



# January 2023 Newsletter

Happy New Year and Welcome Back from Winter Break!

I am so excited to see our students and begin a New Year together!

Although Pima County currently has a low COVID transmission rate, International School for Peace will continue to take steps to ensure the safety of our community. Please refer to our most updated COVID-19 Action Plan posted to our website. Common practices will include frequent handwashing, verbal health checks upon arrival, evening cleaning disinfecting by our commercial cleaning company Jani King and daily by our staff, teaching healthy living habits, designing learning environments that support physical distancing, increasing outdoor playtime, and monitoring students for illness. Please feel free to communicate to your child's teacher if your child will be wearing a mask at school. We are happy to support your child in that effort. We appreciate you contacting the preschool office should your child need to miss school for any reason.

Thank you for providing the office with your child's most updated vaccination records to include COVID and flu. Thank you for testing your child before returning from Winter Break!

I am grateful to those who abide and adapt to our school policies. The Center for Disease Control recommends getting the COVID vaccine before traveling. If you do plan to travel with your child, please alert the preschool office of your plans beforehand. Depending on your travel mode and destination, we will develop a plan for your child's safe return to school.

My thanks to our room parents Sara and Melanie, Regina and Gwenn, Katie and Elizabeth, Mandi and Rachel, Nejla, Bethany and James for continuing to support and coordinate gestures of appreciation for the staff.

I would like to thank those families who have visited and shared their culture and family traditions with our classes. We heard music from around the world and learned about Poland, Native America, Chile, Israel, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Columbia, Japan, Australia, and the United States to name just a few! We really enjoyed learning from you.

Believe it or not, 2023/2024 school registration begins on February 6! We will be accepting your 2023/2024 registration form and fee beginning that morning. Registration for our waitlist families will be accepted beginning February 13th. Registration will be ongoing and based on availability. More information will be on our website later this month. Summer Care registration will begin in early April.

Our teachers work every day to help students learn self-help skills such as independently putting on their coat or jacket and hat, manipulating buttons, pulling up and down zippers, and putting on socks and shoes to name just a few! Please help by reinforcing these important skills with your child at home! Everyone will benefit.

In Peace and gratitude,  
Cathy

"The time is always right to do what is right" - Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Mission Statement

International School for Peace promotes peace within the individual, the community, and the world by immersing children in languages and multicultural experiences through play-based, anti-bias curriculum that celebrates diversity.



# 2023—2024 Registration

**Registration is on a first come, first served basis.**

Registration for current preschoolers and their siblings begins

**February 6, 2023 at 8 am**

- \* Registration forms will be available online and outside the preschool office the week of January 23rd.
- \* Only completed registration forms with accompanying fee (check, exact cash, or money order at the office door; credit or debit online within 24 hours) will be accepted during registration.
- \* Forms received via mail will be added to the class list once received.
- \* Registration will be open to our Waitlist families on February 13th.
- \* Registration will be open to the general public starting the week of February 20th.
- \* Teachers will not accept forms or fees.
- \* Students are registered into programs and must be the age of the class they are entering by the first day of school, August 10th, 2023.
- \* Teacher assignments are made in mid-summer and based on enrollment.



*ISP is so grateful for our families and friends! We want to give a big thanks to:*



- Nathan Novak for making legs for Ms. Lydia's table!
- The Canto family for doing our weekly recycling!
- Jennyffer Fenn for helping out in the library!
- Ms. Paola for bringing in cookies for the staff!
- Mary Holley for donating a Cricut!
- Southwest Greens for installing new turf!
- The Fausti family for bringing candy for the staff!
- The Keller family for bringing mandarin oranges for the staff!
- The Parsons family for bringing in coffee, cookies, and candy for the staff!
- The Fenn family for bringing in cookies for the staff!
- The Keller family for bringing in candy for the staff!
- Paula Ghebar for Costco shopping!
- Jorge Pascal for fixing a bike!
- Fleury for cleaning the custodial closet and raking!
- Meredith Keller for assisting in Ms. Lydia's classroom!
- Nick Thomas for landscaping!
- Matt Landau for landscaping!
- Monika Patel for donating toys and puzzles!
- The Ghebar family for bringing cake for the staff!
- Maureen Hales for making a monetary donation for our teachers!
- Cathy DeMers for donating paper plates!
- Derek Hyers for painting rooms 32/33 and the connecting hallway!

