



December 2016

Important Dates

Dec. 21 - Jan. 3rd- Winter Break

January 4th - Children return

Holidays

I want to take a moment and thank each and every one of you for allowing us to share your children every day. They help bring joy to our lives at a time when it may be difficult to find a lot of joy. Your children are kind and generous and so helpful to others. It brings a happy tear to my eye when I watch children helping each other or making gifts for their friends. I hope you all will enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones. This season is all about light and love, and I wish for those things for all of you. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Holiday Bazaar

The 10th Annual Holiday Bazaar was an incredible success! It was a financial win and a great time for the community! Thank you all for your time, energy and donations. You all are what make this event possible.

Winter Solstice Gathering

We will be having a Gardenview school community together near the winter break to celebrate the Winter Solstice. There will a cozy fire, s'mores and a potluck. Amy Lee of Henna Lee Art will also be joining us and have designs to choose from for every budget -

<https://www.facebook.com/HennaLeeArt/?fref=fb&pnref=story>. Keep your eyes peeled for the Evite with the date, time and details.

Grace & Courtesy

My mentor in Montessori told me "Learning to be in a space with other children is the biggest work in a Montessori Classroom." This is something we are constantly working on in both classrooms. We do this by reminding the children of the rules frequently. The three main rules we have at school are 1) Be Kind, 2) Be Safe, and 3) Be Helpful. The start of school is spent going over what these rules mean for the children while they are at school.

We are trying to help the children be independent, and we encourage them to use their words with each other before coming to a teacher for help. If someone calls a child a name this is what we have told them to say, "My name is _____. You can call me, _____." If someone hits a friend we ask them to say, "Please keep your hands on your own body." If they have tried using their own words with a friend and are still having problems, we will help them talk to each other.

We also need your help, since we can't be everywhere at once. If you hear a child call another child a name, you can get down on their level and say, "This is _____. You can call him/her _____." If you see a child put their hands on another child, you can say, "Please keep your hands on your own body," or "That doesn't look very safe."

Thank you all for your help and support in keeping the children safe, happy and healthy!

Weather

We will follow the public school schedule in case of snow or ice on the roads. If the weather turns cold enough for snow or ice, please listen to KGMI, 790 AM or KAFE, 104.1 FM. We will also be posting to our Facebook parent page as well as sending out an email.

If the Bellingham Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, we will also be closed.

We do not have late starts at Gardenview. If the Bellingham Public schools are starting late, we will still be open and on time.

As with any situation, please use your own judgment about coming to school anytime that safety is an issue.

Extra warm clothing

With the cold and wet weather approaching rapidly we are on the lookout for some spare cold weather gear. If you have extra mittens or warm boots laying around that your children have outgrown, or if you are at the consignment store and see something that would work to have as an extra around the school, bring it in. If you have to spend any money on used items, we can reimburse for that. We will not be able to reimburse for new, store bought items, as it just is not in our budget.