Welcome to Our Classroom!

Dear Families,

Welcome to our classroom. We look forward to working with your children and having a wonderful school year! Below you will find some information about our classroom that we hope you will find useful.

**Classroom Staff**

Athena Fazio – Classroom Teacher
Kathleen Averill – Classroom Assistant
Katy Ryan, Nathalie Fletcher or Heidi Hawkins – Speech and Language Therapists for Preschool
Kristine Sullivan – Physical Therapist
Carolyn Levitan – Occupational Therapist
Charlie Ferro – School Psychologist who runs the Second Step Curriculum

**Daniel Feeney Preschool Staff**

Jennifer Bernard – Preschool Director
Nicole Sliby – Procedural Assistant

**School Information**

Hours: 8:45 – 11:15 (A.M. Session), 12:00 – 2:30 (P.M. Session)

Preschool Phone Number – (508) 660-7374  Classroom Phone Extension – x 5684

Daniel Feeney Preschool Website – http://walpole.k12.ma.us/dfp/

Classroom Website – from the preschool website, click on “staff directory” (left side of page) and select “Athena Fazio.” Click on the picture of the globe to obtain the website for our classroom (Athena Fazio).
**Parking**

The parking area adjacent to the preschool playground is designated for Handicapped Parking and for preschool drop off and pick up. The preschool staff will meet you at the sidewalk or fence and bring your child into school. This will help to speed up drop off and decrease the amount of time you wait in line.

Dismissal will be from the playground. Dismissal is at 11:15 for the A.M. session, and 2:30 for the P.M. session. During inclement weather the children will wait inside and be dismissed to you from the lower hallway entrance (playground entrance the door is marked with a yellow number: 12).

Please let us know by note if any other person/people will be picking up your child other than yourself or the van company. Any new people that pick up your child (that we have not met) will be asked to show picture identification. We realize that this may be inconvenient; however, we want to ensure your child’s safety first and foremost.

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**Backpacks and Snacks**

Please have your child bring in a backpack large enough to hold papers, projects, and his/her snack bag. This will allow children to have both hands free while walking up and down the stairs. Each day, children will have a 10 minute snack, so please send a PEANUT FREE snack and drink to school daily. We encourage you to send in healthy snacks (fruits and veggies). Grapes must be pre-cut to prevent choking. Candy and soda are NOT allowed and will be returned home. We thank you for your cooperation.

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**Extra Clothing**

Please send in a complete set of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear, and socks) to be kept in school in case of a toileting accident or a messy spill. The extra clothing will be sent home at the end of the year. If your child is not yet toilet trained, please send in a supply of diapers and FLUSHABLE wipes to be kept at school. Also, please take the time to label ALL items that are sent into school.
Monthly Vocabulary Words and Songs

The vocabulary and words to some of the songs/fingerplays, that your children will be learning, will be available to you via the classroom website. We hope that you will help your children to use and practice these words at home and enjoy singing some of our songs together.

Newsletters

Newsletters will be available via our classroom website. Walpole Public Schools are trying to “go green” to reduce paper usage and protect our environment. Please keep an updated email address on file with the school, and let us know if you do not have access to a computer.

Class Books

Periodically throughout the school year, the children will be making books in conjunction with some of our themes. Each child will have a turn to take home our class books. The books will be sent home for only one night and should be returned to school the next day. Occasionally, families may not have time to look at the book the night it was sent home. If this happens, please return the book to school the next day with a note letting us know, so we can send the book home to you again after everyone has had a turn.

Parent Volunteers

You are more than welcome to help in the classroom; we can always use an extra pair of adult hands! Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering either by email, note, or phone. If you would like to help out in the classroom, remember – we like messy activities at preschool so please dress accordingly!

We will begin having parent volunteers starting around November. This will allow us time to get to know your children and will allow the children time to adjust to school and learn the schedule, routines, staff, and peers.

As part of our social studies curriculum, we discuss community helpers such as fire fighters, doctors, nurses, dentists, police officers, grocery store clerks, carpenters, bakers, and veterinarians to name a few. We would love to have visits from some “community helpers” during the school year. Please let us know if you are a “community helper” and would be willing to visit our classroom!

Volunteers are also welcome to be a guest reader. Story time is always a pleasurable time, and we would love to have volunteers read or sing songs with the class.
Birthdays

In accordance with new federal mandates, the school district has adopted a “School District Wellness Policy.” As a result, food treats for celebrating birthdays may no longer be sent in to school. Of course, sending in a “treat” is optional. If you would like to send something in for your child’s birthday, non-edible treats may be accepted (i.e. special pencils, stickers, small toy, etc.). In class, we will provide a birthday crown to the birthday boy or girl. Summer birthdays that occur before school started or after preschool ends will be celebrated at the end of the school year. Please let us know if you do not celebrate birthdays.

Recycling/Reusing Supplies

As the saying goes, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” This saying is very appropriate for our preschool classroom. We love to recycle! Some of the items that we save and use for a variety of art projects are: paper towel tubes, ribbon, yarn, fabric scraps, buttons. Also, if you are cleaning out and would like to donate gently used supplies such as toys, books, or puzzles, we would be happy to reuse items.

Classroom Wish List

- Baby Wipe (used daily to wash hands before snack)*
- Foaming Liquid Hand soap*
- Tissues
- Ziploc Bags (Sandwich or Gallon size)
- Paper Towels

**Bold items are in high demand

Again, welcome to our classroom family! We are excited to get to know you and your children!

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to a great year,

Ms. Athena and Mrs. Kathleen