## ISP Recommends:



**Children's Orthopedic Specialists**

Kent Vincent, M.D.

P: 520.296.KIDS (5437) • F: 520.296.9683

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## **Tax Time**

International School for Peace's  
Tax I.D. is  
**86-0388672**

Printed tax information is available  
upon written request to the  
preschool office beginning  
**February 1st.**

*Allow 2 weeks. A \$5.00 fee applies.*

## **Cultural Holidays:**

**Polar Bear Plunge Day:** January 1

**Epiphany:** January 6

**Mahayana New Year:**

January 7

**Makar Sankranti:** January 15

**World Religion Day:** January 16

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** January 16

**Chinese New Year:** January 22

**DO YOU LOVE  
YOUR**

**PRESCHOOL?!?!**

**Please consider ...**



**writing a  
Google Review  
for us,**

**liking us on  
Facebook,**



**and rating us on  
Great Schools!**

**There will be  
No School  
January 16**

**in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day!**

## Save the Date!

Our next fundraiser will begin on February 6th!

Looking for a personalized water bottle for your child?

Look no further!

Stay tuned for more information on our water bottle fundraiser!

Thank you to ISP's Fabulous

Room Parents:

Sara Shayan

Melanie Radovic

Katie Noboa

Liz Toscano

Regina Salaz

Gwenn Santoro

Mandi Gilman

Rachel Thomas

Nejla AL-Rashid

Bethany Vana

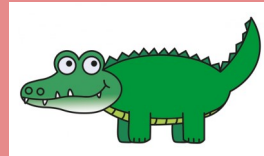
James Parsons

Our staff appreciates everything you do  
for us!

ISP sends  
good wishes to

Levin Tarver-Wahlquist  
and  
Ashley Femrite

See you later,  
Alligator!



# US Brings Back Free At-home COVID Tests as Part of Winter Plan

By Madeline Halpert  
BBC News, Washington  
12/15/2022

US households are once again able to order free at-home COVID-19 tests, as the government attempts to limit the spread of the virus this winter.

The White House said up to four rapid tests could be ordered from the government website [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov).

It is announced that the test programme, which was paused in September, would be restarted on Thursday [12/15] with deliveries beginning the week of 19 December.

The decision came as COVID infections rise ahead of the winter holidays.

The Biden administration began sending free at-home tests in January, but stopped in September after more than 600 million tests were distributed because Congress did not approve the extra funding needed for the programme to continue.

But the government is now using funding left over from the American Rescue Plan, the COVID relief bill that was passed last year, to pay for the tests, a US official told the BBC's US partner CBS.

"We feel confident that we are going to have enough tests to get through this round, four per household, in the coming weeks," a senior administration official told reporters on Wednesday.

It is part of a broader White House plan to prepare for COVID this winter, when some Americans are at an increased risk of catching the virus as they gather indoors for the holidays.

The White House said it hoped to encourage Americans to take at-home tests when they are symptomatic, before and after travelling for the holidays, and when visiting vulnerable individuals.

COVID cases, hospital visits, and deaths have all begun to rise in recent weeks.

Some cities are calling for Americans to wear masks again in indoor spaces to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, while White House officials have urged Americans to get the latest COVID and flu jabs.

Only 13.5% of those aged five and older in the US have received the updated coronavirus shot targeting the omicron variant, according to the CDC.

Highly contagious omicron subvariants—which are now the dominant coronavirus strains in the US—are contributing to the uptick in cases.

# Precare

Hello Parents, Happy New Year!

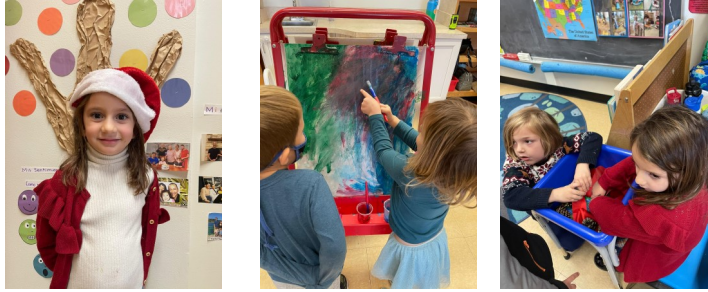
I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful winter break and time with your families.

