



# Kindergarten Information Packet

St. Anne School  
2009-2010  
Mrs. Traci Sauvage  
And  
Mrs. Molly Thole

Welcome to Kindergarten! This packet will outline the policies, procedures and curriculum of our classroom. Mrs. Thole and I are looking forward to establishing the best possible learning environment for your child, helping him/her to achieve their full potential. Each child will progress at his/her own rate, acquiring skills as he/she is developmentally ready. Maintaining each child's self-esteem and building a secure foundation for future growth will always remain a priority in our classroom. Our teamwork and cooperation among teachers, students and parents, will allow us to have a successful year.

One of my favorite sayings is: "It's not how smart you are, it's how you are smart" Thomas Armstrong. I feel very strongly that each child knows and believes that they are smart. I am pleased and excited to be on this journey of learning with you and your child.

The Kindergarten curriculum is very integrated. We learn in a variety of ways; through learning centers, large group instruction, classroom discussions, singing, poems... the list goes on! We are constantly learning. The following is an outline of the curriculum. (Grade level Benchmarks for student learning can be found in the Curriculum Guide put out by the Seattle Archdiocese located in the office.)

## **Religion:**

Students at St. Anne School are always encouraged to live the Gospel values through prayer, worship, Christ-centered decision-making, service, and compassion (as stated in our school's philosophy). There are, however, specific parts of the day designated for prayer and religious education. Every morning, before lunch and before home we say a prayer. Our Angel meetings are also a time to peacefully resolve conflicts in a Christ-like manner. We will prepare prayer assemblies for the school and attend school Masses. The class will also be involved in service projects throughout the year.

**Please let me know if you would like to help with or have an idea for a service project.**

The general religion content for Kindergarten:

- Bible Stories: Creation, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, Jesus Feeds the Hungry.
- Relationships: family and friends
- God made me special
- God gives us Jesus
- Seasonal lessons (Advent, Lent, etc.)

"Talk about Touching" and "Second Step" are two additional programs we teach in Pre/K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This is an educational program from "Committee for Children." "Talk about Touching" program helps students general safety and to understand what is unwanted and unsafe touch. "Second Step" program is designed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior in young children and increase their level of social competence. It does this by teaching skills in empathy, impulse control and anger management.

## Language Arts

Language arts includes reading, writing, phonics- all language. At St. Anne we use a variety of materials that give all children the skills they need to read and write.

1. **McMillan/McGraw Hill:** This is a wonderful series that covers a broad range of reading skills. Their motto is: Every student reads, every student succeeds. The program focuses on connecting the reading stories to the child's life. Students will be exposed to many different types of print and read for many different purposes. We use the "Reading Strategies" packet in addition. We use the McMillan/McGraw Hill books, big books and a variety of picture books.
2. **Zoo Phonics:** The goal of Zoo Phonics is that all children exit Kindergarten with basic reading, spelling and writing readiness skills. When learning to read and spell with Zoo Phonics, students are presented with auditory, visual and kinesthetic components. Please refer to the handout with the animal names and signals at the back of this packet to become familiar with the program. You can also check out [www.zoo-phonics.com](http://www.zoo-phonics.com).
3. **Handwriting without Tears:** The goal of Handwriting without Tears is to make legible and fluent handwriting an easy and automatic skill for all students. The curriculum uses multi-sensory techniques and consistent habits for letter formation to teach handwriting. Please take a look at the alphabet list included in the back of this packet to become familiar with how your child should be forming letters. Enforcing this at home will ensure fluency.
4. **Story Writing/ Journaling:** Each Kindergartner will experience writing in many different forms throughout the year. Journals will be a big part of our writing experiences. We also have Writers Workshop most mornings.

## **Science**

We will be using the FOSS modules for our study of science. The topics we will cover; Trees, Paper, Fabric, Insects and Animals (two by two). FOSS is hands-on learning and very appealing to children. Students will construct knowledge of the material through classroom investigations. At the Kindergarten level, the scientific thinking process involves observing, communicating and comparing. We will look at pictures, record observations, take measurements and use our five senses to explore and inquire.

We have two classroom pets, a tortoise and walking sticks. Classroom pets allow students to learn empathy for God's creatures and observation skills. And of course, they're just fun to have around.

## **Social Studies**

Our Social Studies curriculum is Our World, Now and Long Ago, Harcourt School Publishers. The Units are as follows: Being a Good Citizen, My Country, Workers, Where we live, Time Goes By and Stories of the Past. There are many different ways we learn about our world; through maps, weather, time, culture, holidays, government, citizenship and more. We will also take some time to learn about the different continents.

