

The BUMP Bulletin

February 2020



Dates to Remember:
2/14-Happy Valentine's Day
2/17- NO SCHOOL
(President's Day)
2/28- Art Show



Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day will soon be here! Each classroom will celebrate the day a little differently. Please check with your child's teacher to see what their special plans are. We do ask that if you are planning to send in valentines for your child to pass out, please do not address the valentines to specific children, but rather just have your child sign their name (if they are able!). The teachers typically line up a valentine's bag or box for each child and all the children can then "mail" their valentines right down the line. Trying to match up a specific bag/ box to a specific valentine really slows down and frustrates some children. Please make sure if you are sending in a candy valentine that it does not contain any food allergens that are present in the class.

Save the Date

BUMP is having a school-wide art show! Please save the date for Friday, February 28th. Our classes have been working on some special pieces to "exhibit." More information will be sent home in early February.

A "Greener" School Day



Several parents have asked what we do at school to support recycling and reducing waste. This has led to many wonderful conversations about what our next steps can be to not only encourage our classrooms to be more mindful of recycling, but also teaching our children how they, too, can contribute to caring for our earth. Parent Board member, Meg Rogers, asked me to share some ideas that families can do to reduce disposable waste. They include:

- 🌱 Invest in a reusable lunchbox - bento box styles are great for packing everything in one container! (Planetbox lunch boxes are pricey, but worth the investment and should last a while!)
- 🌱 Send a cloth napkin instead of a paper one (cut up old clothing to make one quickly!)
- 🌱 Ditch the plastic baggies for reusable silicone bags or containers (Stasher brand bags come in lots of sizes and can go in the dishwasher!)
- 🌱 Send your child with a reusable cup, small plate and utensils to use during snack time to cut down on single-use plastic and paper products in the classroom
- 🌱 Use a reusable drink bottle instead of juice boxes and single-use plastic drinks

If you have any questions about "going green" and want to give it a try, please feel free to ask!

Purposeful Play and Kindergarten Readiness

It's that time of year – registration for the upcoming school year has begun. We are doing tours here at BUMP for future BUMP families, while current families are deciding about whether to send their child to kindergarten. The biggest question on everyone's mind is "Are they ready?" Ready for preschool or ready for kindergarten – two sides of the same difficult "coin" for parents. This has led to a lot of discussion between teachers, administrators, and parents as to what "ready" looks like.

BUMP is really a play with purpose preschool. While we learn through play and that play is open ended, it does have an educational goal. Our program is not "less" academic, we just work our academics into our play and make it relevant to what's happening during play. Some examples would be writing a menu for the restaurant in dramatic play, guessing how many blocks it takes to match a friend's height, then constructing that and counting them (this often leads to measuring more items), mixing colors while painting and experimenting with different blends, making up rhymes to a silly song and looking for more words to rhyme or sounds to match.

Those are some examples of how we work academics into our play, but readiness also involves social skills as well. Self-regulation, the ability to recognize and manage your emotions, is a very important skill that children work on during their preschool years that lays an important foundation for kindergarten. Being able to handle frustration, disappointment, excitement, and wait a turn are skills that children need to grow their emotional intelligence. We work on how to constructively negotiate conflict in everyday situations while in the classroom which will serve children as they go through life. Learning how to speak up, ask for help, listen to the ideas of one another, and carry on a conversation are social skills that many children need help developing.

We work on developing strong self-help skills and independence at preschool. Children going into kindergarten should be able to bathroom independently, put on their own coat, open their lunchbox and begin to eat without much assistance. When we talk about kindergarten readiness, we talk about the whole picture. Does a child need to know every single letter sound and write all upper- and lower-case letters to go to kindergarten or is it more important that a child is curious, excited to learn, has many self-help skills, and the confidence to try? Most kindergarten teachers would say the latter.

Ultimately, it is the parent's decision as to whether kindergarten is right for their child and the timing is right for their family. The following link can help as a guideline in assessing your child's readiness: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist>. Your child has many years of learning ahead of them and our goal is always to send a child off to kindergarten excited about their future. Our door is always open should you want to talk about your child and their transition to kindergarten.

