

Title One Pre-Kindergarten at Redoubt Elementary

Mrs. Oberts

2016-17

Welcome to school little ones we are glad you are here!

Dear Parents,

I am truly looking forward to being the first teacher to begin your child's educational journey! It is the most important first impression your child will ever have and it is my desire to make it the best! With the implementation of the new Pre-Kindergarten program at Redoubt Elementary, I am honored to play, teach, and learn with your child this year.

Program Goals and Guidelines

The primary goal of this program is to create a love of learning and set into motion the positive experiences your child will need to succeed in the future. You are the most influential teacher in your child's life. This is the reason we need you. The program centers on your involvement and participation as well as your input and support. Your volunteer time is greatly appreciated by the entire class and me; however your positive support in all areas of your child's development is the main priority. I value open communication and plan to meet with you often.

The Pre-Kindergarten Program will focus on a child-centered, creative learning environment and provide instruction supporting opportunities for academic and personal growth. The program will concentrate instruction within the 5 developmental domains identified in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines:

1. Social/Emotional development,
2. Communication, Language and Literacy development,
3. Physical and Motor skill development,
4. Cognitive growth
5. Approaches/Response to learning.

Classroom Management

I promote positive choices in my classroom through praise and reinforcement, and re-direct negative behavior with consistency. If your child is pushing limits, showing disrespect, or exhibiting negative behavior, my discipline technique is one that values self control and decision-making. The classroom has a special space for kids who need a "Safe Spot" or a quiet time to regain control of their body or words. In an effort to eliminate labeling a child "bad" or imposing negative consequences, the "Safe Spot" gives the child an opportunity to experience and identify feelings, reflect on how their actions affect others and make different choices. Coping skills are taught and learned by watching others. Lots of practice is needed for children to develop these skills. As part of our daily routines, we will role play, and practice making choices, monitoring our own behaviors and respecting others. I see discipline in early learning environments as an opportunity to teach and work through problem solving, not a punitive loss of privilege or punishment. To have more of an understanding of this philosophy please refer to "Creating a School Family, Conscious Discipline", or "I love you Rituals" books written by Dr. Becky Bailey.

In addition I will be using the BUMBLE BEE Chair to remove children from a situation where children are in immediate danger. This is a "sitting out" chair where the goal is to have the

child accept REDIRECTION, REGULATE EMOTIONS, RECOVER AND RE-ENTER the PLAY OR Learning ACTIVITY. Sometime there will be 2 "Talking Chairs" to help work out conflicts and problem solve.

Title One Volunteering

One of the requests we make of parents participating in the Title One Pre-K Program is that a parent or guardian is willing to volunteer or demonstrate parent involvement each month. This can also mean attending conferences, meetings and trainings or special events. You can help out by making or prepping things from home or actually being in the classroom. Please register online at the KPBSD website. All volunteers must be registered at the district in order to spend time in the classroom.

It is extremely important that you register to be a volunteer online. The KPBSD website has a link available for you to sign up. Please do this as soon as possible.

How do I volunteer?

A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at OPEN HOUSE. I do not have volunteers in the classroom until September. I definitely need help for special days. So keep bugging me if you are interested. Also I have found that someone at the end of the day at 3:15 to help reset classroom is very helpful to me. ☺

Signing in at the office is required when you enter the building at Redoubt Elementary. There are name tags available and they must be visible to all staff when you are in the building. These measures insure safety and accountability for all people and children in the building.

Title One Attendance requirements

Students are required to be at school with limited absences. You will be contacted if your child reaches ten or more absences. If you do not fulfill your volunteer obligation or your child is absent frequently, your child will be placed on a PROBATIONARY STATUS and your child could be removed from the program.

Snack

Children will be having a "snacks-time" daily for both sessions. We are directed to provide foods that meet the district health guidelines and promote healthy eating habits. This is also an educational opportunity for students to learn proper hygiene, hand washing, and manners. I will be looking for parents to contribute snacks. If you would like to pack a special snack for your child due to food allergies or supply a particular food please see me personally. Fridays are special snacks that children can prepare themselves as a "cooking experience". I will be asking for special ingredients for those cooking days. Your help is needed. Please see supply list for snack contributions.

