

Yellow School News

September 2017



Welcome to the fall semester (finally!). Our prayers are with all of our sweet teachers and families who have suffered losses from the hurricane and flooding. See below for ways to help!

Our teachers are eager to start the school year as I know you are! We know that your children will have a major transition to school after so many challenging issues at home and in our city. Be patient (we will be) and know that the return to a routine will help your child to settle in!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Love, Candice

Help for Harvey Victims

We are currently collecting gift cards (Target, Walmart, Bed, Bath and Beyond and whatever else you think may be helpful) for those who have lost their belongings and are rebuilding their homes and lives. You may also volunteer to help at mdpc.org. The needs include, tools, cleaning supplies and labor!

Reminders

- Please **LABEL** everything your child brings to school (first and last names)!
- **TUITION** is due the first of each month. Make your check payable to **MDPC**
- Please use the pencil bag, which is attached to your child's backpack, for all notes, etc. that you have for us.
- Don't forget to **SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT** if you are coming late or picking up early (sheets are by the front door).
- **The doors open at 8:45.** Prior to that, the teachers are preparing for your children. Please wait for us to come greet you.

Room Moms

Congratulations to the following new Room Moms/Parents!

2-Day Three Year Old Class

Lauren Gwin and Kellie Northington

3-Day Three Year Old Class MTW

Alicia Whitley and Cheryl Jundt

3-Day Three Year Old Class WThF

Mimi Meacham and Heather Tackett

3-Day Pre-K Class

Melanie Lupher and Kristen Naumko

5-Day Pre-K Class

Alma Alling and Challie Sherrill

Kindergarten

Tricia Gittemeier and Pauline Borally

Registration for Next Year

We will be accepting applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year from **FAMILIES NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT YELLOW SCHOOL** beginning November 15th at 6:00 am. Children who **are** currently enrolled and their siblings will register in January. If you have friends and neighbors who might be interested in the school, please encourage them to come visit us.

Grandpas

As many of you know, we are fortunate to have a group of retired gentlemen who come twice each month and do woodworking with the children. We call them our "grandpas" and the children really look forward to them coming each month. If you know of anyone who might like to join these men, please call and let us know. There are also opportunities for "substitute grandpas" and any dads who might be available.

Mark Your Calendars!

September 11th – First Day of School!
October 9th – Columbus Day – No School
October 13th and 16th – Individual Pictures
October 18th, 19th and 20th – Vision, Hearing
and Speech Screenings
November 7th – 9th – Scholastic Book Fair

Specialty Classes

This year, our specialty classes will be Music (taught by Meliza Gomez), Spanish (taught by Sylvia Varela), Chapel (taught by Becky Funderburk) and Computer (Kindergarten – taught by Steve Driscoll).

These classes take place during the school day and are in addition to the activities in the classrooms. Our hope is to provide the children with a varied and comprehensive learning experience.



Refunds

Hurricane Harvey affected so many of our teachers and families. It would have been difficult for us to open after Labor Day due to staffing and facility concerns (the church was a shelter for local residents and volunteers).

In consideration of these factors, we have determined that we will be refunding our families for the equivalent of one week of tuition. This amount will be applied to your September tuition or a refund will be issued for those families who prepaid the annual tuition.

After a Crisis, Kids Need...

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, we will have children in our care who need extra support.

1. **Routine.** As much as possible, maintain daily schedules of meals, naps and bedtime. Routines are comforting to children and help them feel like things are “on track”. Experts tell us that this is the first thing children need in a crisis.
2. **To be heard.** Children will need to tell and re-tell their hurricane stories. Help by giving them words to name strong feelings during BRIEF conversations. Children can’t handle this topic of conversation for long. Short and frequent conversations will help them work through their feelings and alleviate stress.
3. **Lots of patience.** Expect and understand that uncharacteristic or difficult behavior is a response to the stress children have gone through. Maintain basic rules and enforce them with gentle, loving guidance.
4. **Understanding, as they work through fears.** It’s going to take time to work through this. Expect fear of rain and thunder, nightmares, fear of the dark, discomfort being separated from parents and fear of being alone. Protect children from re-exposure to news coverage and grown-up talk about the events.
5. **Play!** Because kids are who they are, they learn best through play – pretending, art experiences, building and creating things, interacting with each other through games as well as music and movement. These activities provide opportunities to reenact their experiences, which in turn helps alleviate stress. And of course, running, climbing and other big play is nothing but good for kids of all ages.

~Courtesy of *Texas Childcare Training*~

