Dear Parents, 

Can you believe it’s school time again? I hope you have enjoyed a very restful, relaxing, fun summer! It’s always wonderful to enjoy some time off for the summer, but I am so excited for school to start, and am so looking forward to spending time with your children. Thank you for sharing them with us!

This will be my first year of teaching in the Little Falcon’s Integrated Preschool. I grew up in Dallas, Texas where I began my teaching career as the Director and Pre-Kindergarten teacher of a Preschool Program for 6 years. My family relocated to Danvers in 2011, and for the past 2 years I have taught Special Education in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade at Riverside.

We are glad that your child will be with us this year. We are confident that we will have a year filled with laughter, learning, fun, and smiles! As you know, our programs are designed to meet the needs of all preschool children. This type of integration fosters friendships, helps children develop tolerance toward others, and teaches patience. We appreciate and rely on your support and involvement in this learning process.

If possible we ask that you bring in your supplies during the first week of school so we can efficiently organize for learning. If you lost your copy of the supply list it can be found on the Riverside School webpage (danvers.mec.edu). You will also receive a monthly calendar beginning in September. Please call me or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adair
978-774-5010
amberadair@danvers.org
Riverside School ~ Our preschool program is located at the Riverside School, 95 Liberty Street. Ms. Violetta Powers is the principal, Mrs. Kerri Rhodes is the secretary, and Mrs. Kathie Horgan is our school nurse.

Starting Dates and Times ~ Preschool begins the week of September 8th.

- **Morning Class** - Begins on Tuesday, September 9th. Meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30-11:00 am.
- **Afternoon Class** - Begins on Monday, September 8th. Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:35 - 2:00 pm.

Staff in the Preschool classroom ~ The staff that will be directly involved with your child's class this year are: **Amber Adair** (Head Teacher), **Claire Conway** (Teaching Assistant), and **Rhonda Thomas** (Teaching Assistant). There will also be an Occupational Therapist and a Physical Therapist who will be working in our classroom to provide therapy to some students. All children ultimately benefit from our specialists’ visits. The children will also become friendly with **Ms. Violetta Powers** (Principal), **Mrs. Kerri Rhodes** (Secretary), **Kathie Horgan** (School Nurse), **Pat Veilleux** (Gym), **Gail Rappoli** (Music) and **Anne Shea** (Library). The speech therapist working with our classroom will be **Mindy Sheehy**.

Class Lists ~ A class list with the names of the children in your child's class will be sent home in September.

Orientation for AM and PM Program ~ We will be having an informal Orientation for both preschool classes on the morning of September 5th. The AM class time will be 9:00 - 9:30, and the PM time will be 10:00 - 10:30. This would allow us the opportunity to meet you and your child before the first day of school, for them to see the classroom and either meet or reacquaint with other classroom friends who might come that day. Please feel free to bring any items mentioned in this newsletter at that time. You will need to check in at the school office to sign in as a visitor on that day. My classroom is located across from the office.

Communication ~ I welcome and encourage communication with all parents. However, it is difficult and often inappropriate for us to talk when the children are present. Due to this, we ask that parents call to speak with me either between 8:00 and 8:30, or after school. If you would like to set up a time to meet in person to have a discussion, please let me know. If there is an emergency or you need to provide us with information about who will be picking up your child from preschool, please call during preschool hours. All special needs students will be provided with a home/school notebook, which should accompany the student to school each day. There is also a folder that will travel with your child to and from school with a monthly calendar, a communication log for any information. Important notices will also be sent home in your child’s folder. There will also be a "Daily Notes" page that will go home with each student each day. This will provide you with information about that particular school day, as well as information about the next day. We hope you find it helpful.

Play Clothes ~ We ask that parents send their children to preschool in play clothes and play
shoes. We try hard to keep them clean, but we can't guarantee it! Preschool is just too much fun! We also spend time outside, and play clothes are the most practical. Also, please send a change of clothes to school in a marked shoe box. We will return it at the end of the school year.

Specialists ~ We will be implementing a "Gym Day" for each class, and sneakers are required for those days. We will also be participating in "Library" for each class. We will let you know the schedule once school gets started.

