previously as a family and youth counselor for Centre County Youth Services Bureau and the Lutheran Church of Virginia. Elli is excited to return to the State College area.

Rebecca Rumble will also join our staff as an assistant teacher in the 2/3 classrooms. Rebecca is also a PSU graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Parks. Rebecca has worked for over 7 years at the Shavers Creek Environmental Center. She has served as the Assistant Director of the outdoor school, taught summer camps, and facilitated teambuilding workshops for student and adult groups. Rebecca is also a certified yoga instructor and leads classes at the Center for Well Being in Lemont. We welcome her and her family to Friends

2008/2009 DVD is coming – Teacher Laura (Art) is putting the finishing touches on a DVD that chronicles the 2008/2009 school year at Friends. It features an all-school music video and individual chapters for classrooms and special events. Look for it soon in a future mailing or Friday Folder.

Reminders

K-4 Open House – Our annual open house for students in grades K-4 is Tuesday, September 1 from 4:30 -5:30pm. This is an opportunity for students to visit their teachers, explore their classroom and find their spaces. Parents will also have the opportunity to speak with teachers and ask questions.

Parent Materials – The parent handbook and school directory will be sent out to all current families soon after school starts. The handbook contains information about school procedures along with a brief explanation of the school's educational philosophy. Please keep these references handy.

Flu – As schools open this fall, there has been growing public concern regarding the re-emergence of Swine Flu. We are monitoring this situation and making appropriate updates to the plan we originally developed last spring. As always, vigorous hand washing with soap and staying home when ill are two of the most effective measures we all take to prevent the spread of flu. We will share more information with you in September.