



NEWSLETTER

End of year, 2019

June Calendar

- 12 All school picnic after school
- 13 Last day of school for all classes except Red and Teal
- 19 and 20 Red and Teal classes dismiss at 11

All School Picnic

We celebrate the end of school with an all school picnic on the playground, Wednesday, June 12 at noon. Please bring a picnic lunch for your family and a blanket to sit on. You must up your child from his/her classroom and then make your way out to the playground. Teachers are not responsible for taking children to the playground for the picnic. Yellow 2's and Purple room families, please come and join us! Popsicles will be provided for the children. If it rains, the event will be cancelled.

ODDS AND ENDS

- Families returning to Fairlington will be given the forms for the 2019-2020 school will be in cubbies so be looking for those!
- Families who began the school year after September may owe tuition in June. If you are not sure, please see Carol in the office. Otherwise, June tuition was prepaid! Children who receive therapy from Fairlington Therapists also owe therapy fees in June.
- Please be sure your child wears shoes that are appropriate for running, jumping and climbing. Sandals with rubber soles are fine if there is a heel strap. Flip-flops are dangerous on the stairs and do not allow children to walk and run with ease. Please save them for wearing at home.
- Please remember to put sunscreen and insect repellent on your child before coming to school on warm and sunny days.
- Please be sure to check your children for ticks after playing outside.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

I cannot believe it is the end of the school year already! It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the children and families at Fairlington Preschool this past year. To those families moving on to new areas, we wish you the best and we will miss you next year!

To our families moving on to kindergarten – please know that your children are ready to take on the challenges of “big school”. They have been taught by fine teachers who have loved them and provided a warm, nurturing and fun filled learning environment. Please know that as parents, you are your child’s first teacher and best advocate, so my hope is that you will continue to be involved in your child’s education. Read the notices sent from school, volunteer in your child’s classroom, join the PTA or parent organization. Please come back and visit – we will love to see you!

What kind of parent are you; Carpenter or Gardener?

(excerpted from Goats and Soda, May 18, 1018)

There are two kinds of parents in Modern America, says Alison Gopnik in her recent book, *The Gardener and The Carpenter*. The “carpenter” thinks that his or her child can be molded. “The idea is that if you just do the right things, get the right skills, read the right books, you’re going to be able to shape your child into a particular kind of adult,” she says.

The “gardener,” on the other hand, is less concerned about controlling who the child will become and instead provides a protected space to explore. The style is all about “creating a rich, nurturant but variable, diverse, dynamic ecosystem.”

Gopnik, a psychology and philosophy professor at the University of California, Berkely, says that many parents are carpenters, but they should really be cultivating that garden. She spent decades researching children’s development and found that parents often focus too much on who their children will be as adults. The harm in that approach, she says, is that parents and their offspring may become anxious, tense or unhappy. “We’re so concerned about how these children are going to turn out that we’re unwilling to give them the autonomy that they need to be able to take risks and go out and explore the world,” she says. Ironically, the less that mothers and fathers worry about outcomes, she says, the better their children may fare in life.

The teaching style we use at Fairlington Preschool is that of a gardener. We provide a rich environment with flexibility within set parameters, in which children can explore. I encourage you to do the same at home!