

Hello Families,
Hello Families,
We are glad you are here!

The first weeks of school have been amazing! The children seem to be really enjoying their new classroom, new routines, and doing really well at keeping up with good habits like washing hands, cleaning up after we play, sitting on the rug for morning meeting, clearing our plates after lunch, and taking turns. In the picture below, Lily, Ezra, and Isabelle are all practicing the sign for turn, patiently waiting to use some bubbles.



Thanks you for being consistent about washing children's hands when entering the school. It is super important that we be vigilant in keeping everyone's hands clean starting at the start of the day. It isn't a bad idea to wash your little one's hands on the way out the door either. The weather will begin to change soon, and the noses will begin to run more. We will be working extra hard to keep everyone healthy, and we need your help.

Thank you to all the parents who enjoy staying for morning meeting. We believe that the school house should feel like an extension of home, and having a moment -a fifteen minute moment from 9:00 - 9:15- with your child to sing, breathe, stretch a little is a great way to foster that sense of school family.



Snack time has always been our very special time to focus on literacy and listening. We believe learning is a process that is integrated throughout the experiences of the day, not a set curriculum of bench marks that we follow. Therefore, it is super important that we honor the times when we are all together to emphasize the reading and learning experience. Please help your children learn the art and beauty of listening to a story by taking a seat at snack time and offering silence during our morning reads.



Speaking of stories and morning stretches, we are looking to collect some yoga mats and books from families interested in making a class donation. The children have been asking for books to be read during the day on the rug or in the loft, and yoga has become a very popular and enjoyable way to unwind. If there are any special stories that your children love at home that you would like to purchase an extra copy for the school, science has shown that repetition during the early years regarding reading is a great way to improve literacy skills.



This is also a great way for children to develop a sense of identity around stories that they like by bringing them into school.



Children have also taken a strong interest in drawing, clay sculpting and most recently sewing. Belinda has been working with the children on drawings of the moon after she discovered the children were talking about the moon with one another. Ezra in morning meeting pointed out that the giant lantern in our



class was a moon. Sewing will be an ongoing class thread (pun intended). The children were enthralled by the pushing the pedal that made the machine go, picking their fabric, and watching miss britt try to thread the machine without her glasses. They carefully stuffed their pillows with batting and were overjoyed when the final stitch closed up their pillow.



Clay sculpting will also be a thread we will follow more closely in our class.

Lily and J one day were putting pieces of clay together to make a bear and a pig. The children love the toy animals and I think it is beginning to set in that they are capable of creating their own animals with clay. We are excited to see what kind of mythical creatures they create.



Please be sure to email me any photos you have of your family and child for our school family identity wall. We have only a few children left! These special little collages have been a great way for children to get to know one another and to feel a sense of comfort during those moments of missing their parents.

Reminders:

- **School Closed for Labor Day: Sept. 3rd**
- **Workday: Saturday, Sept. 15th**
- **Class Meetings: Thursday, September 20th from 7:00 to 9:00pm**
- **School Camping Trip: Sept. 21st-23rd**
- **School Closed: Friday, September 28th - professional Development Day**
- Always lock the classroom door upon entering or leaving the classroom
- Please bring your child's JOURNAL back to school so that we may add more pages.



- Please check your child's cubby to make sure they have two sets of weather appropriate clothing, wipes, and diapers.
 - Please make sure that all clothes, cups, and containers are labeled with your child's first name and last initial.
 - Please send fresh WATER every day in your child's labeled water bottle. Remember to take the bottle with you at the end of the day for cleaning.
 - If you are still working on potty training, please share with us the strategies that you are using at home so that we can be consistent in implementing them here at school. Also, make sure that your child has enough changes of clothes and pull-ups for extended day.
 - Please send or email 3-5 family photos for us to laminate and keep in our Safe Place. This will support our home/school connection, giving the children a tangible form of security.
 - We encourage your child to bring in loveys or blankets from home either for extended day or for our Safe Space in our classroom. Please no toys from home.
 - Our class monthly letters are posted on our class page in the GPCP website and shared through the school newsletter that goes out bi-monthly. You can access your child's class page from the website at any time, by clicking the "Classes tab" and choosing your respective class. In our class page, you can also access the email addresses of all GP Swans' families. You can email families individually or as a class group. Please be aware that all school related matters need to be communicated through the website.
- Please feel free to communicate with us directly by emailing us at: brittany.gondolfi@gpcp.org and shaquira.campbell@gpcp.org

