

September 2021 Newsletter

Building Blocks Learning Center

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Welcome Back!

We're looking forward to a wonderful start to the school year! As always, we strive to provide our school students with a safe, nurturing, and inviting learning environment. We are creative, fun, and engaging, as well as diligent, cautious, and thorough. And, we ask for the same from our school families. We want to safely open and stay open, and we need the dedicated help of each and every school family to do so.

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 the first few weeks of school. Listen as your children share their new stories and celebrate the joys of starting school again!

Here are some reminders:

- Before you leave for school, please monitor your child for ANY symptoms. Take temps and conduct a full assessment. Children who are displaying symptoms of illness are to be kept home. Please then connect with me to discuss next steps.
- You may utilize the driveway loop or park in our lot and walk up to the arrival door.
- Masks are optional for adults dropping off/picking up, but please have your child's mask up and in place (with attached lanyard) before you get to the arrival door.
- Make a "goodbye" plan with your child and stick to the plan! Uncertainty can creep in when these plans are changed. Be confident and upbeat, and your child will follow your cues.
- Keep your cell phones ON and with you; this is the most convenient way we have of reaching you, if needed.
- Remember to have your child use the bathroom right before you leave for school. For safety, all staff members need to be at their posts until the arrival door closes, and are not available to bathroom your child during the arrival process.
- Please be extra patient as we all learn new routines and get accustomed to school life once again!

Donation Item of the Month--Paper Towels



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/bring in the named item with your child. Throughout the month of September, we will be collecting **rolls of paper towels**. Please consider donating a roll or two. Thank you so very much for your consideration and generosity.

Each child who donates will have his/her name entered in the monthly drawing to win a Scholastic story book to add to the home library!

Dismissal--ID Needed

Even if you've been with BBLC for years, we are respectfully asking that every adult who comes to pick up a child have his/her photo ID in hand and ready for display at pick-up for the first full week of school. New class assignments most likely mean new teachers, who may not easily recognize parents and caregivers. We will be taking our time at dismissal, doing all the checking and identifying we need to. Having photo ID in hand will help move this process along more smoothly.



Oh, NO! We're LATE!!

If you miss the open arrival door, please pull your car up to the driveway's exit. Bring your child to the left-most front door, near the outdoor classroom, in the front of the building. This door will be clearly marked with **GREEN** signs. Call the phone number posted (not the school's landline) and I will come to the door. If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment, please give us advanced notice and use this door, as well.

A word about masks...

Please make sure your child's mask fits well--nice and snug--it's just not comfortable to wear things that are droopy and floppy. Washing masks after each day is also highly recommended. We've got a little more time before school starts, so kindly have children continue to practice wearing their masks. An elastic lanyard will be provided for each student. This cord will keep the mask around your child's neck when not in use (snack/lunch/outdoor time). Please keep track of this lanyard and remember to attach it to your child's mask each school day. Replacements can be found on Amazon--here's the link:https://www.amazon.com/BBTO-Adjustable-Anti-Slip-Dust-Workers-Food-Workers/dp/B086P91HKW/ref=pd_ybh_a_54?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=TZHZD4QDZYAF5XG5X7XJ. If you prefer to have your child wear his/her mask while outdoors, remember to put this request in writing.



The Driveway Loop

Starting Monday, 9/13, all classes will be in session. Patience and cooperation with the driveway loop are appreciated; we have many new families doing this for the first time. The morning 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 8:55**. The arrival 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 that the driveway is a no phone zone and to hold your child's hand. Also, please approach our parking lot from the cemetery side, not from Church Street.

Overflow from the lot needs to point back toward the cemetery. If this is not followed, we can snarl traffic in town very quickly.

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 squeeze in behind the bus** -- wait until the bus has turned off its flashers and pulled away. Also, please make sure your car fits **completely** in our driveway and doesn't "hang off" into Church Street, blocking the buses or car traffic. The safety of our students is an absolute priority. Thanks for your cooperation with this important issue.



Please sign up for Texts

Last year, we used REMIND--a communication platform which utilizes text to get announcements out quickly. It worked great! I fully urge you to sign up for texts, based on your child(ren)'s classes. If you signed up last year, YES, you need to do it again with this year's new class(es). No replies are accepted to these texts--they are for informational purposes only. **Simply text the following code to 81010. (You should receive a "You've joined..." message and you do not need to get the app, nor view any missed messages.)**

Class

Step 1--Miss Diane's class
Step 1--Mrs. Szabo's class
Step 2--Mrs. Szabo's class
Step 2--Mrs. Tricarichi's class
3-Day PreK--Mrs. Kline's class
5-Day PreK--Mrs. Dougherty's class
5-Day PreK--Mrs. Hamer's class
Kindg--Mrs. Wegeler's class

Code

@step1di
@step1l (the last digit is lowercase L)
@step2li
@step2j
@3dayprekl (the last digit is lowercase L)
@mburchell
@preklaure
@h43924

Important Dates

7/8 Preschool Staff Inservice Days; K in session
9/10 Classroom Orientations for all Preschool Classes (one adult per child, refer to your Back-to-School email (8/1) for timing and details--YES, bring backpacks and tuition checks)
13/14 First independent days for preschool classes
16 We are OPEN (even though CB is closed)
27 Lunch Bunch Begins for Step 2/PreK (M-Th)

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 safe, fun, and productive September with you and your little ones! Let the magic of school begin...

-Michele Burchell, Director

