**ABCs of Kindergarten!**

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A

About ME!

My name is Rachel Allaire and this is my second year teaching at Lagunita. Previously, I taught 2nd grade in Brazil and completed student-teaching hours in both 3rd grade and Kindergarten. I graduated from Sonoma State University with my BA in Liberal Studies, a minor in Dance and my Teaching Credential. I am currently finishing courses towards my Masters in Education at Brandman University here in Monterey. I was a dance teacher for 10 years before I left for Brazil, and I began teaching again at my old studio in Carmel when I moved back here. Beyond teaching dance and kindergarten, and furthering my education, my passions are cooking, watching old movies, and skiing!

Attire

All students should come to school dressed for success! If you don’t want it to get dirty…don’t wear it to school!

B

Birthdays

Students may choose to bring a birthday treat to share on their birthday. Please remember our classroom is NUT FREE for all food to be shared. Please also send a reminder note that you will be bringing in a special treat.

The 30 minutes before the end of school are the best times to share a birthday treat. Parents are welcome to come celebrate, and /or read their child’s favorite story to us!

Behavior

Behavior is handled first by the student, self-managing their behavior, then by the teacher through our King of the Jungle stop light system, next by an email or phone call phone, and finally with the assistance of our principal Mrs. Dermody. If behavior problems persist, a Behavior Home to School chart will be established with parents, teacher, and student.

C

Common Core State Standards

-Aligned with expectations for college and career success

-Include both content and the application of knowledge through high-order skills

-The standards will provide more clarity about and consistency in what is expected of student learning across the country.

-I can Statements will be visible in classroom

Instruction in kindergarten is focused on developing foundational skills that prepare students for later learning in all content areas.

-Students learn beginning skills to comprehend and analyze what they are reading. Kindergarten students begin to develop writing skills by using a combination of drawing, dictation, and writing to express opinions, relate an event, or provide information.

-In math, students are introduced to the relationship between numbers and quantities and build a foundation for place value as they count, represent and compare whole numbers, initially with sets of objects. Students also describe and model objects in their environment using simple geometric shapes and vocabulary.

-Students begin the study of history–social science with concepts anchored in the experiences they bring to school from their families and communities. Students explore what it means to be a good citizen, national symbols, work (now and long ago), geography, time and chronology, and life in the past.

-Kindergarteners use their senses of sight, sound, and touch to investigate a variety of objects and learn how to classify, compare, and sort these objects in science. They observe, measure, and predict the properties of materials. They begin the study of the properties of matter and its transformation, and observe and describe different types of plants and animals. In addition, they use the study of weather as a basis for the study of earth science, including the characteristics of land, air, and water and the use of Earth’s resources in everyday life.

Visit these sites for more information

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/grlevelcurriculum.asp>

F

Field Trips

We will be attending the whole school roller skate trip at the end of the year, a trip to the aquarium with the 1t and 2nd graders, and hopefully one more! I would love to have "in-class trips"! If you or anyone you know is able to come to the class to teach our students, please let me know!

Folders

Check boomerang folders every day!

H

Homework

Homework will be added as we progress through the year and need more practice at home. Once a regular homework routine is established, you can expect what I call a “Homework Menu”. Students and families will be given a sampling of homework options on a Friday with a week to complete. Each option is a certain number of points. There will be activities that students must complete each week, such as reading time and math, and some other options which you and your child may find rewarding to do together, such as science experiments and physical activities. Homework Menus will begin once we return from Winter Break, to give students, and parents time to phase into afterschool work.

Helping Hands

Take a hand from outside our classroom door if you are able to donate the item. By taking the hand, you are signifying that you will be responsible for buying and bringing in the item so please only take if you are able to bring it in. I also wanted to thank each family already, for bringing in the supplies off the summer list.

O

Office Hours

I am always available on Thursday afternoons at 1:50. From 12:00-12:40 is my lunch break before I begin my next position at Lagunita, working with the Inclusion program and Curriculum, so if you need to speak with me, please email or call to schedule an appointment ahead of time.

P

Parties

Kinder is A LOT of work, but we get to celebrate too! You and your child can look forward to celebrations like:

Halloween Party

Polar Express Pajama Party

Zero the Hero

Field Day and MUCH MORE

Q

Questions

Have you ever asked your child how their day was and they said, “fine”. Or asked what they did at school today and they said, “nothing”. Well those are two of the worst responses a teacher can hear! Here are some great interactive and response provoking questions to ask your child. Ask questions that require more than one word answers such as yes and no.

What did your hands touch today?

Which friend made you feel special today?

What question did you answer in class today?

R

Reading

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action at home, will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

\* Invite your child to read with you every day.

\* When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.

\* Read your child's favorite book over and over again.

\* Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite your child to join in on these parts.

\* Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"

\* Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.

“Reading well is at the heart of all learning!”

S

Star of the Week

You and your child will get to spend some time at home creating a Star of the week poster. I will send the Star letter home, a week prior to your child’s turn.

V

Volunteering

For the next 4 months of school, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we have center rotations from 11:20-11:50. I would love to have an ongoing schedule of parental help during these times to run a center of 3-4 children, working on math, literacy, or science.

I would also love help for the parties and events we will have throughout the year, especially our Passport activity in which we will take our passports and enter a new country (our decorated classroom). Students will make art projects, eat different food, sing songs, and listen to stories from different countries. More info to come!

Please sign up to help as you’d like, on my classroom door afterschool.

Website

My class website is a work in progress currently, but I will be using it as a major form of communication in the next couple weeks. Please also let me know if you would not like your child’s photographs on the website. I will always ask permission to upload child work.

<http://twirlingteacher.weebly.com/>

Z

Zero the Hero

Comes to visit us every 10th day, to help your child with counting skills, skip counting and the zero placeholder. On the 100th day, Wednesday February 6th 2013, we will have a big party with 100-day hats and foods that look like zeros! If you are able to donate zero looking food for the upcoming 10th days, please let me know.

Circle pretzels, applejacks, skittles, apple rings, hard-boiled egg rings, watermelon balls, pineapple rings etc.

100th day snacks could be any of the above, or bagels/donuts.

THANK YOU!

Parents are teachers too!

So I thank you in advance for all the hard work you have already put into your wonderful son/daughter, and the continued effort you will give to make his/her education a successful and positive experience.

Miss Rachel Allaire