## **Math**

Our core math curriculum is Everyday Mathematics. Everyday Math seeks to increase the time children spend on math by integrating math into other subject areas and making math part of the ongoing daily routines of the classroom (i.e. calendar).

Learning occurs through activities that engage the children and require participation. There are few worksheets with this

program. Rest assured your child is experiencing math, even though you do not see "math paper" coming home.

Everyday Mathematics is designed around eight mathematical content strands: 1. Numeration, 2. Measurement, 3. Geometry, 4. Operations, 5. Patterns and functions, 6. Money, 7. Clocks and calendars, and 8. Data and chance.

Here are some of the guideposts the children should be aiming for throughout the year:

#### FALL

- Count forward to 35
- Count back from 10 to 1
- Read numbers 1 to 15
- Recognize simple examples of symmetry
- Know the value of a penny

#### WINTER

- Count forward to 50
- Count back from 15
- Generate, continue and copy patterns
- Begin to skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's
- Identify a nickel and dime
- Graph and discuss outcomes

#### SPRING

- Count forward to 115
- Count back from 20
- Read time to the nearest hour
- Identify a quarter; know the value of a penny, nickel and dime
- Participate in telling addition and subtraction stories
- Count tally marks
- Recognize and understand  $\frac{1}{2}$

## **Parent/Teacher Relationship**

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is essential. We all are working together toward the same goal, your child's success and happiness. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through weekly newsletters and behavior reports, notes, emails, telephone calls, report cards and conferences. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time via email, phone message or written note. Please feel free to call me at home if you need. My phone number is at the end of this packet.

## **Volunteers/Visitors**

We always enjoy having our parents come to the school and help us learn. We have wonderful parent support. Please look at my web page and email me times you would be available to help in the classroom. I will update the webpage with the information you give me. Your help is greatly appreciated! If you are unable to help in the classroom, there are opportunities for you to help with projects at home.

A special volunteer job we have each week is a "Guest Reader." You schedule a time with me during the week to come in and read your favorite book to the class. Do not worry if the books might be a repeat because they love to be read to.

All visitors and volunteers will need to go by the office before coming to the classroom to sign-in and pick up a visitor's badge. Please do not enter through the door that leads directly into the classroom.

## **Positive Reinforcement**

Positive Reinforcement is an important part of any classroom. Students feel a great deal of pride and success when they are rewarded for good behavior. I believe in the phrase, "Catch them being good." When you focus on behavior you expect to see, students rise to the expectations. Here are a few ways we focus on positive behavior:

1. Tickets- Tickets are given to students modeling great behavior. The student writes his/her name on the ticket and puts it in a jar for a drawing. The winner of the drawing chooses a prize from our Prize Box.
2. Marble Jars- The marble jar encourages tables to work together to clean up, focus their attention, follow directions, etc. When these things happen, the table earns a marble. The table with the most marbles at the end of the week chooses a prize from our Prize Box.
3. Baseball- Baseballs in the baseball mitt on our classroom door represent good hallway behavior. Every time the group gets a compliment while walking through the hall, a baseball is added to the mitt. Each time we reach 25 balls, the class will vote on a special reward (i.e. movie, pajama day, extra recess, ect).

## **Discipline Plan**

We start the year off by teaching the children friendship skills and coming up with classroom/school rules together. We focus on respect and responsibility. This is a lot of information for a child so we take our time learning, practicing and reviewing these skills. We have Angel meetings to give students an opportunity to voice problems/concerns they are having at school.

In our classroom, students will discover, learn, have fun and make mistakes. I believe it is important for children to understand that everyone makes mistakes. We are here to support them and help them make good choices.

The Love and Logic approach is used in our classroom. Your child has already begun to develop a relationship with Mrs. Thole and myself. He/she knows we care about them and their lives beyond the classroom. They are learning what it means to be a student in our Kindergarten class. In a Love and Logic classroom, everyone is treated with respect and given the opportunity to learn from natural consequences. This means that each child and situation may be dealt with differently because we, as individuals, are different. Some children are capable of coming with their own solutions or consequences, while others need suggestions. The most important part of solving a problem is that the solution or consequence is meaningful for the child. The children are given lots of choices and empowered to think through their decisions and actions.

If you would like to be on the same page as us with regards to discipline, I recommend checking out the Love and Logic website [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com) or picking up a copy of the book Parenting with Love and Logic by Cline and Fay.

