



Dear Room “1-derful” family,

Welcome to Kindergarten! It is our pleasure to be your child's teachers this school year. Between the two of us, we have been teaching at McKinley Elementary for a combined 35 years! We are not only compatible colleagues, but also great friends! We are so similar in our interests, teaching philosophy (and even appearance!) that you and your child may not even be able to tell us apart...and that's okay:) We are highly energetic and dedicated teachers, and we are SO EXCITED to be sharing this position as McKinley's Kindergarten “dynamic duo!”

- Mrs. Ullrich will teach on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesdays.
- Mrs. Jacob will teach on Thursdays, Fridays and alternating Wednesdays.

We hope your child is excited about beginning the school year, too! All of the anxieties about the “newness” will soon disappear as your child learns our classroom routines and makes new friends. We are sure you have many questions about your child's Kindergarten year, and hopefully this newsletter will answer many of them. You are also welcome to email us at:

njacob@sanleandro.k12.ca.us

mullrich@sanleandro.k12.ca.us

What's New in Kindergarten?

You may have been hearing a lot about the new Common Core State Standards. Your child will be expected to meet or exceed these important standards in order to be best prepared for 1st grade and beyond! It is our job to help our students become “adventurous explorers...” on a quest to find new ways to solve problems and show what they know! You may soon notice many new and different approaches to learning, and we are excited to share more about our program with you at Back-to-School Night on September 11th.

Kindergarten Schedule:

For the first 3 weeks of school (August 20th-September 5th), all Kindergarten students will attend school between 8:10 and 11:40. During this time, your child will be assessed in basic early literacy and numeracy skills to help us determine his/her schedule.

On September 8th, we will begin the staggered schedule. We will notify you about your child's new schedule by September 3rd.

- Early Birds: 8:10-11:40 (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays)
- Late Birds: 9:30-1:50 (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays)
- On Wednesdays, ALL Kindergarten students attend school between 8:10-11:40.

NOTE! Please do not assume that this will be your child's schedule all school year. It may be necessary for your child to switch from the morning to afternoon schedule, or vice versa, depending upon the unique needs of individual students. If a switch is recommended, you will receive at least 2 weeks advance notice.

What to Bring to School:

Students should bring a backpack to school every day. Please write your child's name on the backpack in case it gets lost. All materials will be provided at school. At home, please make sure to have pencils, erasers, scissors, paper, glue, glue sticks and crayons.

Toys:

Please leave all toys at home! At this age, children can be very distracted by their own toys and can easily misplace or break them. We have a large assortment of stimulating manipulatives in the classroom for your child to use.

Monday Folder:

Every Monday, your child will bring home a red folder with his/her weekly homework packet, our weekly newsletter, and important communications from the school. Please look for this folder and help your child keep it neat and organized. This folder is due back at school on Friday with the completed packet inside, ready to be filled for the following week! (Homework will not begin until September 15th).

Clothing:

McKinley is a "uniform optional" school. Please read the McKinley Parent Handbook to learn more about our school's dress code policy. Students have recess and movement activities every day, so for your child's safety and comfort make sure he/she wears appropriate shoes, such as sneakers or tennis shoes. Please label all coats, jackets, and sweaters.

School Meals:

To apply for free/reduced lunch, obtain an application from the office and turn it in as soon as possible. Breakfast is served every day beginning at 7:50. Students should bring a snack to have at the 9:30 recess. Please make sure it is a small nutritious snack, such as fruit, cold vegetables (carrots, celery, etc.), a healthy muffin, or water. Please do not send cookies, candy, or sweets.

Closed Campus & Safety:

In order to keep our students safe, McKinley's campus is closed from 8:30 am-3:30 pm. This means all gates and entrances to the school are locked except for our main entrance at the front of the school. Parents may bring students directly to the classroom at the start of school. At the end of the school day, we will escort students out the main entrance to meet parents/care providers.

For your child's safety, always let us know when there are changes made to your his/her after school schedule or pick-up person.

Any adults visiting campus during the closed campus hours must sign in at the officer and obtain a visitor or volunteer badge!!!

Volunteers:

Our work is not possible without volunteers....WE NEED YOU! The more help we have, the more creative we can be with activities for your child. We will send home more information about volunteering next week. Any amount of time you can spare, whether an hour or an entire day, will be very helpful!

Birthdays:

We would like to honor your child on his/her birthday! You are welcome to provide small, simple treats such as cookies, fruit, or cupcakes. Please do not bring drinks or

anything that has to be cut and served. Birthday treats will be served at the beginning of the 9:30 recess, so please be sure to bring the items before 9:30. Your child will receive a birthday crown and can select a special book from home or our classroom library to share on his/her important day.

Parent-Teacher Partnership:

Your child will have every opportunity to learn and thrive in Kindergarten! It is our goal to get to know your child very well within the first few weeks and find out about his/her strengths and unique interests. You play a critical role in helping us learn about your child. Please take a few moments to complete the attached questionnaire and return it by Monday, August 25th. Frequent communication throughout the year will be essential to your child's success in Kindergarten and beyond! Mark your calendar for Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 11th to learn more about the "**1**-derful" things to come in this school year!

Sincerely,

Natasha Jacob

Mari Ullrich