

Jericho Union Free School District
Robert Seaman Elementary School

August 2009

Dear Parents:


It is with great excitement, on behalf of the entire Robert Seaman School staff, that I welcome you and your children to what promises to be a productive, successful, and enjoyable school year. We hope you and your family had a wonderful and relaxing vacation.

This letter is prepared to highlight plans and explain the routines that will facilitate the operation of our school. Your child's grade, room, and teacher's name are included in the letter addressed to your youngster. The district will not be sending school bus route information by mail this summer. Bus information will be e-mailed only to parents who have submitted e-mail addresses to the school.

I will look forward to seeing your youngsters on the first day of school, **Thursday, September 3rd**. We are all looking forward to meeting you at the **Meet the Teacher Night** on **September 15th for Grades 4 (7:00 PM), 5 (7:30 PM), and 3 (8:00 PM)**, and on **September 16th for Grades 1 (7:00 PM), 2 (7:30 PM), and K (8:00 PM)**.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, suggestions, or questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,


Adam D. Winnick
Principal

Arrival of Children

In order to provide for the supervision of all children, students are to arrive between 8:15 and 8:25 AM. School hours will be from **8:25 AM-2:55 PM**. For the first week, all children will line up in the rear of the school on the blacktop at their designated room number. Bus children will walk from the circular driveway entrance through the building to the line-up area. Youngsters arriving by car will enter the main (parking lot) entrance and walk through the building to the line-up area. During inclement weather, youngsters will line up in the grade hallways.

Dismissal of Children

Bus children will use the circular driveway. Car pool youngsters will use the cafeteria (parking lot) exit and may not walk to the car without a parent. Walkers will use the rear (yard) exit. As youngsters are being dismissed, all exits must be kept clear. As a safety measure, all buses are boarded before any vehicles are permitted to move out of the parking lot.

Visiting the School

Please use the main (parking lot) entrance. Ring the bell and we will gladly let you in. **No matter what the nature of the visit to the school, please inquire and sign in at the main office.**

Releasing Children from School

Our school provides measures for the maximum security of your children. Therefore, no child is released from school to anyone other than you or someone designated **in writing** by you. The child will then be informed to come to the office once the adult escort has arrived and identification has been reviewed. Children will not be released unescorted.

Absence/Lateness of Children

When a child is absent from school, a note or letter is legally required from the parent or guardian indicating the reason for absence. The note or letter should accompany the child on the day the child returns to school. Dental, medical, and other appointments should be arranged at times other than during school hours so that children do not miss valuable school work. **We expect all children to be in school, ready to start the day at 8:25 AM.**

Playdate Arrangements

Please be aware that playdate arrangements will be accommodated beginning Monday, September 14th for Grades One through Five. Playdate notes (Grades 1-5) must be sent with the children in the morning; faxed notes or verbal messages will not be accommodated in the interest of student safety. Please be sure the note has first and last names of children involved, parent signature, and is not on a sticky note or very small slip of paper (these can get easily lost). **Kindergarten play dates will be on a pick-up basis only. Each kindergarten student will be required to have a note regarding the playdate. No kindergarten playdates will be permitted to go on the bus.** Playdates after academic support clubs can not be accommodated.

Children's Lunches

Lunch hours will be 11:35 AM-12:30 PM for all children in Grades K, 4 and 5, and 12:15-1:10 PM for all children in Grades 1, 2 and 3. The cafeteria will be open starting the first day of school. A complete meal, including milk, costs \$2.50. The cost of milk is \$.40 for chocolate, regular, or skim. Children pay for their lunches daily or through a prepaid program. Sending your child to school with the exact change is strongly suggested. (Kindergarten youngsters will need a bag lunch and will be able to purchase hot lunch at a later date.)

Children's Responsibilities

You can help your child develop effective work habits by seeing that your child comes to school prepared for the day. **Mid-morning drop offs of lunch or forgotten items interfere with instruction.** Lunch or lunch money/snack, sneakers, textbooks, homework, supplies, notebooks, musical instruments, etc., are all part of the day's preparation. Parents are asked to instruct their children not to bring money (except for lunch or snack) or valuables (cell phones, electronic games, radios, collectibles) to school.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Report Cards

The first term report card will be distributed on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 and Parent-Teacher Conferences will be arranged on Thursday, December 10th or Friday, December 11th.

Technology Program

We offer a technology-rich learning environment to prepare our students for their future. The elements of this environment include classroom computers, a computer lab, a television studio, computer data networks, and video-on-demand. All classrooms contain Windows platform computers, printers, scanners, and digital cameras for student use.

