

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing holiday with their loved ones. It is great to be back and to see the children again!

We will begin the new year with many new and exciting changes for the lower elementary and kindergarten class. I would like to take this opportunity to once again welcome Justin Garber to our team. We are so excited to have him as our elementary assistant, physical education teacher, and primary support staff. Justin comes to us with a wealth of both experience and knowledge. I know that he will make an invaluable addition to both our classroom and school community.

We are also very excited about our brand new lower elementary classroom! This space will provide us with all that we need as our elementary program continues to grow.

**We have also made a few small changes to our daily schedule. We have adjusted a few minor details in order to accommodate our brand new physical education class, which will take place from 2:30- 3:30 every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. This will be an exciting addition to our curriculum, and will support the children in developing their gross motor, coordination, sportsmanship and team building skills.**

We will also be putting a **lateness policy** in place. **Our work period will begin each day promptly at 8:00. At 8:15 our classroom doors will be closing in order to honor our uninterrupted work cycle. If you should arrive past this time, you will need to go to the front desk to receive a late slip, before joining the class. This policy will help us to keep track of the amount of contact time we have with each child.** It will also support the class in maintaining a focused and respectful work environment. We appreciate your understanding as we work together in meeting the needs of the children.

We are truly blessed as we begin a brand new year in the lower elementary and kindergarten classroom. We will begin our studies of Africa this month, and will move on to study Asia in the month of February. We will also honor Black History month, and will learn about the amazing life and contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. We will also come together to celebrate the Chinese New Year, as we research the culture and countries of Asia. Throughout our academic endeavors, we will continue to build our understanding of virtues and how to put them into practice in our daily lives and interactions with others.

We thank each of you for the honor of working with your amazing children every day, and we are looking forward to this new year together!

**Thank you, Ms. Amie and Mr. Justin**

**Thank you, Ms. Amie**