

# JK JOURNAL

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all. - Aristotle

## JK Reminders

### Daily Arrival

- Students must be on the school campus before the bell rings at 8:30.
- Parents are not allowed on campus with their child. Please do not ask Around the Bell parents dropping of their children to let you onto campus through the Avon gate.
- If you arrive after 8:30, please take your child to the front officer so that they can get a tardy slip.

### What to Bring & Wear

- Each child needs a regular backpack large enough to fit their jacket, two-pocket folder, and lunchbox, as well as their change of clothes. If your child cannot fit all of these things in their backpack, it is too small.
- Our classroom gets very warm. I recommend dressing your child in layers, so that they can remove warm clothes as needed.
- Please do not send children to school in scarves. I will have them take them off as soon as they hang up their backpacks and they may not wear them the rest of the day. They are a choking hazard and unnecessary in our warm classroom.
- All jackets, sweaters, lunch bags and backpacks should be labeled with permanent marker.



## Thank You for Making JK Great

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who donated supplies for our classroom. I am so overwhelmed and honored by your generosity and dedication to making JK great! Early childhood education can be very expensive, and it can be difficult getting a program going mid-year. Your donations have made it so much easier to start off right!

In addition to personally purchasing items for the classroom and receiving basics from the school and district, this JK class has received a lot of support from the Burbank community and beyond. I received generous donations of much needed storage, a teacher's desk, and extra books, prizes, and puzzles from our community. I also ran a fundraising campaign back in December through Donors' Choose in which I raised \$700 so that we could get a new classroom rug. The Burbank community and my friends from across the country have made it possible for me to teach the class important concepts of spatial- and body-awareness. I will be sending pictures of the students on the rug to Donor's Choose later this month, and we will be sending thank you notes to donors.



## Our January Work

We are off and running in junior kindergarten. During our first week, we learned about the rules and procedures for using the restroom, playing on the playground and walking in line. We also learned our classroom rules and began practicing some of our procedures. The kids are doing well and working hard to make good choices. Last week we learned about nocturnal animals and began talking about concepts of print--parts of a book. We covered the concepts of author, illustrator/illustration, setting, and making predictions, as well as learned about the front and back covers of books and their spine.

As we continue in January, we will learn how to write our names using proper form and learn about colors and shapes. We will also start talking about the match concepts of less and more and begin some simple graphing. We will learn about being a good friend and how to be respectful. We will also begin our letter/alphabet study.



## Writing Tips

Learning to write is an important part of JK. As we work with students to teach them proper form from the start, we would appreciate it if you would keep these tips in mind:

**Names are written with a capital letter only as the first letter, the rest are lower case.** While it is developmentally appropriate for children to want to just write their names in all capital letters, we are tasked of breaking this habit and teaching children the correct way to write their names the correct way. As you would with your child, we would appreciate if you reinforce this and encourage your child if he/she becomes frustrated. Students who feel that they have mastered writing their name in all capital letters may not be too excited about the prospect of learning their name in a new way.

**We start from the top, not the bottom.** Children naturally want to start their letters from the bottom of line/bottom of each letter, not the top. It is important that we are teaching and encourage proper letter formation. Students will begin practicing their names this week and will begin learning each individual letter as our time together progresses.

**Handwriting Without Tears.** If you would like to work with your child on writing at home, I recommend watching some of the Handwriting Without Tears videos on YouTube. I use Handwriting Without Tears terminology when teaching and it is a very effective way to teach writing.

## Snack Time

Students are allotted fifteen minutes for snack time. This time includes getting their lunchboxes, opening their snack items, and eating. It is not intended to not be a full meal--just a little something to tide them over until lunch at home.

Reminders:

- Children should be able to open their own snack items, juice boxes and water bottles without the help of an adult. We will help them once they've given it an earnest try. Please practice opening snack items with your child. You can show them how to use their pointer finger and thumb as "pinchers" to open prepackaged goodies and chips in their lunch.
- We are a nut-free classroom. Please do not pack food containing tree nuts or peanuts, this includes snacks with almond butter and peanut butter.
- Students are learning to clean up after themselves when they are finished eating, this includes picking up crumbs, spills and messes on the tables or floor. Please keep this in mind when sending messy, crumbly snacks.
- Please don't forget to pack a napkin with your child's snack.