Electronic "Paperless" Communication

We send all school/PTA information out via e-mail. Please be sure that you keep your e-mail address up-to-date. Parents may also wish to e-mail teachers with any questions or concerns. E-mail is not useful for same day messages such as requests for assignments for an absent student. Some e-mail information will be password protected. As of March 31, 2009 all homework is posted on-line for families to access.

Field Trips

The Seaman PTA is pleased to provide your child with a **school T-Shirt to be worn on all school trips.** By wearing our school shirts, our children will be readily identifiable to our chaperones.

Pupil Personnel Support Services

Seaman School Psychologist Mrs. Elyssa Crimeni can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 5286. In addition to individual and group counseling and evaluation, Mrs. Crimeni will be providing in-class support for all grades. Mrs. Andrea Messinger, our school Social Worker, is at Seaman on a part-time basis and may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 5355. Mrs. Messinger provides counseling and may serve as a liaison to outside services. Mrs. Anne Frischer, our school Special Education Facilitator, may be reached at 203-3600 ext. 5349. Seaman Nurse Mrs. Regina Rosenfeld can be reached at 203-3600 ext. 5284.

World Languages Program

The World Languages Exploratory Program includes all students in Kindergarten through Grade Five.

Instrumental Music Program (Grades Four and Five)

In addition to our Chorus program, youngsters in Grades Four and Five may play a musical instrument in either the Band or the Orchestra. Students in Chorus, Band and Orchestra will delight us at the concerts scheduled for winter and spring.

Values Education

Utilizing the Heartwood program, Life Lessons through Literature, students in all grade levels will explore a number of concepts, including courage, compassion, honesty, and respect. They will read stories from around the world to learn about the concepts and apply their understanding to their daily lives and everyday reactions to each other.

Please note: A State Mandated Emergency Evacuation Drill (Early Dismissal 2:40 PM) is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2009.



Jericho Union Free School District

2009-2010 School Year Calendar

September

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

December

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

January

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

June

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

September 2
September 3
September 7
September 28
October 12
November 3
November 11
November 26,27

Supt. Conference Day
First Day of Classes
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Supt. Conference Day
Schools Closed
Schools Closed

December 24-31
January 1
January 18
February 15-19
March 29-31
April 1,2,5,6
May 31
June 25

Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Schools Closed
Last Day of School

Robert Seaman School Codes of Conduct

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Listen to and respect all adults in the school community.
2. Listen carefully to all directions.
3. Walk quietly through the halls.
4. Tell the truth at all times.
5. Take pride in your work and always do your best.
6. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
7. Respect other students and their property.
8. Be kind, polite and considerate of others.
9. Share with everyone and take turns.
10. Practice good sportsmanship.
11. Invite others to play with you.
12. Use appropriate words to solve problems.

CAFETERIA CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Walk, do not run.
2. Be respectful of all adults and children.
3. Pay attention to all signals from adults.
4. Include other children if they are alone.
5. Use a quiet, inside voice.
6. Get permission from an adult to leave the cafeteria.
7. Respect what others are eating.
8. Clean up after eating.

RECESS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Can't say, "Can't Play!!!"
2. Share equipment and playground areas.
3. Include others in games and activities.
4. Talk out problems.
5. Always use appropriate language.
6. Play safely and fairly - indoors and outdoors.
7. Stop, look, and listen when a signal is given.
8. Get permission from an adult to leave the area.

BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Listen to and respect your bus driver. Only he or she is in charge.
2. Remain seated while the bus is moving.
3. Bad language is not permitted on the bus.
4. Always talk quietly on the bus. Never scream.
5. Seat belts are available if your parents have advised you to use them.
6. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
7. Don't play with the emergency door.
8. Eating or drinking is not permitted on the bus.

Robert Seaman Elementary School Homework Guidelines

Benefits of Homework

Homework benefits children in many ways. Homework helps children: develop good study habits and organizational skills; develop self-discipline and independence; develop a sense of responsibility; practice and reinforce skills and concepts learned in the classroom; and provide a communication link between home and school.

Perhaps the most important purpose homework can serve is to improve reading skills and develop an appreciation for reading. Children should be encouraged to read outstanding fiction and non-fiction literature, but they will also benefit from reading age-appropriate magazines, newspapers, etc. The Seaman faculty believes that all children should read and/or be read to every night. The faculty also recommends that children in Grades 2-5 should spend between 10-30 minutes reading alone every night.

It is our goal to ensure that children are able to complete their homework independently and successfully.