Snack calendar is included for August. This is your child's day to contribute a special fruit or vegetable or something that might be different than the dry snacks. Drinks are good too. We like our snack time a whole lot! We have 10 in each group. I can cut up apples here and most fruit and veggies. The children will be encouraged to try new things!

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays at school with our classmates. Let me know if and when you would like us to celebrate your child's birthday and if you are bringing a special snack that day. The class will make a special HUG Poster for your child on their celebration day, sing a song and dance together. The birthday child will also get to wear a birthday crown all day. Giving me as much notice as possible is much appreciated.

Arrival and Departure

In order to optimize the learning time each day students need to be arriving and departing within the time frames specified. The schedule helps insure that program curriculum is delivered efficiently and effectively. I would be very sad to have children missing out on games and activities because they were not here on time. Please pay special attention to the 15 minute time slots allowed for arrival and departure. I am offering a window in order to have everyone here by a certain time. **I will pick up students in the foyer outside the office at the designated times. Please do not arrive early if you can help it. 4 year olds need to be actively engaged or sitting quietly for no more than 5 minutes at this early development. This is great opportunity to spend with your child if you find yourself here early. The school is committed to teaching the children how to regulate their behavior through modelling the appropriate behaviors. Please help me by modelling the appropriate waiting behaviors for being in a school so as not interrupt the learning and working of others.**

Morning Session 8:30-11:15:

Students arrive at 8:30 and come not later than 8:45

Students begin departing at 11:10 and must be picked up by 11:15.

Afternoon Session 12:30-3:15:

Students arrive at 12:30 and come no later than 12:45 (I am at lunch so do not come earlier than 12:30, please wait in foyer)

Students begin departing at 3:10 and are picked up no later than 3:15.

The busses will be lined up at this time and we need all Pre-K students loaded and on their way so as not to interfere with busses and the massive amounts of traffic at the end of the day. I will try very hard to have them down at the office no later than 3:10 so you can avoid the congestion in the halls during the regular school transitions.

If your child is leaving with an older sibling please let me know. If someone other than you will be picking your child up, they must be specified on their student information card. I will NOT let your child go with anyone who is not on the student information card. If you have a change in plans for pick-up or drop off please call the office or send in a note. I will assume you are coming to pick your child up unless you have sent special instructions. **(Mrs. Oberts Student info card is red or blue and is on firmer paper in this packet. It is a half-sheet. Put all those who can pick up your child on the front or back of the card. I will check IDs)**

For your child's safety only enter and exit the school from the front office doors and always check in at office if you are picking up your child early; where they will call me to let me know you will be coming to retrieve your child.

Daily Student Leaders/helpers

Each day a student(s) will be chosen to be the student leader and wear a special vest/apron. Their level of leadership is dependent upon how comfortable they are with being in front of the group. Small roles in daily routines and snack will help students to gain confidence and become role models for others. This will reinforce "Helping Hands" in our classroom and lead to more involved student jobs in the future. Later in the year a share bag will come home for your child to choose one item to bring back. So be watching for this!

Contacting me

I am very open to **informal** conversation and phone calls before or after school. I also appreciate notes from you or picture messages from your child. Here is my e-mail at school. I check this daily.

toberts@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

If you **formally** need to speak to me about your child's welfare or progress in school, please make an appointment with me. The transition times in the morning and afternoon **are not** the best times to talk. I will honor your child's privacy and speak to you at a more convenient time for both of us. If I need to speak to you I will call or send a note home. If there is an immediate concern, please contact the office, or my direct line 260-4317.

I am excited about your child's first year of school and I know they will love it too. The beginning of the school year is a transition for both you and your child. Tears and fears are natural and expected. Separation at the beginning of your pre-k session can be tricky. Please follow my lead and avoid lingering too long☺. Thank you in advance for trusting me to love and care for your child. I treasure the opportunity of being your child's first teacher at Redoubt Elementary.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Oberts
Redoubt Elementary
260-4300
Classroom extension
260-4317
Cell (If necessary)
398-3527