During precare, children can socialize with children from other classes. There are always plenty of activities which include art, prewriting tasks, story time, building, painting, puzzles, games, and dramatic play.

Thank you for helping me to keep your child's backpack outside the precare classroom.

One of the first tasks at arrival is to wash hands. Children are well into that routine and handwashing properly.

Our precare lesson plan and class schedule is located on the window of our precare classroom.



Thank you all!

Ms. Siria and Ms. Lulu

# Aftercare



**Please welcome our new Aftercare teacher, Vivian!**

Vivian Olvera is the aftercare teacher at ISP. She has a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Arizona, 2 years of experience working as a special education paraprofessional, and 2 years of experience as a classroom teacher. She is a mother of one and has lived in Tucson since 2017. Her hobbies include writing, reading, making jewelry, and playing board games.

**We are excited to have you!**

# Younger 2's Partial Spanish Immersion

Saludos

Happy New Year to all my families! 2023 is here and we are so excited to start this semester with a lot of energy, and are ready to continue working on academic goals with every child.

Winter is here! This month, we will see many changes in the weather and trees. One of the topics we will look at is Arctic animals (polar bears, penguins, whales, walruses, seals). We will discuss the climate these animals live in as well as what they eat. In addition, we will discuss which animals hibernate.

Another theme we will look at is peace. We will look at how to be a peaceful person and what the word "peace" means.

Furthermore, we will look at the holiday Chinese New Year, which is one of the most important holidays in China, and how it is celebrated. 2023 is the year of the rabbit for this Chinese New Year. We will be reading some books about this tradition and creating activities.

Lastly, we will look at the theme trees. We will discuss various trees and how they change through the seasons as well as the different parts of a tree (branches, trunk, roots, & leaves).

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
Enero	-January
Pinguino	-Penguin
Oso Polar	-Polar Bear
Ballena	-Whale
Focas	-Seals
Conejo	-Rabbit
Paz	-Peace
Arbol	-Tree
Tronco	-Trunk
Ramas	-Branch
Hojas	-Leaves

**We will create some art activities including:**

- Penguin paper plate
- Chinese New Year envelope
- Handprint tree
- Peace symbol paper plate

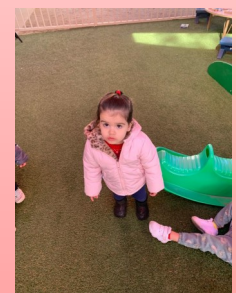
**Special Thanks:**  
Hamed's mom Sara and Monty's mom Melanie for sharing their traditions with our class.



**Song of the Month:**  
"Animal Dance!"  
Polar Bear, Polar Bear turn around.  
Polar Bear, Polar Bear touch the ground.  
Polar Bear, Polar Bear growl real loud.  
Polar Bear, Polar Bear sit on the ground.

With love,

Ms. Ana





# Older 2's Partial Spanish Immersion

Welcome Back!! I hope your holidays were fantastic and the 2 weeks break was restful. We have so much fun planned for this New Year!

The first week of this month we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. We will create lanterns, paint dragons and rabbits, and read books about this fun celebration.

The second week's theme is exploring trees. We will be collecting different kinds of leaves from outdoors and discuss their characteristics. We will talk about parts of the tree and what each part does, seasonal changes of trees, and the importance of trees. We will do art projects with natural materials and paint.

The third week's theme is peace. We will talk about the concept of peace. We will play the "Listening Game" and identify familiar sounds while focusing on our listening skills. Listening is an important skill when learning to work with others to resolve conflicts. We will continue to identify our feelings and practice our conflict resolution skills. We will decorate a peace sign with glue and rice.

The fourth week's theme is Arctic animals. The kids will learn about a cold part of the world and discover animals that inhabit this area. We will explore how these special creatures move, their physical features, how they adapt to their climate, and what they eat. We will create a penguin.

As a mother myself, I realize how challenging it can be packing healthy foods in lunches. I appreciate your efforts to help me promote healthy eating to your child and by keeping unhealthy snacks at home.

Please continue to work on potty training at home. Kids are doing a great job at school!

I appreciate you providing at least two sets of clothing for school and eating utensils for snack/lunch if needed.

