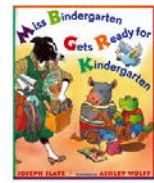
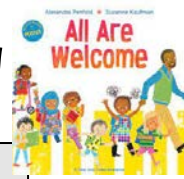


# The Latest from K-4

## August 25, 2023



Visit at least weekly for news, pictures, links, videos and updates.  
[www.griswoldschoolk.weebly.com](http://www.griswoldschoolk.weebly.com)

Dear K-4 Parents,

Wow – the first week of school has come and gone very quickly! Rest up over the weekend the children deserve it. While I start the year with a newsletter, **throughout the year, I plan to communicate various aspects of our classroom through weekly emails.** Please take a few minutes to read through everything – if you have any questions, you can contact me through a note, phone call, or an email. In all cases, I will try my best to reply within the school day. In the case of any medical concerns or needs, please let the school office, nurse, or me know ASAP.

### Contact Information

Mr. Miller  
jmiller@berlinschools.org  
860-828-6336 ext. 4354

-Mr. Miller

### Upcoming Dates to Get the School Year Started

- Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Open House
- Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Berlin Fair Day – NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – School Picture Day
- Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Prof. Development – Early Dismissal
- Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – School Spirit Day – Bright Colors

See a full calendar at [www.berlinschools.org](http://www.berlinschools.org)

### Forms/Reminders/Survey Note

There is a lot to read as school begins...for parents! Please take time to look through the School Handbook (on the Griswold School home page – quarter way down – blue toolbar under mission statement), Kindergarten A to Z Handbook from the Meet and Greet, and other materials received over the summer. I know parents were informed to fill out forms through PowerSchool, an online database. Please do this as soon as possible.

I have also attached a ‘parent survey’ that I will collect and look at to learn more about your child as we begin the school year. The survey is confidential. Please hand it in by Open House on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### A Few Random Items...

- Towels/small blankets will come home each Friday. Please send a clean one in each week. We use these for quiet time in the classroom. We might also bring them outside to use in one of the outdoor learning spaces. Please send in a towel/small blanket that you are ok with possibly getting a little dirty (i.e., laid out on a grassy area). It should also be able to fit in your child’s cubby with their other items.
- Your children have met a lot of new adults at Griswold School. Refer to the **What will I do at Griswold School?** book when talking about these different adults. Their names, faces, and positions are listed. This book will continue to be a great ‘What did you do in school today?’ starter for at-home conversations. It is posted on the right banner of our class website – just in case you misplaced it.
- Be sure to ask your child about...**the books on top of this newsletter (We read a lot more books too!), dotting their first names, marching around the alphabet, stamping our right hands, art and music class, what monsters do during school, lunch, and recess, table top tubs, fine motor baskets, Mr. Miller’s name puzzle, the shape bus, our ‘calm’ breaks...and much more.

### Curriculum Highlights

The first two days of school have been focused around classroom and school routines and procedures, as well as meeting our new school friends. We continue this work as we progress over the next few weeks.

We are taking our time to establish routines that focus on safety, building connections among students and teachers, play, creativity, and other areas of social/emotional learning.

Our reading focus will be on a variety of school-themed, ABC, 123, and color read alouds. Students are working hard to look at the book and listen attentively to the story. They are encouraged to participate in many ways, including through discussions, songs, and drawings.

In math, students are learning about the calendar and attendance routines. They are also learning about math workshop. Students have had a chance to ‘play’ with different math tools/manipulatives. We take time to discuss each tool and inquire about ways to use them to explore. They are very creative as they explore!!!

Lunchtime involves a lot of student responsibility. We are establishing routines that will have students check their backpacks for lunch and make a lunch choice in the morning. They will also be responsible to keep a snack available for PM snack. **Remember, one snack that is easy to eat works the best. To ensure it isn’t eaten during lunch, one suggestion is to pack it in a separate bag or container and let your child know which item is their snack. Snacks must be allergen free.**

We work on many other skills through our Morning Circle and during transitions through various activities and songs. I’ll share more about other aspects of our curriculum at our Open House on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

# Kindergarten

### Reminders

- Please include your child’s first and last name and room number (or my name) on all mail or notes that come into school – especially when money is sent in for various reasons.
- A ‘Color Days’ notice came home today. We will begin with the color RED on Tuesday!
- I included a sample daily schedule on the back of this newsletter. It doesn’t match every day, as our schedule does vary depending on our special times and students’ daily learning goals. Also, early dismissal days are much different. This is a goal schedule, which takes a few weeks to grow into as we begin the year.

## **A Typical Day in Kindergarten...**

8:25-8:50 - Arrival and Morning Activities

8:50-9:05 - Morning Meeting

9:05-9:40 - Read Aloud/Literacy-Based Activities/Fine Motor/Handwriting

9:40-10:10 - Specials (art, gym, library, music)

10:10-11:00 - Reading

11:00-11:30 - Lunch

11:30-12:15 - Read Aloud/Writing

12:15-12:35 - Extra Outdoor Play

12:35-12:55 - Quiet Time

12:55 - 1:40 - Math

1:40-2:00 - Snack

2:00-2:30 - Recess

2:30-3:15 - Centers/Science/Social Studies/Theme Activities/Play

3:15 - 3:25 - Pack-Up/Dismissal Begins

We also have weekly technology lessons beginning next week - as well as social emotional learning activities at various times in our schedule. I'll share many more details at Open House.



## Tell Me About Your Child

● My child's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

● My child's interests and/or hobbies include \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

● My child's favorite 'subject(s)' is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

● My child's special qualities include \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

● My child approaches learning...

\_\_\_\_\_ with excitement

\_\_\_\_\_ with curiosity

\_\_\_\_\_ with confidence

\_\_\_\_\_ with anxiety

\_\_\_\_\_ with reluctance

\_\_\_\_\_ with low interest

● Goals for my child include \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

● Questions or concerns that I have \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

This survey is strictly confidential. If there is anything else that you would like to share, please feel free to write it on the back of this survey or we can discuss something further with a phone call. Thank you for helping to make this a great year for your child.