Greetings Parents,

Thank you to the Parent Coordinators for organizing the Bake Sale last Friday. Also thanks go to the volunteers who helped at the tables and to all of the parents who sent the food. We raised L.L. 1,099,000 which will be used to put together next year’s winter carnival. It was truly a community endeavor and was greatly enjoyed by children and adults alike. I know I ate some yummy treats and probably too many! During snack time the children would say we are eating cakes and I would respond by saying that some days are special and it is okay. They knew it isn’t usually allowed so made a point of telling me!

Some parents have been questioning the latest snack policy part that has to do with juice. After thorough research on this topic, I found that many juice brands are quite healthy as they use the Flash Pasteurizing process http://www.livestrong.com/article/503958-how-does-flash-pasteurization-work/; such juices even when boxed don’t contain any sugar or preservatives. Therefore, boxed juices that are of good quality only are allowed at school. Make sure when you shop for juice to send with your child, read the ingredients on the box.

February is Healthy Heart month and children have been “pumping it up” regularly during the day to get their hearts and brains working. Children have been bringing in two cans that they can use as weights during their exercising sessions. These cans will be donated to the Syrian refugees at the end of this month. If you haven’t sent 2 cans of nonperishable food yet, please do so this week.

In my last Monday Mail, I shared an article on the harmful effects of the W sitting position. The following day a parent shared with me another article that discusses the harmless impact of such sitting position. Please find this article on the following link http://www.today.com/parents/why-w-sitting-really-not-so-bad-kids-after-all-t69806. As I’m not the expert to recommend which side of research to take, I suggest that you consult with your child’s physician.

Please note that this coming Thursday dismissal is at 1:00. KG1 & KG2 children dismissing from the car gate will be waiting for you at the main gate.

As Teacher’s Day approaches, I’d like to share with you the ACS Gift Policy:

For Teachers’ Day, Christmas, and any other special occasion, we strongly encourage parents and children to simply send cards to teachers or to give children made gifts. If parents feel that they want to do more, they may, but no gift is to exceed $25 in value. Teachers will be asked to return gifts in excess of $25. Many parents are in favor of group gifts and they started asking me about that option. I will say yes to group gifts if and only if you get the consensus of every family in your child’s class. The contribution per family should not exceed $25 (some families may choose to contribute with less than this amount).
A topic that I share with parents every year is Process vs. Product.

One of the key elements in our Early Years program is the value we put on the PROCESS of learning. As adults, we are concerned with the outcomes or the product of our efforts. We want the report to look nice, the cookies to taste great, or the party to run perfectly. We participate in few activities just for the fun of doing them. We are product driven. We want the end result. This is because we are not still learning how to do most of these activities. But do you remember when you learned how to play tennis or golf or use the computer? In the beginning you needed to do a certain amount of “messing around” -- exploring what would happen if you did this or that.

That is the way it is with your child. Kids are learning new things all the time, and they need the freedom to try things out without worrying about the product. Young children tend to be more involved with the process or the doing than they are with the end product. That is why your child may draw all afternoon yet still not be able to tell you what he drew. And why one child can pour rice back and forth between pitchers all day long, and another will string and unstring beads every day for a week. It is hard for us adults to look beyond the product of an activity and see what the child is learning from the process. Perhaps he's learning coordination or beginning writing skills or making discoveries about triangles or gravity. He's certainly finding out that doing for one's self is very satisfying -- and that builds confidence through the various processes that are part of the task. Enjoy watching your child’s involvement. Enjoy the process – that is where the learning is. Later, we all can be proud of the product.

Respectfully,
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Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember:

Feb. 18  Early Dismissal at 1:00
Feb. 26  ‘Pump It Up’ Day- 8:45-9:45
March 9  Teacher’s Day—No School