

K-K News

September 5, 2008

Dear Families:

Thank you for a great first week! Julie (Mrs. Felo) and I deeply appreciate your prompt return of the many forms that help us know more about your children and allow dismissal to flow smoothly, and we are grateful for your timely delivery of your children to the blacktop each morning. Your support has allowed us to have a very successful first week of school.

This newsletter will be available each week, giving you information about the curriculum, activities, and upcoming events that you can anticipate in the classroom. For those who don't know, the "K-K" stands for Kindergarten and Kaminski, and it is how our class is labeled at Hunnewell.

The curriculum of the first weeks of school centers on learning routines. The structure of routines for arrivals, class meetings, lining up, dismissal, and other activities allows the children a sense of predictability and gives us the structure in which we can successfully implement other curriculum throughout the year. This week alone, your children learned how to enter the room, sign in, check their home folders, find materials for choice time, clean up and come to meeting. They learned the routines for the calendar, counting the days of school, and other parts of our daily meeting. They have worked with some of our math materials, drawn with our writing materials, learned to move some of the furniture to create a space for Open Circle (our social

competency program), received instruction in safely putting up and taking down the chairs each day, and met 22 classmates and a large number of the adults they will encounter at Hunnewell this year. It has been a full week!

It is likely that your child is tired, and perhaps a bit overwhelmed at this point in the year. This is perfectly normal. When my daughter transitioned to her new preschool classroom this summer, my husband and I experienced no shortage of sleep disturbance, tantrums, and out-of-sorts behavior. In the home folder today is a wonderful article called "The Transition to Kindergarten," which I hope will be helpful as your family adjusts to this new stage in your child's life. From our perspective, the children are doing very well, and we are off to a wonderful start!

In other news...

-This is the last week that this newsletter will arrive in your child's home folder. Beginning next Friday, all newsletters will be posted on the class website by 5:00. If you have not already done so, please log on to the website through the school website or directly at <http://www.teacherweb.com/MA/Hunnewell/KK>. Go to the newsflash section and enter the e-mail address to which you would like information sent, and you will be e-mailed when the newsletter (or other website information) has been updated. Please let me know if your family does not have web access and needs a printed copy.

- Coming home today are book order forms. If your family is interested in ordering books, there are directions on the website for placing an order online. Orders are due by September 15.

- There is a calendar on the website, but there are a few dates worth highlighting here: Next Friday night, September 12, is the

Hunnewell Ice Cream Social. This is a wonderful event for the children, and I regret that I will not be able to join you that night due to a previous family commitment. The second date to note is Wednesday, September 17. That is Back to School night, and I will begin speaking at 7:20 that evening. That presentation is for parents only.

- Finally, thank you to the families that have already brought children in for screening conferences. It has been a pleasure to spend additional time with your children! I look forward to seeing the rest of you in the coming week. (Note: If you have forgotten your conference time, please check the bulletin board in the hallway outside the classroom door. Conference schedules - and other notes - will always be posted there.)

Enjoy a wonderful, restful weekend with your children, and know that Julie and I are looking forward to seeing them on Monday morning!

Sincerely,

Lynn Kaminski