

# Allen W. Roberts Elementary School

## General Information about Kindergarten

### KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULES

- Regular Day  
Morning Kindergarten is from 8:30am – 11:25am  
Afternoon Kindergarten is from 12:05pm – 3:00pm
- Early Dismissal  
Morning Kindergarten is from 8:30am – 10:30am  
Afternoon Kindergarten is from 10:30am – 12:30pm
- If you arrive late please proceed to the main office and sign-in.
- If your child will not be attending school, please notify the main office (908) 464-4707 option # 4). The office will notify the teachers. Attendance messages can be left on the telephone absentee line on a 24/7 basis. In addition, a note from the parent/guardian should accompany the child on the day he/she returns to school after an absence.

### SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAYED OPENINGS

- Delayed Opening Kindergarten Schedule  
Morning Kindergarten is from 10:00am – 12:05pm  
Afternoon Kindergarten is from 12:55pm – 3:00pm
- On the Contact Information Form, to be filled out each September, the approved plan for emergency dismissals and departures will be detailed by the parent of each child. In the event of an early dismissal, this form will also be used to provide instructions for the child's departure to his/her home or parent-approved location.

**Any variation to the plan for dismissal must be received in writing on the morning of the change in procedure. This includes play dates and car pool changes.**

- The New Providence School District utilizes the CodeRED Emergency Telephone Calling System for mass notifications to parents and staff. This is the same system used by the Borough. Within minutes of an emergency, such as a school closing, each registered telephone number will have been called and messages will be left on answering machines and voice mail in the event the call is not answered.
- Parents who do not expect to be at home during the school day must make prior arrangements for a responsible person to pick-up their children should an emergency school closing occur. **This must be planned in advance and the children must know what they are supposed to do when an emergency arises. The Contact Information Form on file in each school will verify these plans.**

**Please refer to the Board of Education policy on *Student Supervision After School Dismissal* located in the Appendix section of the handbook.**

### **SNACKS, BACKPACKS, AND SNEAKERS**

- Students are to bring a daily healthy snack. Each classroom teacher will discuss snack procedures at the beginning of the year. Each classroom is different based on the allergies in the classroom. **Teachers will provide a snack for the first week of school.** After the first week of school students should bring their snack in some type of reusable container or soft lunch bag.
- Children are to bring a backpack to school daily (no backpacks with wheels). A list of other classroom supplies needed will be sent home during the summer along with class assignments by the end of July.
- On gym days students are required to wear sneakers. (It is recommended that students wear sneakers everyday.)
- Please label everything with a complete name! (Including snack bags, coats, lunch bags, backpacks, boots, and supplies.)

### **COMMUNICATION**

- Visit the District website and AWR webpage daily. The teachers, PTA, and main office update information regularly.
- Remember you will receive a Schoolwires Username and Password to access secure information on the District and AWR webpages.
- Students in grades 1-6 will also receive a Powerschool Username and Password to access report cards. (You will learn more about this in 1<sup>st</sup> grade.)
- If you ever have a question, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. They will provide contact information during the first week of school. We are always here to talk and support your child's education.

## **School Health Services**

School Health Services are maintained to promote the health of students and school personnel. In our school, this is done through annual health screenings and emergency care for injury or sudden illness.

**Emergency Care:** Emergency care is limited to first aid for accidents or illness occurring in school until the parent/guardian arrives to take the child home or for medical care. The school nurse may not treat any injury that did not occur in school. Please contact the school nurse if you have concerns about your child's health. It is important that the school nurse have *current* home, work and cell phone numbers to contact you should your child become ill or injured.

**Medications:** When students must take medications during school hours, a note from the physician specifying student name, medication, dosage and frequency of administration is required. A written request from the parent is also needed. The medication must be brought to the Health Office in its original bottle with the pharmacy label. No child may keep medication with him/her in the classroom. **This applies to over-the-counter medications (cough syrup, acetaminophen, decongestants, etc.) as well as prescription medication.** Students with certain diagnosis, such as asthma, may self-administer medication if the student has been instructed by their physician in the proper administration of the medication and have submitted a written doctor's order and written parent request. All medication orders must be **renewed annually**, each September.

**Annual Health Screenings:** All students will be screened annually for height, weight, vision, and blood pressure. Hearing screenings occur in kindergarten through third grade. Students over age ten are required by law to be screened biennially for scoliosis (curvature of the spine) unless a parent requests in writing that their child not be examined. Parents will be contacted about any findings that require follow-up by your physician. Students born in another country and entering school for the first time or new students who transfer from another country may be required to have a Mantoux test for tuberculosis. This simple skin test can be performed at school at no expense or by your family doctor.

