



The New School-West

**THE NEW SCHOOL - WEST
PARENT HANDBOOK
2020-2021**

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WELCOME!

Welcome to The New School-West (NSW) and many years of friendship. As we work together, it is our goal to find ways to build and strengthen our partnership with parents, teachers, children, and community. With that in mind, we have put together this Parent Handbook for you. We hope that after reading it, you feel even more a part of our school and know how important you are to us and to each other. It is our hope, too, that you keep this info handy so you can refer to it as you have questions.

The New School - West was founded in 1987. Since 1996, we've been learning about the preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and have been very inspired by their values that speak to the importance of really understanding what children are asking us, creating environments that support their curiosity and valuing the involvement of parents and community in the process. The Reggio approach has us slowing down to observe, listen, reflect and find meaning in everything we do. Putting this Handbook together has validated the importance of this process and forced us to look more closely at policies and procedures and examine their purpose. Everything in these pages has a story with it and nothing has been put on paper without a reason. The words are not set in stone, however, and we remain open to change when change is necessary. We welcome your insights, reflections, and questions as we continue to work together as partners and advocates for all the children.

As Parent Partners, it's important that you know our history as learners together and how the preschools in Reggio Emilia continue to inspire our work. In 2002, we first joined several schools, both locally and nationally, on an Educator Tour in Reggio Emilia. Valuing our parents' role as partners in our learning, each school brought parents to study with us. Listening to Carlina Rinaldi and visiting the schools that included Infant-Toddler Centers as well as preschools, we knew there was no turning back and we committed to working more closely together to make educational changes in our community. We attended an In Depth Study tour in May 2019 that has granted us access to a three year interaction with Tiziana Filippini, the pedagoga who worked with Loris Malaguzzi.

In 2003, Ellen Khokha from the Growing Place in Santa Monica wrote a three year Annenberg Grant that gave us the funds to create our West L.A. Collaborative which supported teachers studying together within school hours. We read and shared reflections of books and talked about our shift in thinking and worked through the struggles in this process. When the grant ended, we continued to be committed to learn and grow together as educators. Our West L.A. Collaborative grew to become a West Coast Collaborative that now includes Branches Atelier, Growing Place, and Bright Start Child Development Center in Santa Barbara.

THE PROGRAM

The New School-West (NSW) is a private preschool created in an atmosphere of caring, respect, and acceptance for all people. We welcome everyone and are committed to a community that is free of bias and discrimination on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, gender expression, national origin, and abilities. By working together with our families, it is our goal to provide the safety net necessary to support each child's right to identify and express their feelings and develop the skills to problem solve collaboratively with peers. To do this effectively, we must be aware of the importance of recognizing behaviors and determining what they mean instead of labeling children with adjectives that judge them rather than support them. Because we place such importance to this, we offer a variety of parent gatherings to help connect us in a united philosophy of modeling positive interactions with each other. It is through our modeling that the children will learn to care for and respect each other as well as themselves.

NSW has followed the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) since our beginning in 1987. NAEYC believes that through a nurturing, high quality early childhood education (ECE) program, each child has the opportunity to grow socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and creatively. Our studies inform us that although we are all created equal, our society does not treat us equally and so we embrace racial and identity development as it is no different than physical, intellectual, or emotional development (Jennifer Harvey) in that it is either learned by observation alone from media, culture, and overheard discussions or learned with careful and intentional guidance that honors difference. With a curriculum that is meaningful to them, children develop an understanding of concepts about themselves, others, and the world around them. Through observation and interacting with people and real objects, they can seek solutions to concrete problems.

It is our belief that safe transitions and routines offer security to children and our daily plan offers choices within a structure with activities for both inside and outside. We understand the importance the environment plays in enhancing collaborative experiences and we work with the intention of extending individualized and group thinking. We are also advocates of good nutrition and rest.

NSW FOUNDATION 501(c)(3)

In 2017, we marked 30 years and in honor of the celebratory event, a team of parents worked together to create a non-profit 501(c)(3) and with that, the NSW Foundation was born. This arm gives us the ability to have a place specifically designated for funds for Professional Development. A portion of the proceeds from our yearly Silent Auction goes directly to this source and we are now able to get added support by direct tax-deductible donations. It is through these donations that we are able to continue our education with the three year contract of study that brings Tiziana Filippini to California twice a year. We are grateful to our parents and extended families who believe with us that continuing education is invaluable and work hard to support us in our learning.