## Vocabulary:

New Year- Año Nuevo

Lanterns- linternas

Rabbit- Conejo

Tree- arbol

Leaves -hojas

Branches- ramas

Trunk -tronco

Peace -paz

Silence -silencio

Bear -Oso

Penguin -pinguino

Arctic -artico

Snow - Nieve

Muchas Gracias!

Ms. Siria

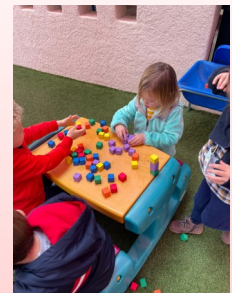
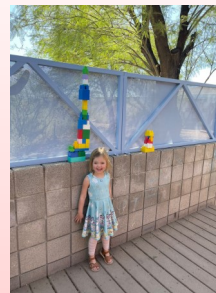
## January Songs

Tree song

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Polar Bear

Six Little Penguins



# 3's Partial Spanish Immersion

Welcome January!

I want to thank all who came to share a tradition and read a book to our class! Thank you for all your support! Special thanks to Cathy DeMers, Regina Salaz, Chelsea Ford, Debbie Kornmiller, Marietta Brady, Brenda Landau, Matt Landau, Lily Ryan, Nicola Esposito, and Joseph Ruffino.



During January we are learning about and exploring trees, winter, Arctic animals, Chinese New Year and peace in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.



I will continue reviewing numbers 1 to 15 in English and Spanish. We will continue exploring seasons, finger play, songs, shapes, colors, and the alphabet, both English and Spanish, during circle time. We will review class routines and hand washing procedures as well.



## Reminders

-Our temperatures are getting cooler so please replace the clothing in your child's cubby with clothing suitable for the cooler days ahead!

-Pack utensils for lunch/snacks if needed!

-Please label morning and aftercare snacks, lunch, and water bottle!

Until next time!

Ms. Zulma



# 3's Full Spanish Immersion

¡Feliz año nuevo y bienvenidos de regreso familias!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year. Before winter break children experienced a variety of activities. We created ornaments, menorahs, trees, and sang many songs to name just a few! The children really enjoyed these activities.

I want to give a big thanks to: Amanda Gilman, Meredith Keller, Cathy DeMers, Alicia Enciso Litschi, Joseph Leonard-Lopez, Shanleigh Sullivan, and Bethany Vana, who have visited and shared their culture and family traditions with our class.

Our themes for the month of January include Arctic animals, winter, peace, and Chinese New Year. We will be exploring the winter season and all the changes that we observe during this chilly time of year! We will create snow paint, play with real snow, and create snowflakes.

We will continue to practice our peaceful conflict strategies through role play, books, and songs.

Lastly, we will celebrate Chinese New Year (Year of the Rabbit). We will read books, create lanterns and paper rabbits, and eat pot stickers.

We will continue working on colors, shapes, numbers 1-15, letters and their corresponding sounds, and days of the week all in Spanish!

I am glad to be back with all of you!

Kindly,

Ms. Damaris

## **Kind Reminders:**

- Please label morning and aftercare snacks, lunch, and water bottles.
- Pack a utensil, if needed.
- Temperatures are getting colder, please replace the clothing in your child's cubby with clothing suitable for the low temperature days.

## **January Spanish**

### **Vocabulary:**

Invierno - Winter

Paz - Peace

Hielo - Ice

Paloma - Dove



# 3's / 4's Partial Spanish Immersion

Queridos Padres y Familia

Happy 2023 New Year and welcome back!

During the month of January, our themes will be trees, peace, Arctic animals, and Chinese New Year.

We celebrate peace every day by spreading kindness with our actions and words, resolving our conflicts in a peaceful manner, showing respect for each other, and using good manners every day. We will be making an extra effort to "catch" kids being peaceful and celebrate their choices.

We will learn about hibernation and discuss where, when, and which animals hibernate in this time of the year. We will explore parts of the trees and discuss everyday products that are from trees.

Special thanks to the following folks for sharing your family and cultural traditions with our class!

- Noemi's mom-Christina Antipa
- Sean and Antonio's mom-Azucena Bravo
- Albert's mom-Jessica Dennes
- Sian's mom-Lindsay Pascal
- Zayyan's parents-Nejla and Valmore Al-Rashid Sealey

We will continue practicing our different yoga poses to stretch our bodies, and learn breathing to quiet and calm our body when we feel overwhelmed or very excited.

