

Dear Parents,

I am so excited you chose to be a part of our wonderful coop. This is such a critical time in you child's emotional, social, and cognitive development. Please embrace the privilege of being able to take part in your child's first school experience. The returns and benefits are plentiful and everlasting. This is my 15th year as Teacher/Director of SBPG, and I am excited about bringing new and returning families together so we may continue the tradition of making SBPG a special place for our children and their families.

To help prepare your child for their first day of school, please bring your child to play at Marina Park whenever possible. During the summer, remind your child that this is where they will be going to school in September. As it gets closer to September, ask you child what they think they will do at school. Ask your child how other children may feel about school whether they are excited, nervous, scared, etc... children may find it easier expressing their concerns or questions in third person rather than using "I". Two weeks prior to the start of school, use a calendar and show your child how many days it will be before school begins. Marking off days on a calendar or making a paper chain will help to give your child a concrete idea of when their first day of school will be. The week before school begins, gently develop a morning routine so your child will become familiar with what is expected of them on days they have school.

In order for new students to have a visual and physical connection with someone they will see at school, I offer school visits during the summer to meet me. If you choose to schedule a visit, please have your child choose 5-7 photos that are meaningful to them. We will fill a mini photo album with their photos. We will keep their albums at school so they can share and revisit their albums. It also gives me a little one-on-one time to get to know them better. During the visit, I will also present your child with their very own SBPG t-shirt.

On the first day of school, your child will be coming to school with:

- A water bottle with their name on it.
- A change of clothes labeled in a ziplock bag.
- A 75-100 page spiral note book with a 4x6 headshot of your child glued or taped to the front cover along with their name. The spiral notebook will be used for "journaling".
- Seniors will need a lunchbox with their name visible on the top or front. Bento-styled lunch boxes have been popular at school.
- A grazing snack in an easy to open and close container with their name on it.

Please give your child some extra time and love in the morning to boost their confidence in taking their first big step into this whole new wonderful world.

Have a beautiful and restful summer. Please enjoy these long lazy days, because before you know it, school will be here. I can't wait to meet you.

Hugs,

Miss Candace