In addition to funding Professional Development, donations to our NSW Foundation also provide teacher and family resources in times of need. We have many feel-good stories of those who have received this needed support.

To support the NSW Foundation you can make a contribution at this link:

<https://ecf.networkforgood.com/projects/51228-support-the-new-school-west-foundation>

TUITION AND FEES

Enrollment at The New School-West is an annual contract for the school year, starting in August and ending in July. Tuition is due on the first of each month or per the quarterly or bi-annual schedule you selected on your financial agreement. NSW does not send out invoices. If you have not made payment by the fifth of each month, the tuition is considered late and you will be charged a \$100 late fee.

Tuition may be paid by check that you drop off or that your bank mails to the school. You may also transfer money for tuition through Zelle using this email address: Finance@newschoolwest.com. The Zelle account name will say JUMA ENTERPRISES. That is the name of our business partner and is correct.

Monthly tuition is a breakdown of the annual contract and is due whether or not your child is present at school. There is no allowance for absences or holidays, including the summer months and there are no make up days or refunds. Tuition payments also remain due and will not be modified in the event that the school needs to close temporarily as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar. Instruction will move to online learning as a result of such a temporary closure.

The start dates for the 2020-21 school year have been modified to accommodate for the July teacher furlough and setting up school for the new group structure and other new requirements. The August tuition due date and amount are indicated in your financial agreement. The school hours have been temporarily shortened for the start of the 2020-21 school year and will be extended to a more full schedule as soon as possible. Full monthly tuition will be due during the initial period of shortened hours.

Other Fees:

- There is a one-time non-refundable enrollment fee of \$1,100.
- A deposit of one month's tuition is also required upon enrollment. This is a non-refundable fee that will be applied to the last July of the year your child graduates from NSW. If you choose to withdraw earlier for any reason, this deposit will be forfeited.
- There is an annual materials fee that is due along with your August tuition.
- There is \$20 charge if a check is returned by the bank.
- There is a \$1 per minute charge for picking your child up late. Many of our teachers have responsibilities outside of school, so we ask that you respect our school hours and value their time. You may pay this fee upon late pick up or a late slip will be provided to you and a copy will be given to our bookkeeper Marge. It is your responsibility to make payment within 48 hours.

Annual tuition rates and fees are established and released to families in February for the following school year. You will receive those rates in February, and will be asked to sign an updated financial agreement prior to the start of each school year.

Our bookkeeper, Marge, handles tuition accounting. Please let her know if you need tuition receipts or forms completed for childcare reimbursements. Kris and Katy are also available to support this process. Just let us know what you need.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURE

Every child must be signed in and out each day. Current licensing regulations require that one adult wearing a mask drop off or pick up your child at school. The adult must sign their full name in ink (no initials) and must be at least 18 years of age. The sign in and out sheets will be at the Venice and Alley check-ins where 6' physical distancing spaces will be marked.

- A designated teacher will meet and greet your child at the entrance door at drop off.
- A health check will be conducted before you sign in. Children's temperatures will be taken. Temperatures 100.4 and higher will require the child to stay home for 72 hours after fever breaks without medication. We will also ask the following questions in regards to your child's health:
 - Are you having muscle aches?
 - Shortness of breath?
 - Dry cough?
 - Sore throat?
 - Chills?
 - New loss of taste or smell?
 - Diarrhea?
 - Vomiting?
 - Have you taken any medications during the last day?
 - To the best of your knowledge, has your child been exposed to COVID-19?
- The teacher will confirm the child's health then take them to wash hands and connect with their teacher inside the school.
- Your child will be brought to you at the Venice gate or alley door at pick up.

We must have on file the name of any person who will be dropping off or picking up your child. Call or email Kris and your teacher if someone who is not listed on your emergency card will be picking up your child on any given day. Let that person know that we may ask for identification and that they may be asked to immediately take the child home if there are signs of illness.

Groups have been created due to COVID-19 related mandates. **Drop off and Pick up times are staggered** to eliminate cross-contamination. Our school year will begin with a shortened daily schedule, to be extended when possible. We will keep you informed of schedule changes.

