



September 17th - 21st, 2012

Dear Parents,

As your child becomes more comfortable with their daily routine at Ari's Academy, we wanted to point out a few things that you may have noticed, and a few new upcoming items to watch for.

Choices

Each day your child will have an opportunity to work with hands-on shelf works, manipulatives and puzzles. They will also have time to look at library books each of which earns them a sticker on their name card. They also have a period of time where they work on handwriting sheets - letters and numbers, and/or name writing sheets - tracing and writing. Over the next week, we will continue to assess each child in order to determine what handwriting, phonics, spelling, vocabulary and math worksheets will be added to their personal ***Ari's Academy workbook***, when they are ready.

Learning through song and more

Over the next few weeks and throughout the school year, your student will be learning ***songs that teach*** during circle lesson. They will include the 'Days of the week song', "Months of the year song", and the 'Continent song'. As well as 'Good morning to you', 'Weather helper', and the 'Vowel song", among others. Through song, students learn more than just facts, they learn tone, rhythm, pace, and melody – it is a great tool for both teaching and building confidence in their voice. The featured song last week was "The Wheels On the Bus" (complete with hand motions). Beginning this week we will also be introducing a new finger-play each week.

Scholastic Book Club

Our 2012 September Scholastic Book Club order form has arrived (and is attached to the hard-copy of this weekly update in your child's take-home bin)! This months "Firefly" order form has books for both Pre-K and Kindergarten aged students. Many of the stories are seasonal and perfect for the fall. Many of the books are 50% off of last years prices. This months promotion allows each parent to receive a free book if they order on-line using our schools "Activation Code" -**JGBDP**-. Visit www.scholastic.com/bookclubs and select books, enter our code, submit a secure payment using your credit/debit card, and the books will ship directly to our school and we will pass them on to you. This months order is due by September 27th.

Art & Craft Class

Art & Craft class starts this Tuesday! Each Tuesday & Wednesday all our students will have art class with Teacher Lakshmi! We are so happy to have Ms. Lakshmi back with us this year. Her daughter, Asmita, is one of our pre-schoolers this year, and her 3rd child to be a part of our program! The students absolutely look forward to time with her in the art room and will once again, amaze us with their creativity. If your child has completed their art or craft project and it is ready to go home it will be either in their take home bin, on the front desk, or hanging on the drying rack near the front door.

Book Series

Last week we introduced 5 *short stories* to all the students at circle time. We chose the stories based on some great lessons and qualities we hope to pass on to your child all through the year – important concepts and ideas that we want to truly stay with your child during their time in our classroom. The books are from the series, “Character Education” by Creative Teaching Press. They include: 1) **Following The Rules**, 2) **Think Before You Act**, 3) **Never Give Up**, 4) **Telling The Truth**, & 5) **Be A Friend**. We read these books at circle multiple times throughout the week and performed puppet shows acting out the good qualities and events in the stories to help strengthen their impact. As the year progresses, we will point back to these lessons and ideas as needed. These stories encourage our students to be caring, responsive young children and give them a fun way to practice making good choices.

2012 Back To School Picnic

As noted on our 2012-13 School Calendar, our Back To School Picnic is this Thursday, September 20th! This is a great way to meet other parents and families in our program – and to see your child's new friends that they are talking about already! **We will be providing the hotdogs, hamburgers, vegidogs and veggieburgers along with drinks.** You will find a **Picnic Sign-up sheet** on the front desk...please take a moment to sign-up to bring a **side dish** or a **dessert** to share! We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

What: Back to school picnic

When: Thursday, September 20th at 5:30pm

Where: Oak Hills Recreation Center (*in the Oak Hills neighborhood about 2 miles from the school*)

2400 NW 153rd Avenue Beaverton, Or. 97006

Thank you!