We will continue to have our Enrichment classes; Hebrew, Farsi, and Art with Ms. Ana Maria (once or twice in a month).

Students have been learning and practicing counting and naming numbers from 1 to 10. We will start to advance to number 15. At circle time, we continue counting the days of the month, identifying the day of the week, and discussing the new year. We also keep learning

about the letter of the week. Children are really excited about learning new words that start with that letter. Please ask your child about the letter of the week and discuss words with that beginning sound.

Our students enjoyed the experience of making and tasting tamales (Mexican tradition). We also had our Posada with a Pinata, cookies, hot chocolate, and our comfy pajamas.

Thank you to all the families for your ongoing support, beautiful letters, and gifts. I feel so very appreciated and blessed to be your children's teacher. I enjoy and love all of them.

My best wishes and blessings to you for a wonderful New Year 2023!

With love Ms. Lydia

## Spanish Vocabulary

Inverno-Winter

Arbol-Tree

Paz-Peace

Conejo-Rabbit



# 4's/5's Full Spanish Immersion

Dear Parents and Families,

We welcome a brand new year, hoping that this 2023 will bring us health, prosperity, abundance in all kinds, and plenty of opportunities to grow and learn. I always like to dedicate the first week of January to talk and share with my class about new things we would like to try during this year, for instance: practice a sport, try new foods, be more curious, spread kindness, etc. The start of a new year is also a great opportunity to introduce the whole calendar. We'll learn a song about the months of the year (in Spanish) and we'll also look at what months our birthdays are in. We'll also explore the months for each season and make connections with what season our birthdays fall in.

Trees/Arboles is another theme we'll explore this month. I will bring different kinds of seeds and the children will try to guess what trees grow from them. After this activity we'll plant the seeds, learn the process of tree growth, and hopefully get a tree.

Children will make a book about what Peace/Paz means to them. I will present situations and role play activities where children will discuss peaceful conflict resolution and fairness. How do we feel when friends treat us in a fair and/or unfair way? Children will also make calming jars for when strong emotions appear and they need tools to help them self-regulate.

Chinese New Year is on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2023 is the year of the Rabbit/Conejo. We'll read about this Chinese holiday and their traditions. We will also do research about rabbits, what they eat, where they live, and the different types of rabbits there are.

During this month we will find out how Arctic animals live and survive under extreme weather conditions. We will locate both Poles on the map and I will present animals from both regions to differentiate them. To support this activity I will read the book "Polar Opposites" by Erick Brooks. Even though our winter in Tucson is not as harsh as in the Arctic we'll test if our winter nights are cold enough to turn water into ice cubes! And as a group project we will paint cardboard boxes to make igloos in our dramatic area.

**Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing Skills:** Children will start recognizing, tracing and writing their last name. As always children will practice their writing skills on different kinds of surfaces and using a variety of tools.

**Pre-Math Skills:** We will work on Measurement and Data. Children were measured and weighed at the beginning of this school year. We will go back to that information and track any changes. We will record the information on a graph and compare results. I will keep presenting hands-on activities that involve addition and subtraction because I've noticed that the children enjoy solving these math problems.

We have a busy and fun month ahead. Coming back from winter break can be challenging for everybody. Just remember that reporting any changes in your family routine can be helpful to be aware of in supporting your child's behavior. I am here to provide a loving and safe place for all my students in all situations.

I'd like to thank Pamela Talero, Bethany Vana, Cat George, Sally Aquino, Ms. Cathy and Ms. Lulu for sharing some of their holiday traditions with our class. Big thanks to Jennyffer Fenn for providing Chocolate Caliente for our class. And last, but not least, thanks to all the families in my class for being so supportive of all we do. I feel so grateful to have a group of families who are always willing to help and provide us with everything we need.

I am very excited about the new adventures, projects and celebrations this second half of our school year is going to bring us!

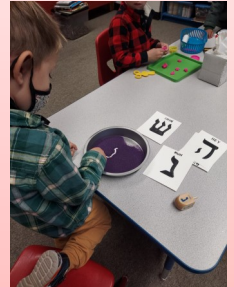
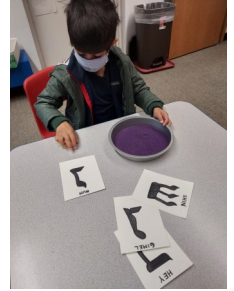
Feliz 2023!

