



October 2009

Our new school year is off to a great start! The children are settling into their classes and eagerly participating in new activities. Fall is here! Please take time with your children to enjoy walks, study the leaves and watch for squirrels preparing for winter. Have fun exploring nature together as a family through the eyes of your preschooler.

A big thank you to all parents who chaperoned our field trip to the Deardorff Apple Orchard. The outing was a great experience for all! Also, we appreciate your donations of school supplies for our C.S.O. program which will be delivered to a Head Start program in Minneapolis.

Our theme for October is **Transportation** and our monthly value is **Responsibility**.

The Berry Patch has an ongoing relationship with senior residences. It is our tradition for the children to dress in costume (nothing scary) and visit on Halloween. The children will sing and greet the residents. Please join us for a special morning Wednesday, October 28 at Walker Methodist on Bryant Avenue or Thursday, October 29 at Friendship Village. We will collect personal care items (lotion, powder, soap, wipes, handkerchiefs, scarves, gloves, picture frames) for our C.S.O. program this month which will be delivered to Walker Methodist and used for resident Christmas gifts. What a great way this is for our young children to share their love with older grandmas and grandpas!

Music and Spanish classes have begun! We are thrilled to have Kristin Seager return as our accomplished music teacher. Sara Lyche (Colonial parent) joins our staff teaching Spanish once a month at both schools. Her enthusiasm for the language is contagious! Your children will love their classes.

It is our desire for the children to be safe and secure while they are at the Berry Patch. Please drive slowly in the parking lots and hold your child's hand. When signing your child in, please list the name and relationship to you of the person picking up your child. At pick-up ID will be required of someone we do not know and the name must be on the red emergency card. Also, initial your name at pick-up. Each class goes together as a group with their teacher to the potty, gym and outside. Please communicate with your child's teacher if anything out of the ordinary is going on at home. We see ourselves as partners with you, the parents, in caring for your children.

Reminders:

- Our school calendar is in the handbook. Please become familiar with the contents.
- All snacks and lunches must be nut free! Please use small freezer packs in lunch bags to assist with refrigeration. Pack non-perishable items.
- Please have your child go potty before school begins and thank you for washing hands upon arrival. You have helped make this part of our routine.
- Mark all clothing (including jackets) with your child's name.
- It is important that we know how to reach you when your child is at the Berry Patch.
- Please notify the school if your child is ill and will not be attending (952-836-1577).
- Dress your child in clothing comfortable for play and easy to manage during potty breaks.
- Thank you for respecting the teacher's prep time, not arriving before 9 a.m.

Enjoy these beautiful fall days dear families. We are blessed to have you at the Berry Patch this year! As always, please check our website, www.BerryPatchSchool.com for updated information.

Love, *Bernie*