

October 3, 2007

Dear Families:

The first nineteen days of school have been bringing your children together as a classroom community. We are becoming accustomed to the routines and laying the foundation for a fun, exciting year together.

During our first weeks, we are encouraging your children to ask, "*Can I play with you?*" and "*Do you want to play with me?*" We've been practicing these seemingly simple questions together. At first asking these questions was a big challenge and now it is common to hear your children freely take the risk of asking these questions. Through our support and encouragement, kindergartners understand that, at school, we are all classroom friends.

Being a classroom friend means that there is always a way to include someone who wants to play. And it also means trying to play with somebody new. It is not easy and it is hard work for kindergartners! We are supporting your children in being brave and acknowledging the hard work it takes to be classroom friends.

Now that we realize that we will be classroom friends all year long, your children are working on ways to keep friends. Your children recently created a list of guidelines that will help them keep their friends. Here are the guidelines they suggested:

1. Always put on a smile.
2. Always share.
3. Be nice
4. Be a good sport. Play fairly.
5. Use kind words even when friends are not doing the right thing.
6. Use a regular voice.
7. Play in a kind way.

We will be revisiting this list later on to see if your children have come up with other ways to both make friends and keep them. We are all off to a wonderful start!

Warmly,

Lauren and Molly

NEWS:

- Please check the Lower School Blog if you'd like to see the outline of topics discussed at Curriculum Night.
- We are taking a trip to the Union Square Farmers' Market on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:00. We will post a sign-up sheet for family chaperones on the morning of Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

REMINDERS:

- Arrival time is at 8:30 a.m., and we must give the 'rain stick' signal at 8:40 a.m. for caregiver good-byes. This allows the kindergartners to get to the Roof by 8:50 and get the most out of their scheduled outdoor play.
- The LREI email server is presently undergoing an issue with spam, and we are most of often than not, not able to receive email messages that come from outside addresses in a timely manner. Please do not use email to communicate any time-sensitive matters such as your child's attendance.