

# SAVE THIS LETTER!

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**Pierce School**  
**50 School Street**  
**Brookline, Massachusetts 02446**  
**617-730-2580**

Dear Kindergarten Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

July 1, 2015

Welcome to Pierce School! We hope you and your soon-to-be kindergartner are having a wonderful summer! This letter contains some important information for the beginning of school. More details will be provided when your child begins school, but we hope this will help to get things off to a smooth start!

## Opening Schedule

In order to get acquainted with the routines, kindergartners have a modified introductory schedule for the first two days of school (Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>). **Your child will attend school only one of those two days. (Your child's assignment will be mailed to you over the summer.)** We appreciate parents' support of this schedule. It has proven to be an important and valuable transitional experience for the children.

**Thursday, September 3: Half of each class attends from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.**

**Friday, September 4: The other half of each class attends from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.**

On both of those first two days, there will be no lunch for kindergartners, no Extended Day Program for kindergartners, and no bus service for kindergartners. Children should bring a snack to school on that day. Please do not bring nuts for snack, as classrooms are nut-free.

**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: All children begin regular schedule:**

**Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.**

Tuesday and thereafter, children will eat lunch at school, attend Extended Day, if they have been enrolled for it, and (in the case of METCO students and children who participate in the Chinese English Language Learners Program and live outside the Pierce district) ride the bus to and from school.

## Lunch and Snack

Kindergartners will eat lunch each day in the cafeteria. They have a choice of purchasing cafeteria lunch or bringing lunch from home; milk to accompany a home lunch can be purchased in the cafeteria. Prices and other details will be available when school starts. Kindergarten children eat lunch together in a designated area under direct adult supervision. They are walked to and from the cafeteria by an adult and receive adult assistance with lunch purchasing, etc.

Kindergartners eat snack each day together in their classes. Please send a nutritious snack from home (include a drink) in a separate bag, labeled as snack. As you pack your child's snack, please consider that we are unable to provide refrigeration. We also need to be mindful of classroom allergens.

**Peanuts, peanut butter, and tree nuts are not allowed in any of the individual classrooms.** On the first day of school, you will receive more information about policies regarding food at school.

## **Routines**

Please send in a backpack to school with your child every day, whether or not he or she has anything to bring in. A backpack should be large enough to hold a 9x11 folder and a lunchbox, but not much bigger. We will send your child's Home-School Folder back and forth daily; this will contain school notices and forms, class notices, personal notes, school work, homework, your child's Nightly Reading Record (more on this later!), and other items of interest and importance. It is a vital home-school communication link and parents are expected to check it every evening. Kindergarten is the year you can work together with your child to help him or her start to form that "remembering habit!"

Parents or responsible older children are expected to wait with kindergarten students in the cubby area until classrooms are opened. School begins at 8:00 a.m.; students are marked tardy after 8:05 a.m. If your child is absent, you must call school (617-730-2580) before 8:15 a.m.

On your child's first day of school, please try to avoid bringing a car to school if possible. The first days of school are especially busy and parking is limited. Parents are not permitted to park in the staff parking lot. Due to crowding in the hallways, it is helpful to have families exit as quickly as possible at the end of the day.

## **Clothing**

School clothes should be comfortable, modest, and appropriate for the weather and shoes should be safe and sturdy. Please bring a **labeled** bag (such as a zipper-lock, gallon-size freezer bag) to leave at school with a complete, labeled change of clothing for your child in case of bathroom accidents, water or mud outside, or overly enthusiastic use of art materials. Please change the contents periodically for size, season, etc.

## **Pierce School Extended Day**

P.S.E.D. offers an after school program for grades K-6. Please call Jean Day, Administrative Director, at work (617-730-2589) or check the website for information.

## **Phone Numbers**

Here are some useful phone numbers for Pierce School:

Main Office and Pipier Smith-Mumford, Principal: 617-730-2580.

Gayle Van Hatten, Grades K-4, Guidance Counselor: 617-730 -2487

Mary D'Amore, School Nurse: 617-730-2584

## **Summer Reading**

In your summer packet, or online, please find a copy of the Brookline Public Schools Summer Reading List and the 2015 Student Summer Reading record form. Please don't lose it, and please do use it to organize some of your summer read aloud times. When you do this, you and your new kindergartner should use the record to write down the books you read together. Have your child return the form to his or her new teacher when school starts. This way, your child begins right now to participate in the same homework all the bigger Pierce students are doing this summer!

## **Other Enclosures**

Also included in the summer packet are some helpful tips for books, adjustment, and the beginning of kindergarten, and an invitation to a picnic in August for new kindergartners and their families. If you have any questions, contact the PTO at [pierce.pto@gmail.com](mailto:pierce.pto@gmail.com). Please also check [www.pierceschoolbrookline.org](http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org) for more information about our school!

### **Getting to Know Each Other**

The PTO Outreach Committee will provide coffee for parents on the first two mornings of school; drop by after you drop your child off for his or her first day of school!

We wish you and yours a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you all on September 3<sup>rd</sup> OR 4<sup>th</sup> and to sharing a great 2015-2016 school year at Pierce!

Warmly,

Pipier Smith-Mumford  
Principal

Eowyn Daly-Griffin  
Kindergarten Teacher

Lauren Kelly Talanian  
Kindergarten Teacher

Colleen Muldoon  
Kindergarten Teacher

Laura West  
Kindergarten Teacher

Andrew Winston  
Kindergarten Teacher