

# “Friends are rainbows in the storms of life...”

## Ms. Beauchemin’s September Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The children have settled into the classroom routine and are enjoying the new challenge of being kindergarteners. This month’s curriculum theme is: Hawaii Is Our Home. The kindergarteners will be learning about how the Hawaiian Islands were formed (volcanic eruption), and something about each of the islands that make up our island chain. We will also be learning about the moon and studying the different phases that the moon goes through. In math, we are learning about patterns, writing numbers correctly, place value (10 has a place of its own), measuring, sorting and graphing. In language arts, we are learning to recognize beginning sounds of words, write letters correctly, blend sounds together to form words, and reading some familiar “word family” words such as cat, rat, and mat in our beginning green level readers. Homework will be sent home beginning the week of August 31. I’ve been working with small reading groups every day to show the children that they are ready to start reading the beginning, or green level readers. Reading is a process that takes a little more time with some children, but everyone is ready for the first step, sounding out the word families that we’ve learned. I will send home reading strategies to try with your child if you and your child are struggling with the reading homework. I will be sending home daily assignments until the children are used to the homework routine. Later on, I will send home a packet of homework to complete during the week and return on Fridays.

### **Homework**

Here are my expectations for the homework assignments. All writing and number work must be done in pencil. Mondays are creative writing sentences. Your child may dictate his/her response to you and then copy the answer onto the paper provided. I would also like to have the children illustrate their Monday responses because it’s so true that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” On Tuesday morning I share their responses with the rest of the class. The children really enjoy this, so please try to make sure that your child’s writing prompt is completed on Monday night and returned in the homework folder for the sharing on Tuesday.

The phonics and math worksheets reinforce the lessons presented in these subjects. The first few weeks of homework will be very simple and easy to complete. Homework should not take more than ten minutes per night to complete. If your child is struggling with any of the assignments, please stop the homework and send me a note. I’ll work with your child to figure out what the difficulty is and let you know how we can resolve it.

On Thursdays I will be sending home reading material for you and your child to go through together. For the most part, the children are able to sound out some of the word families that you see repeated throughout the story. The important thing about reading homework is that your child does his/her best to sound out the words without getting frustrated. The reading books are due back on Friday, unless you need some extra time, or your child wants to practice reading over the weekend. Please help your child be responsible and return the books with the reading log.

Learning to read is a long process and it’s going to take some time. I want to make sure that the children enjoy the “journey.” I have attached a sheet of folder paper with the

reading logs so that you can give me feed back on the reading book. It's also a nice record of your child's progress that you can look back on at the end of the school year. Please make sure that you send the reading log and reading book back to school every Friday. If the log doesn't come back to me, then I don't know which books your child has already read. Friday is a "no homework" day. I do not give homework the day before a field trip or if a holiday falls in the middle of the week.

Aloha,

Ms. Beauchemin

Please detach and return this if you would like to be a classroom helper. You will need a current PPD to help in the classroom or on field trips. Please send me a copy.

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Here are the days and times that I could use help in the classroom. If I have more than one person sign up for the same day and time, I will need to talk to you about your second choice. I can only use one helper with me at a time.

Thank you for your understanding,  
Ms. Beauchemin

Also, Mrs. Thomason, our librarian could use a helper for our class on Mondays from 9:30-10:30

Mon. Library helper 9:30-10:30  
Tues. 8:00-9:30, or 11:00-12:00  
Wednesday 8:00-9:30 or 10:30-12:00  
Thur. 8:30-9:30 or 11:00-12:00  
Fri. 8:00-9:30 or 10:30-12:00

I would like to help out on this day\_\_\_\_\_ time period\_\_\_\_\_

My second choice would be\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help in the library on Mondays from 9:30-10:30\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
My child's name