Teachers can help by:

- explaining to students and their parents the purpose and benefits of homework
- assigning a suitable amount of relevant homework that is appropriate to the grade
- ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, how their work will be assessed, and how to budget their time
- reviewing homework promptly and providing feedback to students and parents
- providing consequences that will develop responsibility when homework is not returned in a timely and satisfactory manner
- alerting parents or caregivers to any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that can be used to assist their children with their homework.

Students can help by:

- bringing instructions, books, and all needed supplies home, understanding what is expected of them, and asking questions to ensure that understanding
- organizing their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to produce quality homework within set deadlines
- showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- seeking assistance from parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- sharing with their teachers how they feel about their homework. Was it too hard or too easy? Did it take a longer or shorter time than suggested? Did they have time to read?

Parents can help by:

- providing time and a dedicated and quiet place for homework and study
- taking an active interest in fostering quality homework but letting their children do their own work
- assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to a specific assignment
- requesting homework for absentees in the morning so teachers will have the time to prepare needed materials to send home
- letting their children deal with the consequences for not having completed their work
- encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- and letting their children see *them* reading for information and for pleasure

Robert Seaman Elementary School School Bus Safety Guidelines

We are all responsible to continually teach our children to act safely in and around school buses. Please take the time to review the following guidelines with your children.

When waiting for the bus:

- be on time; bus drivers have been instructed not to wait for late students.
- do not go toward the bus until the driver opens the door
- do not run after the bus.

When loading or unloading:

- sit down immediately
- do not touch the outside of the bus.
- never reach under the bus, even if you've dropped something.
- check jackets, sweatshirts and book bags for items that could get caught on bus doors, handrails and seats.
- if you must cross the street, always cross ten feet in front of the bus after the driver has waved you on

When riding the bus:

- listen to and respect your bus driver. Only he or she is in charge.
- do not distract the bus driver.
- remain seated while the bus is moving.
- always talk quietly on the bus; never scream.
- bad language is not permitted on the bus.
- eating or drinking is not permitted on the bus.
- seat belts should be buckled if your parents have told you to wear them.
- do not play with the emergency door.
- keep the bus aisles clear.
- keep hands, arms and heads inside the bus at all times.
- do not throw objects out of the bus windows.

It is our goal to ensure that all of our children are safe and enjoy their bus privileges with care and respect.

Robert Seaman Elementary School Field Trip Guidelines for Parent Chaperones

- Please check with the teacher as to the nature of the trip with regard to recommended clothing and footwear for both children and adults. Please do not bring a class snack unless the teacher approves it prior to the trip. (Some of our children have allergies such as peanuts, gluten, etc.)
- Please meet the class at the office at time of trip departure.
- Please stay with your assigned group at all times. Take a head count often, especially during transitions.
- Please inform the teacher if you are leaving the group. (e.g., to take a child to the bathroom, etc.)
- Please follow the rules set by the teacher(s). (If no souvenirs or snacks are being purchased, then do not purchase one for your child, your group, or yourself, since this creates inequities for the whole group.)
- Please use your personal cell phone only in an emergency.
- Please inform the teacher of any concerns you may have (e.g., a child forgets trip money; a child misbehaves) and leave it to his or her discretion to resolve.

Robert Seaman Elementary School Snack and Party Recommendations

Choose Sensibly

Our school community recognizes that we must model, foster, and teach children to eat well and be physically active in order to achieve a lifetime of good health. It is our shared responsibility to properly fuel the minds and bodies of our students.

What is a Sensible Daily Snack?

All snacks are not equal! We believe that healthy snacks provide necessary nutrition and energy to get through the school day. According to the New York State School Food Service Association, "sensible" snacks have 7 grams or less of fat; 2 grams or less of saturated fats; 15 grams or less of sugar; 360 milligrams or less of sodium; and contain one serving per package.

A sensible snack, the kind to send daily, may consist of: fruits, vegetables, cheese, applesauce, yogurt, baked chips, pretzels, healthy snack packs, granola bars, and so on. For most children, a single snack may be just enough! Please avoid sending any of the following as a snack: sugar-based fruit juice, soda, candy, cake, donuts, and the like.

What about Special Occasions?

While we recognize that sweets may be appropriate for special occasions such as birthdays, "Secret Reader," "Family of the Week," seasonal parties, and so on, we ask that parents use discretion and common sense. If there is a child with a peanut allergy in your child's classroom, please do not bring in any class-wide snack that may contain peanuts or peanut by-products.

Our collective challenge is to educate our children on choices that promote wellness. We appreciate your partnership.