

**"Little Falcons Preschool"**  
**Riverside School**  
**95 Liberty Street**  
**Danvers, MA 01923**  
**978-774-5010**

Dear Parents,

Summer, 2015

Hello! Believe it or not, it's that time again! I hope you have enjoyed a very restful, relaxing summer! It was wonderful to have some time off, but summer is drawing to a close, and we are looking forward to spending time with your children. Thank you for sharing them with us!

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, and many smiles! As you know, our programs are designed to meet the needs of all preschool children, including children with special needs. 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.

This newsletter will fill you in on many important details about preschool. Please read it carefully, and hold on to it through the year for reference. You will also receive a monthly calendar beginning in September. Please call me if you have any questions. The Riverside School phone number is 978-774-5010, and my email is: [bethannhilton@danvers.org](mailto:bethannhilton@danvers.org).

**Starting Dates and Times** ~ Preschool begins the week of September 14th.

**Morning Class** - Begins on Tuesday, September 15th.

Meets Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30-11:00am

**Afternoon Class** - Begins on Monday, September 14th

Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:35 – 2:00pm

**Staff in the Preschool classroom** ~ The staff that will be directly involved with your child's class this year are: **Beth Ann Hilton** (Head Teacher), **Sharon Gilardi** (Teaching Assistant), and

**Diane Soucy** (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**. The children will be addressing the staff in the preschool room as "Miss Beth", etc. The staff around the building will be called by their proper names, "Mrs. Rhodes", etc.

**Class Lists** ~ A class list with the names of the children in your child's class will be sent home in September. We encourage parents to get to know each other.

**Open House for AM and PM Program** ~ We will be having an informal Open House for both preschool classes on the morning of September 11th. The AM class time will be 9:00 - 9:30, and the PM time will be 10:00 - 10:30. If you are interested, please stop by with your child any time during that half hour. This would allow us the opportunity to meet you and your child before the first day of school, for your child to see the classroom and either meet or reacquaint with other classroom friends who might visit that day as well. 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 down the main corridor, across from the restroom.

**Communication** ~ I understand that parents often have concerns, comments or questions about their child during the course of the year. 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, certainly call during preschool hours. All students on an education plan will be provided with a home/school notebook which should accompany the student to school each day. Be sure to read it after each school day to find out any pertinent information. There is also 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 suggested for those days. We will also be participating in "Library" for each class. We will let you know the schedule once school gets started. Children will take home a book each week which will need to be returned before the next library class.

**Snack Time** ~ Both the AM and PM class will be having Snack Time at preschool. We ask that

you send in a healthy snack for your child each day. Each child needs to provide their child with their own drink and napkin at snack time. We are asking for donations of cups for those children who would like to be served water to drink at school. 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 #13. 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 on Thursday, September 10, from 5:00 – 6:00. This open house is for PARENTS only.

**Calendar** ~ I will be sending home a Monthly Calendar with your child near the beginning of the month. Be sure to check your child's backpack 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. If you don't call your child out sick, the school will be calling you to verify.

**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 currently located at the 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 back pack 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 projects and library books. It has also proven to be a valuable way to teach independence and responsibility, since we encourage children to pack and unpack their bags, as well as, take care of their belongings.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>, for parents only, from 6:00-7:00pm. 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 have 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. If you have not yet returned your forms, please do so during the first week of school or bring them to the Open House..

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 September!

Sincerely,

Beth Ann Hilton

Early Childhood and Special Needs Teacher, M.S.

[bethannhilton@danvers.org](mailto:bethannhilton@danvers.org)

## **Preschool Supply Wish List!**

These are items we use throughout the school year.  
We are thankful for any and all contributions!

**Tissues**

**Antibacterial Hand Pump Soap**

**Tub of Baby Wipes**

**Ziploc Bags (quart and gallon size)**

**Clorox Disinfecting Wipes (any brand is fine)**

**Glue Sticks (any brand)**

**Crayola Crayons - primary colors**

**Crayola Markers - washable only please**

**Playdough**

**Paper Towels**

**Glitter - any colors**

**Cups**

**Napkins**

**Shaving Cream**