**Physical Examinations:** Physical examinations are required for all new students and students entering kindergarten. A complete physical exam signed by your doctor is required. If students do not receive an annual physical examination by their physician, it is suggested that subsequent examinations be obtained at least once during each of the student's developmental stages: early childhood (grade 2), pre-adolescence (grade 5), adolescence (grades 7 through 12).

**Absence and Gym Notes:** Parents should call the Absentee Hot Line (Allen W. Roberts: 464-4707 ext. #4) if a child will not be in school. A parent note must be sent to school when a child returns after an absence. A child may be excused from physical education class for three days with a note from a parent. A doctor's note is required to excuse a child for more than three days.

## **Immunization Requirements**

### **For Students Entering Kindergarten**

Please be sure that all immunization forms are submitted before school entry and that all forms have complete information. If immunizations are given during the summer after health forms has been sent to the school, please submit an **UPDATED IMMUNIZATION RECORD** before the first day of school.

Current New Jersey State regulations mandate the following immunizations:

### **Students entering kindergarten or first grade:**

DTP/DTaP	<b>Minimum of 4 doses</b> (1 dose on or after the <u>fourth</u> birthday)
Polio	<b>Minimum of 3 doses</b> (1 dose on or after the <u>fourth</u> birthday)
MMR	<b>2 doses</b> of a measles-containing vaccine (first dose given on or after the first birthday)
Hepatitis B	<b>3 doses</b> (required for all children born after January 1, 1996)
Varicella (Chicken pox)	<b>1 dose</b> on or after the first birthday OR proof of disease (lab results or written statement from physician or parent) required for all children born on or after January 1, 1998

### **Students entering sixth grade:**

Tdap	<b>1 booster dose</b>
Meningococcal conjugate	<b>1 dose</b>

### **Students attending pre-school programs:**

Pneumococcal conjugate	Complete series
Influenza	<b>Administered by December 31<sup>st</sup> <u>each year</u></b>

(in addition to age appropriate standards for DTP/DTaP, polio, Hib, MMR, Hepatitis B, and chicken pox (varicella).

If your child has a medical condition, please notify the school prior to the beginning of school. Severe allergies, especially food allergies, necessitate special planning and procedures. Please contact the school nurse to discuss any concerns or questions.

Mrs. Miller, R.N. at (908) 464-4707 ext. 514

## **When To Keep Your Child Home From School**

Parents often ask when should a child be kept at home from school for illness. Below are a few suggestions that will benefit the ill child and protect the health of other students and staff. Please check with your family doctor about specific guidelines for your child.

A child should be kept at home for the following:

1. A fever in the past 24 hours.
  2. Vomiting, especially when accompanied by other flu-like symptoms, in the past 24 hours.
  3. "Colds" with nasal drainage that is yellow, green, or copious in amount.
  4. Frequent to seemingly continuous coughing.
  5. Sore throats that persist for more than 2 days or accompanied by a headache or stomach ache, especially if the child has had strep throat in the past. Please contact your doctor to see if a "strep test" is advised.
  6. A crusted, draining rash (impetigo) until prescribed medication has been administered.
  7. Conjunctivitis ("pink eye") until prescribed medication has been administered.
  8. Pediculosis (head lice) until treatment is given and all nits have been removed.
- Please continue to emphasize frequent hand washing, coughing into one's "elbow," and proper disposal of tissues.
  - Help us keep our students and staff healthy by **keeping a sick child at home, until fever-free without medication for 24 hours or if vomiting has occurred in the previous 24 hours.**
  - If you have questions or concerns about your child, please call me at 908 464-4707, Ext. 514.

School Nurse:

Mrs. Miller, R.N.

(908) 464-4707 ext. 514

# 10 Ways to Celebrate the First Day of Kindergarten

## **Start a lifetime of learning with a kindergarten kickoff to remember.**

This truly momentous occasion can invite a whole flood of emotions. Participating in special activities before and after the first day will start your child off with memorable moments and a positive outlook. These activities will help your child view kindergarten as a rewarding new phase of life, rather than a scary separation.

1. **Make a "Me Mural"** to strengthen your child's sense of self. On an oversized piece of paper, create a collage of his or her strengths, interests, favorite things, friends, family, home, or pets.