Every Friday you will receive a behavior report for your child from either Mrs. Thole or myself. Please look it over and talk with your child about it. If you have any questions about their report, just ask!

<u><b>Behavior Report</b></u>	
Marking code:	Consistently demonstrates Demonstrates with occasional reminders Needs improvement
_____	Completes work in a timely manner
_____	Plays cooperatively
_____	Follows directions
_____	Listens attentively when others speak
_____	Respects authority
_____	Practices self-control (follows rules and manages own behavior).
Comments:	

## **Homework**

Kindergarten children are eager and ready to learn. Kindergarten homework lays the foundation for good work habits in later years. Furthermore, positive homework helps establish the home-school connection and involves parents as partners in their child's daily learning experiences. Homework is an extension of what we do in class and gives your child an opportunity to practice and reinforce the concepts and skills we are learning. It is not optional, and should be viewed as a meaningful learning

experience. It is also very rewarding for you to see firsthand all things your child is learning!

Homework will be sent home on Mondays and is to be returned on Friday completed. The idea is to do one assignment (page) a night for **4 nights**. Each assignment should last about **10 minutes**. In addition to the worksheet pages, each child should read/be read to for 10-15 minutes each night. Homework will vary between worksheets and projects. We will start homework in **October**.

## **Grading**

In Kindergarten, much learning occurs through hands-on learning experiences. I am always assessing the children through informal and formal observations and records. Student's work is reviewed as follows:

Quality work- meets or exceeds expectations

Satisfactory

Unsatisfactory- needs further practice

## **Portfolios**

Each student has a Kindergarten Portfolio. Portfolios celebrate a child's growth over time and focus on what your child knows and has learned. Only selected pieces of work go into the portfolio therefore students are encouraged to become reflective thinkers and to be a part of their own assessment. Over the course of the year, your child will add writing samples, math calendar pages, art projects, and things they feel are "portfolio worthy." The portfolio will be shared during our end of the year Learning Celebration.

## Field Trips

Throughout the year we will schedule field trips to enhance our curriculum. Our Field Trip Volunteer will get all of our trips scheduled for the year and we will ask for one check to pay for the entire year of field trips. Permission slips will be sent home prior to each field trip. You will have the opportunity to volunteer to be a chaperone for field trips. Due to space requirements, the number of chaperones may be limited. If we have more volunteers than spaces, we will give priority to those who have not had a chance to go on a field trip. Please understand that we will make every attempt to give each parent the opportunity to go on at least one trip.

Some rules for field trip chaperones:

- Siblings are not permitted to accompany you.
- All children are required to bring a car seat.
- Parents are asked not to purchase any food or souvenirs for students while on a field trip.
- Parents are expected to remain for the duration of the trip.
- Unauthorized stops to and from the destination are not allowed.
- Cell phone use during field trips is not permitted.

## Money

Periodically your child may need to bring money to school for hot lunch, bake sales, etc. When sending money to school be sure to use an envelope or zip-loc bag **clearly marked with your child's name, what the money is for, and the amount enclosed.** Please send exact change when sending cash. All checks should be made to St. Anne School.

## Birthdays

Your child is allowed free dress on their birthday (or the day we celebrate their birthday). You are encouraged to join him/her for lunch. Please schedule a time with Mrs. Sauvage to bring in a special treat if you wish.

## Star of the Week

A Star of the Week schedule will be sent home after everyone has signed up. Contact Mrs. Sauvage to set up a time for your family to come in, preferably Friday afternoon around 2:15pm.

## Snacks

We have a snack break each day around 9:40. Please provide a **healthy snack in a separate container**, along with a water bottle. The **spout top drinks work best** for the classroom. A top that does not spill if knocked over because they are allowed to leave their drinks on their bench in the cubby. We are trying to be as "Green" as we can so I ask the kids to reuse their paper lunch sacks. Also, we suggest you refrain from sending in cookies, candy, chips, or similar high sugar snacks. I suggest choosing things like:

- Cheese or peanut butter and crackers with a fruit
- Pretzels and veggies
- Granola bars and yogurt tube

## Communication

The best way to communicate with me is by email [kindergartensta@stannesea.org](mailto:kindergartensta@stannesea.org), sending a note via the yellow folder, or leaving me a voicemail. I will get back to you within 24 hours. You may also reach me at home if needed. (206) 417-8191. Thanks, Mrs. Traci Sauvage.