



Welcome one and all to the Panda Room

Ginny, Julie and I would like to take this time to welcome you to the Panda room. We are so excited that this school year has begun. We are looking forward to a fun, exciting and productive school year. We hope that you all enjoyed your summer. It is so hard to believe that the summer is over. The first week of school we will focus on the routine and also introduce the children to everything the room has to offer. On our web site you will find the daily schedule so you can use it as a guide. This is basically the schedule we follow daily, but it may change due to the needs of the class. We have such wonderful things planned for this year. Each month we will focus on a monthly theme, 3-4 letters of the alphabet, a new skill, and a different theme for our All About Me circle, which is our 2nd circle.

Our Day

Every day we start our morning circle at 9:00. Before Circle we play with many different toys at the tables. The rest of the room is not open at this time. We ask that you drop off your child before circle. It is hard for a child to come into a class where circle has already started. During first circle, we start with a hello song. This helps the children realize that the day has started and it also makes transition time easier. After our morning song, we take attendance. Besides the fact that we want to know who is here and who is absent, it's a time when the children have to listen for their name and respond with, "Here I am". This really works on their listening skills, taking turns and name recognition. From there we go on to the calendar. We talk about the month, the season we are in, and special events that happen each month. We then count up to the day that we are on and add that calendar piece in. We talk about that number and we may ask, "If today is Sept. 5th, what will tomorrow be?" This helps with beginning math skills. This is a time the children can practice tracing the numbers and adding a sticker to the correct day in their folders. They also get a chance to practice writing their name. We then move on to our helper chart. We have 6 helpers a day, which are: 2 snack helpers, a line leader, a door holder, a lights person and a special helper. This helps the children learn about taking turns and it also helps them to be responsible. We do a lot of talking in this room, with each child getting a turn to say something. We take turns at circle talking about anything, such as "What we did this weekend?" and "Why we like the snow?" We also might make up a story on the big paper, chart and graph something we have been talking about, read a story or sing a song.



Letter of the Week

And lets not forget the letter of the week. We will be starting to learn the alphabet. During circle, we discuss the letter, trace it in the air, come up with words that start with the letter, practice writing it in our folder and end by doing an art project with that letter. We do a letter a week and alternate the day, so even if your child may not be in school the day that we do the letter, we will be going over the letter all week. A couple of years ago we started "Adopt a Letter" which was such a huge success! Families sign up for specific letters, and all you need to do is have you and your child find items around the house that start with that letter. The sign up sheet is posted on our door. If you do sign up, we just ask that you write a list of the items you bring. Many people get very creative and we have a hard time with some of the objects. Please no edible items.

Our 2nd Circle and Panda of the Day

Our 2nd circle is a monthly theme called "All About Me". During the next ten months, during our second circle, we will be learning all about ourselves. We will be having class discussions, art projects and learning some new songs around this theme. In June we will be having an Autobiography Night and Dinner with everyone invited to see our presentation. More information to follow. This brings us to Panda of the Day. Each child will have a turn to be Panda of the Day and have their Panda on the Bulletin board.

A note will go home explaining that your child is the Panda of the Day and your family is Family of the day. Enclosed in that note is an interview sheet that we need you to fill out with your child and return back to us. If you would like to come in and talk to the class about your family, please let us know when. Many families in the past have done photo albums (both paper and Power Point) and/or Poster board with favorite family pictures. They (parents and child) explain the pictures to the class. They have read us favorite stories, danced to favorite music, whatever you would like.

Our 3rd Circle

Our 3rd circle, which happens after lunch, is show and tell and our closing circle. There is a sign up show and tell calendar on the door. If your child would like to bring something for show and tell, please sign him/her up. We ask that no more than 1 show and tell on a given day. The child will have a chance to tell about their item and at the end, the children will have time to ask questions concerning that item. Check the board.



September Happenings

For September, we will be doing an apple theme with many art projects, stories and songs about apples and fall. We will also be making some delicious recipes that have apples in them, such as applesauce, apple pie and apple muffins. In a couple of months we will be starting written name recognition. This is where we hold up each child's name on a piece of paper and they can go play. No, they don't have to sit there until they get it right. It is just a chance for them to see their names in print and maybe learn to recognize it. We have talked to kindergarten teachers and they have asked that when we teach children to write their name we do so with a capital first letter and all the other letters in the lower case.

Volunteer Sign up

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On the board are sign up sheets for making playdough (we have recipes), for the letter bottles, for Mystery Reader, and for planning different school holiday parties, and other volunteer opportunities. Any questions, please feel free to ask us.

Pick Up Time

We have found that at pick up time, it really works well if we are on the rug hearing a story or singing a song. We will be learning a good bye song so the children will know when the day is over and it is either time to go home or get ready for rest. This helps with transition. We ask that you wait outside the classroom until either Julie, Ginny or I finish the song and say goodbye to the children. One of us will call the children when we see you. Please make certain that siblings not wander around the room - no matter how tempting it may be! This also lessens the chance of a toy being contaminated with a food allergens.



Last Minute Reminders

Please remember that besides bringing in a lunch every day, your child now needs to bring in a snack. If he/she stays until 12:15 you need to bring 1 snack, if they stay until 3:30 you need to bring 2 snacks, and if they stay until 6:00 you need to bring 3 snacks. Please put snacks into a separate bag other than their lunch. If you need to bring multiple snacks for the day, please put them into individual bags.

Please remember to leave a change of weather appropriate clothing in your child's cubby with their names labeled on everything.

We are really looking forward to working with your child and getting to know them and you much better. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by and ask. If you would like to email me, my address is blinns@doversherborn.org. I check my email around 8:00 am and around lunch time 11:00-12:30.

If you would like to come in and read a story or do a project, just let us know. We would love to have you!!!!

Important Dates

Aug. 31	Parent Orientation 6:00pm
Sept. 1	First day of school
Sept. 25	Book and Software orders due.
Sept. 28	CDC closed
Sept. 30	Picture Day

If you will be ordering from Scholastics, please write a check payable to Scholastics. They won't accept cash.

Welcome to the Panda Class!
Sandy, Becca and Ginny