*After-school Follow-up:* Carve out a place for kindergarten in the mural. Add new friends, teacher, or favorite parts of the school day.

2. **Offer Ownership.** As you are shopping for school supplies, let your child pick out the colors and styles he or she wants, and at home, customize them with craft materials. The night before school, let your child organize and pack his or her own bag.

3. **Create a Launch Pad.** Find a corner in your house for your child's shoes, backpack, and lunchbag. Laminate a favorite drawing and place it on the floor for a fun and reassuring jumping-off point.

*After-school Follow-up:* Decorate the area with the fruits of each day — artwork, handwriting exercises, or awards. Or, compile your child's finest works in a "Best of" Binder and keep it in the nook.

4. **Do a Dress Rehearsal.** The first day doesn't have to be a big surprise. Pretend you're the new teacher by introducing yourself, going over the weather, reading a story, and making art projects. Before you know it, your child will forget about school jitters and focus on the prospect of enjoyable learning.

*After-school Follow-up:* Get others in on the act. Invite your child's friends to create art or improvise skits related to their school days.

5. **Build Confidence with Books.** Read stories about school or other new adventures. Referring to a favorite character's bravery may help your child pinpoint anxieties and summon his or her own courage in an unfamiliar situation.

*After-school Follow-up:* Write and illustrate a story about your child's first day. This exercise helps voice fears and finds ways to deal with or commemorate ways to conquer worries or mishaps. Including classmates as book characters may also help develop empathy skills. Plus, the end result makes a wonderful keepsake!

**6. Envision the Future with a Customized Calendar.** Whether your school district mails out academic calendars or you buy your own, personalize it by adding holidays, birthdays, and other events. Tell your child that as the year progresses, together you can document school plays, assemblies, field trips, and her many accomplishments. Show your child a school year that can, and will, contain a wealth of possibility.

*After-school Follow-up:* In addition to documenting standard landmarks, mark unexpected surprises. If the day was of personal importance, even for small reasons — she got ice cream, went to a new friend's house, or scored a goal on the playground — illustrate it!

**7. Play the Name Game.** Names will be an important lesson on the first day of school. Write a poem or make a picture illustrating with your child's name. Names are important social devices, and the more comfortable your child is with giving out his name, the better he or she can use it to meet other children.

*After-school Follow-up:* Write a short name poem or message for each child in the class and encourage your child to distribute them.

**8. Make an "About Me" Booklet.** Let your child's teacher know who they are and why they are excited about school. Crafting the booklet will let your child envision his or her new teacher in a friendly light and make them more at ease when they meet.

*After-school Follow-Up:* Make an "**About My Teacher and Classroom**" booklet. Challenge your child to remember as much as possible about the people in his or her life. Expanding the book throughout the year may help you understand your child's developing relationship with his or her teacher and classmates.

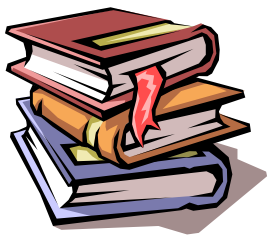
**9. Draw a Home-to-school Map.** Create a poster of the route to school, complete with photos and illustrations of landmarks. If there are stores or parks along the way, visit them. This deepens your child's understanding of the connection between home and school, and will bolster confidence as the connection is made between the two.

*After-school Follow-Up:* Do any new friends live along the route? Add their homes and pictures to the map.

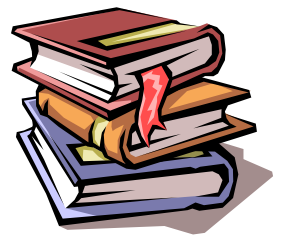
**10. Keep Confidence High with Photo Mementos.** Take pictures of your kindergarten kickoff activities or stage a fashion shoot with your child's favorite clothes, friends, school supplies, artwork, and toys to help remember the support that is given at home.

*After-school Follow-up:* Capture a new photo memento each week and compile them in an album.

**Remember that the first day is not the only important period in the adjustment to school; continuing to document the beginning days of school with your child — tracking highlights, finding day-to-day similarities and differences — will set a precedent for school day reflections.**



# Books About School



Whether your little one's entering preschool or kindergarten, these books can help ease worries and make the classroom a welcoming place.

***Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner*** by Amy Schwartz

Annabelle's older sister prepared her for everything on the first day of school — or did she?

