

September 2019 Newsletter

Building Blocks Learning Center

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Welcome Back!

We're looking forward to a wonderful start to the school year! Our Kindergarten is already in session, and preschool begins independent classes on Monday. We hope you all enjoyed our cheerful staff and bright classrooms which greeted you and your child at orientations.

The purpose of this monthly electronic newsletter is to highlight current and future school-wide happenings. Please save and refer to it for important school information. Specific dates and details are noted. I do my best to keep it as brief as possible, but feel that keeping our families fully informed is a priority. Please set aside a few minutes to read through it thoroughly and don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Enjoy these first few weeks of school--take a moment to talk about the treasured projects and listen to the new stories your child has for you!

Please don't forget to:

- send your child's folder to school each morning and empty it after every fun school day.
- keep your cell phones on and with you; this is the most convenient way I have of reaching you, if needed.
- have your child use the bathroom right before you leave for school. For safety, all staff members need to be at their posts until 9:15, and are not available to bathroom your child at arrival. If your child urgently needs to go, you'll need to park your car in the lot and walk your child through the arrival door to the bathroom yourself.
- keep your goodbyes simple and sweet, and stick to your "goodbye plan".
- be extra patient as we all learn new routines and get accustomed to school life once again!

Donation Item of the Month--Hand Sanitizer

Each month, BBLC will highlight a specific item for donation. These items help to keep our students healthy, safe, and comfortable at school. This is always absolutely voluntary. If you choose to donate, simply send in the named item with your child. Each child who donates gets entered into our monthly "Free Lunch Bunch" drawing.

The winner will be selected at the end of each month. Throughout the month of September, we will be collecting **pump bottles of hand sanitizer**. Please consider donating a bottle or two. Thank you so very much for your consideration and generosity. (If a Kindergartner wins the drawing, he/she will win a set of books.)





Passive Fundraising for BBLC...Giant A+ Rewards

At BBLC, we do not ask our families to participate in any active fundraising efforts...no bake sales, no wrapping paper or candles, no popcorn...We do kindly ask that any family who shops at Giant Food Stores to register their bonus cards with the Giant A+ School Rewards Program. You can immediately visit www.giantfoodstores.com and select *Savings, then Rewards and Programs*. Click on the *A+ icon*. Follow the prompts to create your online account. You'll need your 11-digit BONUSCARD number and the **School ID #24569**. If you use your BONUSCARD each time you shop, you will earn cash for our school. This does not affect your ability to gain gas points, percentage-off discounts, turkeys, etc. It's simply a passive way to help our school! I thank you in advance for participating. (You do not need to re-register your card, if you have done so last year.)

The Driveway Loop

Starting Mon, 9/9, all classes will be in session, which means that the driveway loop will be a **very busy** place. Patience and cooperation are appreciated; we have many new families doing this for the first time. The arrival door will open at 9:00 sharp. If you are the first car in the parking lot, **please do not enter the driveway until 9:00**. There is a large group of families that chooses to park and walk up; they will be waiting in the driveway for the door to open. The first few cars need to be very cautious of this group. By 9:10, things substantially slow down, and the loop runs quickly and efficiently. Congestion is lessened. The door is open until 9:15, so you might want to plan to arrive a bit later than 9:00 to avoid the initial rush. **Please remember not to be on your phone, and to hold your child's hand the entire time you are in the driveway.** It takes a few days/weeks for everyone to learn and master this routine, but I promise, it does work!



School Bus Safety



There are three yellow school buses that transport our Kindergartners to BBLC each morning. The buses stop at the side entrance of our building, on Church Street. It is state law that cars must stop both in front of and behind stopped buses with flashing lights. Please adhere to this law and do not pass a stopped bus. If you are in the parking lot, awaiting your turn into our driveway loop, **please do not attempt to go behind the bus** -- wait until the bus has turned off its flashers. Also, please make sure your car fits **completely** in our driveway and doesn't "hang off" into Church Street, blocking the buses. The safety of our students is an absolute priority. Thanks for your cooperation with this important issue.

Building Renovations

Summer is the most convenient time for building renovations. As of last Friday, all renovations have been completed (ahead of schedule!). All building/safety/parking/driveway loop procedures will move forward, as usual.

Add-Ons

Step 2 and Pre-K students are invited to participate in our "Fun Frolics", "Mindful Mondays", and "Groovy Guests" school day extensions. Yellow information sheets were provided during orientation. Be on the lookout for brightly-colored registration forms coming home soon in folders. (Children who are absent when registration forms go out will receive an email alert.) These programs are very popular--please sign up early to avoid disappointment. The price of each extension includes the Lunch Bunch fee. Confirmations will be sent. Once the session has filled, an email will be sent out communicating that the program is closed. We need to keep our numbers manageable, so that participants can enjoy the fun safely.

Lunch Bunch

The fee for regular drop-in Lunch Bunch is **\$7**. Cash/checks accepted. Discounted punch cards are available--**5 punches for \$30**--this is a savings of \$5. Lunch Bunch extends your child's day by one hour. Please remember to include payment/card inside of your child's lunch box each time you use our Lunch Bunch program. Don't forget to pack all needed items including **beverage, utensils, and 2 napkins. Thermoses should be completely leak-proof, and housed inside of lunch boxes. An ice pack will keep foods cool.** The driveway loop is open for dismissal. Lunch Bunch will begin September 16 for Step 2 and Pre-K students, and on November 5 for Step 1 students. No note or call is necessary--if children come in with lunch and fee, we know they are staying for an additional hour to eat lunch and play with their friends!

Important Dates

September 9--Independent preschool classes begin
September 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 -- Step One classes dismiss at 11:00
September 16-- Lunch Bunch begins for Step 2 and Pre-K students
September 20-- Scholastic Book Order due (**online only, use code PDMNL**)
September 30--We are open; even though CB is closed. K buses will run as usual.

Thanks so much for your attention. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am available both by phone or email. And of course, if your child (or you!) is a bit teary at drop-off, please call, as I am happy to check on him/her and give you a full update!



Looking forward to a fun and productive September with you and your little ones!

-Michele Burchell, Director