

**Dear 3B family,**

Welcome to Kindergarten! It is my pleasure to be your child’s teacher this school year. I have been teaching at McKinley for 11 years and I am very excited about all of the new learning and adventures that lie ahead for us!

I 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. I am 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 me at:

sloconte@slusd.us

**Kindergarten Schedule:**

**For the first 8 days of school (August 16th-August 25th), all Kindergarten students will attend school between 8:10 and 1 1:40. The kindergarten teachers will be testing all the students in early literacy skills after school on these days. See the permission slip included in this folder for your child’s testing date.**

**On Monday August 28th , we will begin the regular kindergarten schedule:**

**\*Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 8:10-1:50**

**\*Wednesdays: 8:10-11:40**

**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 learning materials will be provided at school. At home, please make sure to have pencils, erasers, scissors, paper, glue, glue sticks and crayons. These items may be necessary for completing weekly homework packets.**

**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. I have a large assortment of play items in the classroom that will delight and engage your child. If your child is going to participate in a “show and tell” time, I will be sure to let you know that it is ok to bring something on that given date.**

**Friday Folder:**

Every Friday 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. The empty folder is due back at school on the following Monday, so I can begin filling it for the following week.

Homework:

Homework Packets are sent home every Friday and are due back to school the following Thursday. These packets are designed to be a review of skills we have practiced in school. In order to keep the homework load manageable, students should work on 1 or 2 pages from the packet each night. The first homework will be sent home on September 1 5th.

**Clothing:**

Students have recess, movement, and often messy art or craft activities every day! For your child’s safety and comfort, please make sure he/she wears comfortable clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty, and appropriate shoes, such as sneakers or tennis shoes. Please label all coats, jackets, and sweaters.  
  
**School Meals:**

Students should bring a snack to school everyday to eat at our 9:30 snack time. 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. Students will eat lunch at school on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays. Your child can either bring a lunch from home or purchase lunch from the school cafeteria. To apply for free/reduced lunch, check the district website ([slusd.us](http://slusd.us)) or obtain an application from the office and turn it in as soon as possible. Breakfast is served every day beginning at 7:50.

**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. For the first few weeks of school, while everyone is getting familiar with the classroom procedures, parents may bring students directly to the classroom line in the hallway at the start of school. After Back-to-school Night, all students will line up outside, at our designated spot on the blacktop (students will learn where this spot is during the first days). At the end of the school day, all parents and care providers should come to the classroom no earlier than 5 minutes before dismissal. Please wait quietly in the hallway for students to be released from the classroom. Because our school has a closed campus policy, it is important to exit the school promptly after picking up your child.

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

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

**Birthdays:**

**I would love to honor your child on his/her birthday! Students are welcome to bring a favorite book or photo from home, for us to share that day.** Instead of celebrating individual birthdays with cupcakes and other treats, we are going to have a monthly celebration on the first Friday of each month. On this day, we will honor each child who has a birthday in that particular month. Families will be welcome to bring food items for this group celebration.

**Discipline:**

**McKinley School (and all schools in San Leandro) has implemented a positive behavior support system. The system will provide consistency of expected school rules, consequences, and incentives across all grade levels. At McKinley, our school-wide positive behavior support system is called S.O.A.R., whereby all students will learn rules and behaviors to help keep them SAFE, ORGANIZED, ACHIEVING and RESPECTFUL! Just like our McKinley mascot the mighty eagle, we expect all students to S.O.A.R. each and every day! I look forward to sharing more about the S.O.A.R. system with parents at Back-to-School Night on September 14th.**

**Volunteers:**

My work is not possible without volunteers….I NEED YOU! I 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!

**Parent-Teacher Partnership:**

**Your child will have every opportunity to learn and thrive in Kindergarten! It is my 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 me learn about your child. Please take a few moments to complete the attached questionnaire and return it by Monday, August 21st. 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 1 4th**to learn more about the wonderful things to come in this school year!  
  
  
Sincerely,

Sarah Loconte