- EW Basil Group: 8:00am drop off and 2:00pm pick up at Venice gate
- EW Aloe Vera Group: 8:30am drop off and 2:30pm pick up at Alley door
- WW Cilantro Group: 8:00am drop off and 2:00pm pick up at Alley door (12:15pm half day)
- WW Dandelion Group: 8:30am drop off and 2:30pm pick up at Venice gate (12:30pm half day)
- Each child should carry their things into school in a backpack (please label everything)
 - Lunch, snack and adult-sized water bottle
 - Extra changes of clothes in a large Ziploc or wet dry bag
 - Sunscreen stick
 - Face masks and wet dry bag for used ones
 - Crib sheet and lovey (for West Wing)

We must value the importance of being "in the moment" with each other. We are requesting that you refrain from using your cell phones while you're with your child at drop off and pick up so your focus can be on their transitions and to give you an opportunity to connect with other children and parents. We ask that you also be aware of our efforts to keep to staggered drop offs and pickups, honor physical distancing, and wear masks if you are connecting with parents after drop off and before pick up.

HEALTHY TRASH-FREE LUNCHES

Along with solid hygiene routines that have us washing hands before and after eating, good nutrition is also a part of our curriculum and important for the success of a child's day. It's important that you keep lunches healthy and natural with foods your child enjoys. We do not refrigerate or microwave food, so please make sure you use an ice pack or a thermos if you want your child's lunch to be kept cool or warm. Please no gum, candy, or highly sweetened food. **Be sure to alert us of any allergies your child may have.**

Our curriculum strongly supports taking care of our environment. We encourage you to please pack food in reusable containers in a reusable lunch bag that fits in your child's backpack. Pack a linen napkin and stainless steel utensils and take everything home to wash each day. During this unusual time, should you prefer your child's lunch bag and its contents be disposed of each day, you can pack it in a paper bag with disposable baggies.

SNACK: Please pack a separate snack in a disposable bag marked "snack" in the lunch bag.

To eliminate cross-contamination, the teachers will pour organic milk in cups that we provide. There will be no sharing of lunches and the children will eat with their teachers in small groups that allow for safe distancing. Water should be brought from home in a reusable water bottle and will be refilled when needed by the teacher. That bottle will follow children when they move to different spaces during the day.

CLOTHING

Your child will have access to sand, water, clay, glue, paint, permanent markers, and many other wonderfully expressive materials, so be prepared for (and enjoy!) dirty clothes at the end of the day.

The clothes your child wears to school should be comfortable and designed to encourage independence. Overalls and belts are difficult for young hands to manage and may cause unwanted accidents. Rubber-soled shoes (Velcro are best) are ideal for climbing and running and are earthquake safe. For added safety, please avoid:

- long dresses
- backless shoes, Crocs, flip flops, boots, and slippery-soled shoes

Children must wear closed-toed shoes in the wood chip area. If any of this becomes a problem for your child, pack alternatives for them and let the teachers know so they can follow up. We discourage children wearing expensive jewelry for fear of it getting lost. If your child wears something of value, just know that NSW cannot take responsibility if it gets damaged or lost. Bring an extra set of clothes (and in the beginning, make it several!) in your child's backpack for those times when they may need changing. Please label everything.

TOYS AND OTHER ITEMS FROM HOME

Children should only bring the required materials (lunch, snack, water bottle, sunscreen, face masks and extra changes of clothes) in their backpacks and refrain from bringing any toys and other personal items from home, especially while we are under COVID-19 related mandates.

PARKING AND RESPECTING OUR NEIGHBORS

Parking may be our biggest challenge here at NSW. During the COVID-19 health crisis, our small alley parking lot will be closed to allow for distancing at check-in. One Accessible parking spot nearest the trash cans will be available and should be kept clear for those who need it.

Plan to park on the street around NSW and “walk” to school. You’d be surprised at how pleasant this experience can be for you and your child, but it means allowing for extra time and watching for parking restrictions. Peak parking struggles are Wednesday and Thursday from 8 to 9am, due to street cleaning. North of McCune there are no parking restrictions on May Street. NEVER PARK IN THE ALLEY OR THE NEIGHBORS’ DRIVEWAYS. We work hard to build strong relationships with our neighbors, including by respecting their space. Be sure to use the sidewalks and enjoy looking at and smelling the neighbors’ flowers but please refrain from picking them. Thanks for your continued support in this area.

SCHOOL CALENDAR, BREAKS AND HOURS

We are a year-round school offering both part-time and full-time schedules. During this COVID-19 health crisis, our beginning hours of operation are 8:00am-3:00pm. We will inform you as we are able to extend our hours to full days. We observe most of the LAUSD designated holidays, and we close for Winter Break, Spring Break, and a three weeks Summer Break. There are a couple special days and four half day pick up dates set aside during the year for teacher-in-service and professional development time. All these dates, along with school events, will be posted in a Google calendar that you will be given access to and on the NSW Parents Portal. You will be notified of any changes that may occur as the year progresses.

