

Greetings Manatee Families,

Welcome again! The month of September rolling around means that things are starting to normalize & is it “now down to business.”

This year’s class of young Manatees are fun, eager, and usually helpful. Thank you for sharing your precious children with us ~

It is exciting to watch the growth and achievements of the students while fostering intrinsic motivation.

Our Art teacher and more, Ms. Susan, has asked to please send in some form of smock that can be left in your child’s locker for the year.

Please remember that important set of spare cloths as well, they are almost always used at some point or another.

A gentle reminder that your child should not need to bring a backpack to school, a lunch container & water bottle is all they need, and we’ll provide the rest.

Far too often backpacks contain distractions, and we’re hoping to eliminate this excuse to leave the classroom & visit their lockers.

So, as promised here are a few ways to earn Volunteer Hours this school year:

We wash and sanitize our classroom materials & environment everyday using cloths, so you can imagine the amount of laundry we create daily.

Ms. Tracy has generously done the Manatee’s laundry thus far ~ thank you Ms. Tracy!

She also created a Sign-up Genius schedule for future Laundry Volunteers.

To sign-up for this task follow this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/I0c0f4fa9ab2ea4f8c16-washing>

Traditionally, Montessori students prepare snack in the classroom as a Practical Life exercise; with the world of COVID things changed last year.

We’re hoping to bring this Practical Life lesson back into our classroom environment.

We will be fastidious in keeping our kitchen safe and virus-free, but if you do not wish for your child to eat the snack provided please feel free to continue to give them snacks from home.

Actually, everyone is encouraged to put extra snack items into your child’s lunch container; children who’s bellies are filled with healthy food tend to focus better on the task at hand.

Each family who signs –up for providing the weeks’ snack, be prepared to provide for 16 students.

Please bring healthy, communal snack options that do not need to be refrigerated. We also ask for a weekly bouquet of flowers; a truly beautiful Montessori tradition.

Snack items should contain a very low, if not, no sugar or excessive fat content. We also have a student who cannot eat dairy, fruit is always an option, but it is nice to think about everyone in our Manatee community.

A few healthy snack suggestions:

- Fruit: Cuties, bananas, peaches, pears, plums, apples, oranges, etc.
- Goldfish, crackers, pretzels, granola bars, animal crackers, Cheerios, etc.

- The flowers can be of your child's choosing

Follow the Sign-up Genius "Snack Schedule" link here if you wish to contribute in this way:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/I0c0f4fa9ab2ea4f8c16-snacks>

We haven't created a schedule for these other volunteer options ~

Proper clearance is needed if helping on campus during school hours.

Please contact me, and we will figure out a schedule that works for all parties, if you are interested in:

- Sharing your native cultures & traditions ~ food, music, stories, the choice would be yours.
- Visiting to "Show and Tell" your interesting occupation
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Both our Supply Room and Library could use a little love and organization.

(Our Class Mother, Jamie Pearson, has already worked in our library a bit. She has helped organize & come up with great ideas to make the books more assessable & inviting to the students. Thank you, Jamie!)

I believe that is all for now ~

Don't worry if you cannot help in any of these ways, I'm sure more Volunteer Hour opportunities will pop up throughout the school year ~

Thank you in advance, I am so looking forward to the wonderful things to come!

Wishing you Peace, Love, and Happiness,

Kate Barrow, Ed. M.

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Lower Elementary Lead Guide

**MAY SANDS**