"Most great learning happens in groups. Collaboration is the stuff of growth" -Sir Ken Robinson

Sending Love and Kindness,

Love,

Ms. Paola



# COVID-19 Action Plan

Updated 12-1-2022

At International School for Peace, we understand that families are entrusting us with not only the education and socialization of their children, but also with their health, safety, and well-being. Our administration, teachers, staff, and families are doing our part to ensure the safety of everyone who enters our campus. Below is a list of what we are doing in the best interest of the community as a whole. ISP will continue make updates to our policies as deemed appropriate or mandated.

What Administration is Doing:	What Staff is Doing:	What Families are Doing:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ Jani King, a professional cleaning service, who will clean our campus each evening M-F. When directed they may utilize a hospital grade method of disinfecting. In the event that a hospital grade method of disinfectant needs to be used, families will be notified. The same team will clean our classrooms each evening.</li> <li>• Follow current CDC/PCHD guidelines and recommendations in regard to a response when close contact or a confirmed case occurs, which will include reinstating mask wearing, testing, or quarantine.</li> <li>• Establish separate entry and exit points to the school and encourage directional traffic at high traffic times.</li> <li>• Apply ground markers to aid in distancing.</li> <li>• Set up hand sanitizer stations around the ISP campus for use by students, families, and staff.</li> <li>• Ensure only staff and essential persons have access to classrooms at this time.</li> <li>• Ensure sufficient supplies of disinfectant, tissues, masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves are available at all times.</li> <li>• Establish an emergency plan should a staff member or student display COVID-like symptoms during school hours. Plan may include release from school, isolation, mask wearing.</li> <li>• Ensure regular changing of air filters in all ISP buildings.</li> <li>• Contact the community when a confirmed case occurs.</li> <li>• Post signs to demonstrate the importance of proper handwashing and social distancing.</li> <li>• Share community resources to access assistance and education about vaccines.</li> <li>• Follow CDC and PCHD recommendations regarding domestic and international travel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support children who wear masks.</li> <li>• Keep separate all outer clothing, water bottles, and lunches.</li> <li>• Disclose to the Director should you have close contact, display symptoms yourself, or test positive.</li> <li>• Ensure children are 6 feet apart at meal times. Classroom windows will be open. Eating will take place outdoors when weather permits.</li> <li>• Design activities in the classroom environment that support physical distancing in respect to a play-based philosophy.</li> <li>• Invite families to participate in outdoor activities.</li> <li>• Promote, demonstrate, and reinforce healthy hygiene habits.</li> <li>• Model and reinforce effective handwashing with soap and water for each child upon entry to the classroom, before/after eating, after using the bathroom, and at other times throughout the school day.</li> <li>• Post lesson plans and class happenings in the windows for family viewing.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect classroom toys frequently.</li> <li>• Present curriculum utilizing outdoor space as much as possible.</li> <li>• Unless essential, discourage nap bedding from home.</li> <li>• Vaccinate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclose to ISP director should your child test positive for COVID-19. A plan will be set into place for your child's return to school which will include isolation and wearing a well fitted mask for 10 days .</li> <li>• Disclose to the director should your child have close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. <b>While at school, your child will wear a high-quality mask for 10 full days and get tested after day 5 of the most recent exposure.</b></li> <li>• Practice physical distancing outside classrooms and adhere to ground markers.</li> <li>• Limit your time on the campus during pick up and drop off.</li> <li>• Adhere to established entry and exit points.</li> <li>• Ensure that your child has two spare sets of clothing at school.</li> <li>• Provide the most current copy of your child's emergency information and immunization / exemption forms. If COVID vaccinated, provide updated record.</li> <li>• Monitor your child for the safe use of hand sanitizer.</li> <li>• Commit to staying abreast of school communication.</li> <li>• Keep sick children home and contact preschool office of absence.</li> <li>• Ensure having a backup childcare plan should your child be diagnosed with COVID-19.</li> <li>• Understand what personal items support a child's sense of security, ability to transition, or self-regulate and are considered essential. Speak with your teacher about having items at school.</li> <li>• Vaccinate.</li> </ul>