FIRST DAYS

Settling in is about beginnings and endings and your child’s first days with us are very important. The time children take to settle into a group and become accustomed to parent goodbyes varies enormously. Before your start date, we will schedule individual and group play days for you and your child to visit school, as well as a home visit from your teacher. Their purpose is for you and your child to get acquainted with us and gain the trust needed for open communication. We will be hosting a Family Pages gathering for parents to support you creating your child’s family pages binder. It is amazing how these pages support the children connecting with each other and the teachers, as well as bringing them comfort during the beginning transitions. It also allows you the opportunity to get to know fellow new families. You will be given a “Child History Form” in your enrollment paperwork so that you can share some important things about your child that will help strengthen the links between home and school. In addition to this, it’s important that you discuss more specific needs with Roleen, Kris, Katy and/or the teachers, so that we can work together to make the transition to school a positive experience for everyone.

HOME VISITS

NSW instituted home visits as a part of our desire to make stronger connections between home and school. Your child’s teacher will arrange a safe, physically distanced visit to your home during the week before school starts. This brief visit (only about half an hour) will give the teacher a little time to connect with your child in his or her primary environment. We suggest that you make this an important bonding time for your child and refrain from making it *your* time to visit. Prepare them by suggesting they choose a favorite book to read or asking them what they want their teacher to see. If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to ask. This should be a stress-free experience meant to support your child’s connection with the school.

PARENT CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

During a period when on site interactions are restricted and parents must remain outside the school, you are encouraged to email your teachers or the administration with any needs. You may also share notes or pass information at the check-in stations at drop off or pickup while being mindful of those in line behind you.

There is a parents' bulletin board in the alley entrance and on the Venice entrance. This is where you'll find information about what is happening around town. If you find something you would like us to share with other parents, please feel free to leave a copy with someone at check-in so we can post it or leave it in the mailbox when the Venice gate is closed. We will remove any materials posted without approval from the office.

Immediate notices and important "now" information including Health Alert forms will be posted at the alley and Venice entry gates.

The teachers are email connected. Just note that the teachers' first obligation is to the group as a whole and that the time away from school is a time to rest and rejuvenate as they care for their own families. Teachers should not be taken away from their responsibilities for any length of time. Remember, too, that the teachers work as a team and they are all in daily contact with your child so if at any point your child's teacher is busy or absent or if it is after normal work hours, you can leave a message with one of them and they will relay the information to the team. Kris, Katy and Roleen are also available in case you need immediate assistance. Please know that we always want to keep communication open.

Over the years, we have worked hard to keep us linked. We have strengthened our NSW Parents Portal and it has become a powerful source of communication and connection. It includes ongoing documentation, notifications and updates, links to informative articles, our calendar, contact information, family bios and rosters, and much more. It will be our main source of passing along information to you and serve as a continuing window into the children's daily experiences at school as well as a resource and guide. Every family will be required to join this site that is used by current NSW parents only and password protected. You will get a notice to your email when there is a new blog post, but we also encourage you to bookmark the site and check it a few days a week to stay involved. Katy can link you or help you with technical issues on the Parents Portal.

Ongoing communication is crucial to a smoothly run program. You can email Kris directly at any time. She will be on site at school daily, picks up messages regularly and can pass them onto the teachers if necessary. Her email is Kris@newschoolwest.com. Roleen is also email accessible at thenewschoolwest@gmail.com and Katy at katy@newschoolwest.com.

It is our policy that the teachers refrain from communicating with NSW families on social media. We have a restricted Facebook Group called NSWpals and an Instagram account called newschoolwest. As a rule, we do not post children's faces in social media (only hands or partial faces). You may sign the 'no photo release' form to eliminate any photos taken of your child.

Please keep us informed of any personal information changes, vacations or unplanned absences. It is crucial that we can be able to reach you at any time in case of an emergency.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Your child's Physician's Report must be completed and signed by you and your doctor before the first day of school. If your child suffers from allergies, be sure to have a signed doctor's note on file stating the allergy season and source if known.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the health of children and staff will be closely monitored. Each child must arrive at school with no symptoms of illness. Please see the Arrival and Departure Procedures section above and the COVID-19 Community Agreement for details.