***Barnaby Goes to School*** by Wendy Rouillard

Even though he can't bring his parents or dog along, Barnaby discovers that going to school doesn't mean he's alone.

***Clifford Goes to Dog School*** by Norman Bridwell

The Big Red Dog discovers that it's more important to be yourself than the best.

***Clifford's First School Day*** by Norman Bridwell

***Corduroy Goes to School*** by Don Freeman

Prepare for preschool with a lift-the-flap tale starring a favorite bear.

***Countdown to Kindergarten*** by Alison McGhee

Calm starting-school anxieties with this laugh-out-loud tale about a girl trying to "cram" for kindergarten.

***David Goes to School*** by David Shannon

Mom finally gets some rest! But the poor teacher has to look out in this sequel to the Caldecott Award-winning *No, David!*

***Don't Eat the Teacher*** by Nick Ward

Nibble away at first-day jitters with a humorous look at what NOT to do in school.

***Froggy Goes to School*** by Jonathan London

The exuberant amphibian flubs his way through his first day of school — but has a fantastic time!

***I Love You All Day Long*** by Francesca Rusackas

School is a breeze when a mother's love is there to see you through it.

***I See a Leaf*** by Grace Maccarone

Laugh at how first-day gifts to the teacher get a little out of control — then try activities that help strengthen school skills.

***It's Time for School, Stinky Face*** by Lisa McCourt

See how a savvy mom responds to her son's increasingly silly "what ifs" about school.

***Little Miss Spider at Sunny Patch School*** by David Kirk

Go bug-eyed for these eye-catching arachnid antics.



***Little Rabbit Goes to School*** by Harry Horse

A beloved wooden toy runs amok on the first day of school. But will Little Rabbit want to leave it at home?

***Meet the Barkers: Morgan & Moffat Go to School*** by Tomie dePaola

Discover two types of school success with this tale of two new-schoolers.

***Molly Rides the School Bus*** by Julie Brillhart

Bus rides with "big kids" is no big deal with the help of this expressive story.

***My Name Is Yoon*** by Helen Recorvits

Artfully depicted, this story of a Korean immigrant's adjustment to school will resonate with all kids entering an unfamiliar place.

***Penelope at School*** by Anne Gutman

Join Penelope on a wonderful day at school as she paints, plays, and meets new friends.

***Stuart's Cape*** by Sara Pennypacker

What can take a world-class worrier's mind off his problems? How about a magic cape!

***This Is the Way We Go to School: A Book About Children Around the World*** by Edith Baer

Through sand and snow, by bus and bicycle, learn how kids travel to school in many different ways.

***Timothy Goes to School*** by Rosemary Wells

Navigate the social scene with a lovable creature that makes plenty of blunders trying to please his friends.

***Tiptoe Into Kindergarten*** by Jacqueline Rogers

Hunker down and find out how a curious girl investigates her older brother's kindergarten class.

***Welcome to the AWR Family.***

***We look forward to working with you and your child!!!!***

Gina Hansen, Principal

Jay Richter, Assistant Principal

Marcia WanVeer, Guidance Counselor

Jan Miller, R.N., School Nurse

Lisa Ball, Kindergarten Teacher

Maria Savino, Kindergarten Teacher

Carolyn Glatz, PTA President

Joyce Luzzi, Secretary

Sylvia Wert, Secretary

**Kindergarten screening appointments May 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> at the New Providence Public Library.**

## **Volunteer Committees for 2013/2014**

The **AWR PTA** provides a wonderful variety of services to our school and students. Your support is essential to ensuring the success of these events and activities. Any amount of time you can give is greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering on a committee(s) that interests you by placing an "x" in the space provided. The committee chairpersons will contact you as the event date nears.

_____	Art Appreciation
_____	PJ Bingo
_____	Book Fair
_____	AWR Gives Back (Care Fair)
_____	Directory
_____	Entertainment Books
_____	Father/Daughter – Mother/Son Bowling
_____	Family Night
_____	PRIDE Day
_____	Fun Fair
_____	Membership
_____	School Pictures
_____	Science Fair
_____	Spelling Bee
_____	Spring Fling Fundraiser
_____	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Talent Show
_____	Theatre Week (2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> grade)
_____	Yearbook

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the AWR PTA c/o the main office. Please contact Carolyn Glatz at [Carolyn.glatz@yahoo.com](mailto:Carolyn.glatz@yahoo.com) with any questions. Thank you!