

May 5, 2009



Dear Parents,

As the time approaches for your child to begin his/her school career, we want to welcome you to our Patton family. Our Kindergarten population is large; we anticipate six teachers on our grade level for the 2009-2010 school year. Each of us recognizes the importance of providing a good beginning for every child as he/she embarks on the learning journey. Because children develop at different rates and come to us with varied experiences, please be assured that we will meet each child with high expectations for his/her success and provide a stimulating, safe, and developmentally appropriate environment for learning.

We focus on maintaining good communication with parents and we welcome your involvement in the learning process both at home and in the classroom. In order to maximize the learning time, the teachers often rely on parents to prepare materials, assist in the classroom, chaperone on field trips, and serve as resource speakers and volunteers for special events and activities. Your level of involvement may be dictated by your obligations, but please be certain any contribution is always beneficial to your child and greatly appreciated by the teacher.

**We begin the year with an "Open House" for students and parents to visit just before school begins. It will be held in the afternoon from 4:00 until 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>,** so that children can have a chance to briefly meet their teachers and some of their classmates, as well as get acclimated to their classroom. This Open House also facilitates putting school supplies away and taking care of some other beginning of the year business before the rush of arrival time on the first day of school.

Class assignments will be posted on the front porch before Open House begins. An effort will be made by the teachers to contact each child's home prior to the Open House to notify you of any changes and get special information from you. In early August, please notify the office (414-1780) of any changes in phone numbers that occur during the summer.

**School begins on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, with arrival time at 7:30 a.m. and teaching time beginning at 7:45.** Please plan to leave your student at the designated class line in the cafeteria. At that time, we encourage you to attend the PTA "Coffee & Kleenex" session. A hot lunch is served beginning the first day of school, but we would appreciate sack lunches for the first week to simplify our learning of cafeteria routines. **For the first week of school, we will dismiss at 2:30,** when students are escorted by the teachers to the front porch pick-up area where they meet their parents, or are escorted by the teachers to the school buses, or day care meeting places. **Beginning the second week of school and continuing for the rest of the year, dismissal for kindergarten is at 2:35.**

We encourage you to attend the **Parent Meeting** to be held **from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. on Thursday evening, August 27<sup>th</sup>.** We will share a great deal of information of interest to you about the procedures and plans for the coming school year. **Due to the nature of this meeting and topics discussed, please make child care arrangements for all of your children.** Mark your calendar now!

We look forward to bright beginnings for us all! Welcome to the Patton Family! ☺

The Patton Kindergarten Team