It is important that the staff is made aware of any communicable diseases in your home in addition to COVID-19 (e.g. lice, pinworms, coxsackie, etc.) so that we can watch for symptoms that may arise at school. We will post **Health Alerts** on the entry doors and will send emails to parents when we are aware that any child has been diagnosed with such an illness, so that you may watch for any symptoms that may arise at home. This way we can work together to keep our children and teachers healthy.

Parents may request that a child may be given medication at school. Medication will only be given if the medicine is in the original prescription bottle, within the expiration date and is labeled with your child's name, medication name and dosage. A "Medication Authorization Form" must be filled out for each medicine that is to be given. **Never put medicines, vitamins, or any type of capsule in your child's lunch.**

In case of a minor accident, an "Ouch Report" will be handed to you at pick up. Parents will be notified immediately if a child suffers an injury that warrants medical attention or may leave a mark. The teachers will keep you updated as to any "upsets" incurred during your child's day.

If your child should become ill while at school, we will isolate your child with a teacher and provide a facemask if needed and a place to rest. You will be notified immediately to come pick them up or make arrangements for another person to do so. If neither parent can be reached, other people on your emergency contact list will be called. Please keep your emergency contacts on file at school up to date in the event of illness or other emergency situations.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

On June 30, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that says parents can no longer refuse to vaccinate their children in public or private schools and child care centers based on their personal or religious opposition. Private or public child care centers and **preschools cannot admit children unless they are immunized against 10 diseases using the following 6 vaccinations -- D-Tap, MMR, Hib, Hep B, Polio and Varicella.** The list of the required immunizations is included in your enrollment paperwork.

We strongly encourage you and your children to get a flu vaccination each year.

Young children may obtain a written medical exemption to vaccinations from a licensed medical doctor (M.D.). There is no standard medical exemption form but the statement must say:

- That the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child, which may include family medical history, are such that the required immunization(s) is not indicated.
- Which vaccines are being exempted.
- Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary and the expiration date, if the exemption is temporary. A 'catch up' schedule must be dated and included if warranted.

Likewise, all essential adults on site at school will need to provide proof of immunizations to volunteer or work on a regular basis.

EMERGENCY PLAN AND DRILL PROCEDURES

**Save this number in your phones: (917) 825-6917
Annie Lai, alumni family living in Washington D.C.**

In any emergency, the NSW staff (who are all trained in CPR and First Aid) will stay at school until all children have been picked up, so be assured that we will keep them calm and safe until someone arrives. In case we need to evacuate, a note will be posted on the doors indicating our relocation site and a call will be placed to the Emergency Out of State number for your information. In the event of a major earthquake or any other city emergency and we need to relocate, you should call the Emergency Out of Town number listed above to get information. Please save this number in your phone.

Upon acceptance to NSW, you pay a one-time enrollment fee. A portion of this fee goes toward emergency supplies that we check and update each year as needed. We have on premises: Blankets, lighting, water, juice, and food that will last us three days. We ask that you provide an emergency packet for your child with a set of extra clothing, a personal note, a family photo, and a flashlight with batteries in a large Ziploc bag. This Emergency Pack should be turned in by the first day of school and will be kept with our supplies in our emergency bins.

Remember to keep your emergency cards updated since we will not let your child go home with anyone who is not on the list.

SAFETY DRILLS

Though licensing requires only two fire drills a year, we try to plan a “safety drill” for both the children and the staff every month. In the past, we have used the words “fire drill” but because “safety” is a less alarming and a more accurate word, we have chosen to use “safety drill” instead.

The Fire Department requires that we use the official alarm, so in the beginning of the school year (when we feel they are all settled in) the children will gather together in their groups with their teachers to talk about the procedure and listen to the alarm. They will be allowed to ask questions, see the emergency pull located in each classroom and the red bell in the Middle Courtyard. We will use this procedure until each child has been acclimated to the sound, keeping in mind part time schedules. A notice to the parents will be placed on the outside doors to inform you of the drill. After a week or so, we will schedule our monthly safety drill where the children and teachers leave the site in their groups and go to the sidewalk area on May Street when they hear the alarm.

While under COVID-19 related mandates, we will introduce this in individual groups. We will keep you posted as to our routines and inform you of any drills so you can be aware of questions that your child may ask.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We believe that parents are a child's first teacher and for some of you, preschool is one of the first bridges between home and the child's place in the world. Regular and open communication between our families and our teachers is very important in helping the children to cross this bridge successfully. Teachers need to know if your child has had any changes in their daily schedule or family life so that we can be sensitive to any special needs or behavior changes.