Snack Time ~ Both the AM and PM class will be having Snack Time at preschool. We ask that you send in a healthy snack each day. Each child will need their own snack, drink and napkin at snack time. Donations of cups are always appreciated. I will let you know if there are any children in your child's class with any food allergies so you can be more careful about what you pack your child for snack.

Arrival and Dismissal ~ It is very important that all parents arrive at school for drop-off and pick-up of their child on time. Arrival and dismissal will occur using our door to the side of the school building, door #14. Parents can wait in the morning for the door to open and preschool staff will welcome each child. At the end of the day, each child will be dismissed from that same side door. Children who come to school on the preschool bus will be accompanied to and from the van by the preschool staff. As done in the past, Ms. Powers will address parking issues during our evening Open House for PARENTS ONLY on September 4th from 5:00-6:00 pm.

Calendar ~ In your child’s daily folder there will be a monthly calendar that will stay attached for your reference throughout the month. Be sure to check your child's folder daily for additional notices and projects.

Attendance ~ We look forward to seeing your child each day. When they are unable to attend, it is a requirement of the school that you call your child out for the day. You can call early in the morning and speak with Mrs. Rhodes or leave a message on the school answering machine. The number of the Riverside School is 978-774-5010.

As a consideration to others ~ Please think twice about sending your child to preschool if they have an evident cold. By this we mean consistent and loose coughing, a runny or drippy nose, or a temperature. Use your best judgment and consider the other children in the class as you make your decision.

Parents of Peer Partners ~ All billing is done by the Special Education office which is located at the Danvers High School. If you have any questions regarding billing, please call 978-774-6112 and speak to Trish Trask.

School Calendar and Snow Days ~ A school calendar will be sent home in September. The preschool program follows the Danvers Public School calendar. The AM class will not meet on delayed opening days, but the PM class will meet.
**Back Pack** ~ Please send a backpack to school with your child each day. It is helpful for students to have a backpack that your child is able to open and close on their own, as well as a backpack that is big enough for a folder, projects, and library books. It has also proven to be a valuable way to teach independence and responsibility.

**Progress Reports** ~ There will be a Mid-Year Progress Report sent home with each child (typically the end of January) and an End of the Year Progress Report in June.

**Birthday Celebrations** ~ We enjoy celebrating birthdays in preschool! We do not share birthday goodies to eat. An optional alternative to edible birthday treats would be a pencil, sticker, etc. for each child to help celebrate your child’s special day. We ask that parents not distribute birthday party invitations at school unless there is one for each child in the class.

**Evening Open House** ~ There will be an evening Open House on Thursday, September 4th, for parents only, at 5:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet other parents and the staff. We also spend time going over our preschool curriculum. In the spring there is an Open House for families.

**Enrollment Packet** ~ Each parent should complete an Enrollment/Emergency form for Riverside School. If your child is new to our preschool and does not have this packet, please stop by the school or call to request a packet. Students who attended the preschool program last year will be asked to update certain forms after school begins in September. All forms for new students will need to be completed before a child can begin school.

**Questions or Comments** ~ We are confident that your child will have an enjoyable year at preschool! We welcome questions and comments!

Sincerely,

Amber Adair

Early Childhood and Special Needs Teacher
* Your child, ____________________ is in the following preschool class:

______________AM Program - meets Tuesday thru Friday from 8:30 - 11:00 am.

______________PM Program - meets Monday thru Thursday from 11:35 - 2:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please call. I hope you and your family enjoy the rest of the summer, and we will see you in a few short weeks.

Sincerely,
Amber Adair
Early Childhood and Special Needs Teacher
Preschool Wish List!

These are items we need through the school year, and go through very quickly.
We are thankful for any and all contributions!

- Tissues
- Antibacterial Hand Pump Soap
- Tub of Baby Wipes
- Ziploc Bags (quart and gallon size are used)
- Clorox Disinfecting Wipes (any brand is fine)
- Glue Sticks (any brand)
- Crayola Crayons - 12 count size smaller boxes
- Crayola Markers - washable
- Playdough
- Paper Towels
- Glitter - any colors
- Cups
- Napkins
- Spoons