

December 2022 OUR School Newsletter

Dear OUR School Community,

A Reminder that OUR School will be closed for Winter Break from Monday, December 26th, 2022, to Friday, December 30th, 2022.

We are re-opening on Monday, January 2nd, 2023.

A couple of quick friendly updates & reminders from OUR School staff:

- ☞ The dumpster will be **leaving OUR School this morning, Wednesday November 30th** at some point throughout the day! We appreciate your continued patience and am crossing fingers for either, after dropping off or before picking up. Thank you again.
- ✓ The Land of Sweets event was scheduled for December 8th from 11 to 1 pm, but we've rescheduled it. Please join us on Friday December 16th from 3:30-5. Our Infants and Toddlers will celebrate in the Toddler room. Our preschoolers and families will remain in the preschool classroom. *You can expect lots of giggles as we play a life-size Candy Land game with the whole school. Sign up using this link: [Land of Sweets Event Sign Up](#)*
- ☞ Even as the temperatures drop, we spend a lot of time outside. Please bring in snow clothes, waterproof mittens, and a hat, all labeled with your kid's name.
- ✓ I find that getting a less expensive set that can stay at school is helpful. I tend to shop at a Secondhand Store for my own children who bring a spare pair to leave at school. If you have any extra snow pants, boots, jackets, hats, and or gloves, we will take donations. Please and thank you.



☞ **A Lunch Box Tip: Coffee filters are an easy and creative way to help separate items and make it much easier for us to warm the items up if needed. Two or three coffee filters will easily transform a larger container into a snack tray or sectional dish. Simply lay a coffee filter on the bottom of a food container or fill filters with desired items to help absorb excess oils, juices and catch crumbs. They transfer easily to the microwave for warming and leaves you an easy clean-up too.**

Silicone baking cups like the ones to the right work well too! These photos are taken from two of our school lunches yesterday! Great examples to use!



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REMINDERS CONTINUED

- The Remediation has gone smoothly, and I feel proud to say, our basement is clean and free of moisture and mold! If any parent would like to help us put up drywall come January, please email me; I will add you to the list and contact you closer to the date.

In the spirit of giving, we are collecting items for Lift-Up and Toys for Tots for the winter season. There are bins in the Toddler and Preschool Cubby areas.

To help encourage families to donate, any item you bring will count towards your yearly Parent Participation.

In honor of this season of giving and the idea of teamwork, I want to thank all our families and recognize every parent who has been helping the classrooms in any way! Through coming in to spend some time, working on a craft, providing snacks, talking with the students about their careers or purchasing needed items, we appreciate your involvement. A special thank you to the families who came out on our Fall Workday, even though it was chilly and cold. Who knew how many needles fall from these pine trees?! As we are looking towards giving more than receiving this Winter holiday season, I wanted to share a quote from the famous Helen Keller, she authors, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

We appreciate you!

UPDATED ITEMS FOR PARENT PARTICIPATION:

- **Many parents have asked me about items that the classrooms need or would like I have finally updated our WISHLISTS on Amazon. There are now 4 total lists: infant, toddler, preschool and a list for General and Office items . The teachers will all have access and will add things as they think and need. Thank you again.**

Parent participation will resume in January. You can earn PP by either donating needed items or helping in the classroom or around the school. If you'd like a project to earn your parent participation, please let me know. Otherwise, feel free to check out our Amazon wish lists.

Reminder, there is a \$50 per month fee in lieu of parent participation.

"IT'S NOT ONLY CHILDREN WHO GROW. PARENTS DO TOO. AS MUCH AS WE WATCH TO SEE WHAT OUR CHILDREN DO WITH THEIR LIVES, THEY ARE WATCHING US TO SEE WHAT WE DO WITH OURS. I CAN'T TELL ME CHILDREN TO REACH FOR THE SUN. ALL I CAN DO IS REACH FOR IT, MYSELF."

**DAPHNE JOYCE MAYNARD
AMERICAN NOVELIST AND JOURNALIST**

NEW TEACHER BIOS

Ashley Ventura, began with OUR School in August 2022 as a Toddler Lead Teacher.



My name is Ashley Ventura, I am 28 years old, am a Roaring Fork Valley native, born in Aspen, and raised throughout the valley. I graduated in 2012 from Basalt High School and am currently living in Carbondale with my husband Alec and our two girls, Evalina 8 years (pictured left) and Jazlyn 1 (pictured left above and below photos.)

When I'm not working with children I enjoy being out in nature with my family and our 4 dogs, whether we are camping, hiking, fishing or just going on walks, we're always outside as a family and value this time together.

While growing up I cared for my two younger sisters and cousins while our parents were working. This was a huge responsibility and I gladly accepted. My junior year of high school, my love for caregiving was given a more challenging opportunity. I had been volunteering after school and on holiday breaks at a Growing Years Preschool and Daycare in Basalt. This is where I fell in love with young children and made the choice to pursue my education in Early Childhood and continue working with young children.

Aside from being a fellow parent, I have worked at several schools throughout the valley from Rifle to Aspen as well as babysitting/ nanny needs when my daughters were very young. I love being able to teach these young children the practical life and basic personal care needs that life is all about. My favorite thing about coming to the classroom is seeing them grow and learn new things to become tiny independent



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humans! I feel so blessed to start this new adventure and be able to work with all the families at Our School Preschool!

Karely Ruiz our most recent employee who began with OUR School this November as a Lead Preschool Teacher.

Hello! My name is Karely Ruiz, and I was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. From infancy, I was raised in Eagle County and view myself as a Colorado Native. I recently moved to Garfield County and am enjoying getting to know this side of the Glenwood Canyon.

In my free time I love road trips, baking, and trying new adventurous activities! I recently tried zip lining for the first time, and it was not as scary as I thought it would be! I love spending time with my family and friends whenever I'm able to, we are often finding a new adventure.

Since early in my childhood, I have been passionate about working with children. Before graduating High school in 2018, I did some volunteer work at an Early Childhood center in Eagle County. Their environment was beautiful like what we have with OUR School. Now, having worked in the Early Childhood field for three years and I believe it is essential to provide children with a safe environment and learning opportunities for them to be successful. As an ECE educator I believe we must continue to learn more about the field for us to provide the best education and care to the children individually and the families that we serve. I am extremely happy and excited to embark on this new Adventure at Our School!



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