Two formal conferences are planned during the year. The first one is in the fall and the second in the spring. These are times that are scheduled in half hour increments for the parents and teachers to meet together (on Zoom if we are still under health restrictions) and without the children. It is the perfect time for us to share goals together and plan measurable objectives in relation to those goals. It is important that, together, we mark the value of developing the whole child in the areas of social, emotional, gender expressions, racial identity, physical abilities, cognitive, and creative growth.

The teachers will be compiling a portfolio for each child tracking individual and group work via pictures and written documentation which will be kept in the classroom for your child to reference. This portfolio will be yours to take home upon graduation and is a wonderful keepsake marking special moments shared here at NSW.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special times for children and we enjoy celebrating with them. Because we all know the importance of limiting sweets, we have adopted a "Birthday Book" policy. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday with us, please choose a book to donate to our school library in your child's name. Record yourself reading the book, email the recording to your teachers and drop the book off at the check-in desk. We will inscribe it with your child's name and their picture will read along while playing your home video to the class. The book will become part of our permanent collection. We would also LOVE to Zoom you into your group for a live reading. Just let your teachers know ahead of time and we will coordinate the details with you. The staff has compiled a list of preferred books that will be welcome additions to our library. This link to our book wish list will also be posted on the NSW Parents Portal: <http://a.co/blfW5So>

BABYSITTING

It is our policy that the teachers refrain from babysitting currently enrolled children of our NSW families. Once your whole crew is alumni, some teachers like to babysit and will make themselves available. We know that there are times when you need outside support, so we encourage you to reach out to each other for names of people who might be able to help you.

KIDS NIGHT OUT

We realize that you do need a break from time to time, so the teachers will occasionally schedule a Kids Night Out at NSW. These are usually on a Friday evenings from 5:30-8:30 but we have scheduled other times as well. Those who sign up can bring their child by during the designated hours for fun and games, dinner and a movie so that parents can have some time for, well, fun and games, dinner and a movie! Parents RSVP via Sign Up Genius and the posted fee is payable directly to the teachers hosting the event. While under COVID-19 related mandates, if Kids Night Out evenings are offered, they will be hosted by group teachers for their group only.

PARENT TEAMS AND INVOLVEMENT

We value our NSW family of teachers, parents, children and neighborhood community. Though we do not have a particular volunteer requirement, we expect your involvement as we work together as advocates for early childhood education. We appreciate that everyone has a full life and we are continually being tugged in many directions. Knowing that, we have organized our parent teams and activities to include a variety of choices so you can participate on a level that is comfortable for you. You will have an opportunity at the beginning of the school year to learn about Parent Teams and choose how to get involved. You can of course jump in to help throughout the year too. It's a fun way to meet people and get in the swing of things.

Here's the truth, however. . . being an involved parent is not an option. Being involved is what makes our community so incredible. It is expected that you will participate in school activities whether virtual or in person -- parent-teacher conferences, events, fundraising, parent work days and the day to day items like reading blog posts and emails, following policies and procedures, and being respectful of our environment and community. We are a family and part of that means we share the responsibilities of what being a part of a family is all about. We value respect and open communication, and will continue to work together to support our philosophy which honors a caring environment where every person matters.

PARENT WORK DAYS

Parent Work Days may be scheduled during the school year. These are days that are set aside for school maintenance activities such as building, fixing, painting, cleaning, organizing, and/or gardening. You will be informed via our NSW Parents Portal and/or email and Sign Up Genius. Ongoing requests will also be posted when we need help throughout the year. If you have a particular skill set, hidden talent or passion that can support the community, please let us know!

EXTRA PROGRAMS

We are fortunate to have many talented parents who have volunteered their time to come and work with the children in a variety of areas. We've enjoyed specialized music, cooking, dance, woodworking, theatre, art, and yoga. Please let us know if you are interested in sharing your expertise and talents with us for your group and recorded for other groups through Zoom.

Wow! That was a lot of information! Thanks for taking the time to read our Parent Handbook. It will be posted on our NSW Parents Portal, so you can reference it whenever you have a question. We will keep you posted if there are any changes.

One more favor. . . Please sign the form in your enrollment paperwork titled "Parent Handbook Agreement" and return it with your child's other paperwork. Thank you.