

Equity and access for all

Curriculum that Emphasizes Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Safe, Respectful and Compassionate Learning Environments

Learning with an eye towards bettering the world

Diversity, Appreciation and the Celebration of Difference

Developmentally Appropriate Education

Constructing Meaning through Powerful Hands-On Learning Experiences

The Interconnectedness of disciplines

Creativity, imaginativeness and innovation at the center of our curriculum

Balancing the uniqueness of the individual child with a responsibility towards one's community and the group

Citizens of the World Charter School
Opening Day: Monday, September 13, 2010

Parent Newsletter

VOL. 3

September 11, 2010

To our CWC Community,

It's incredible that the first day of our school is just upon us. We've been working so hard to get the site ready, prepare ourselves as a staff and organize everything needed to start off on the right foot. Thank you to all who have also been volunteering and working hard to support this effort. We are grateful.

I know you've received many communications from us, in both email and thru snail mail. Included in this newsletter are some of those same communications, more information about our Gentle Beginnings start, additional reminders about Monday and requests for the work party. We realize these communications are somewhat redundant but want to absolutely make sure we're all prepared and feeling calm for the start of school.

I know many are planning on coming to tomorrow's work party at our site: [Sunday, September 12th from 11 – 4](#). We've made a lot of progress since our last work party just two weeks ago – some of you will be amazed by the transformation! Still, there are plenty of jobs for us to come together as a community to complete prior to Monday. Kids are welcome. We'll rotate the duty of childcare and, additionally, set things up for students to do in classrooms while adults are working on various tasks.

If we don't see you tomorrow, we will see you on Monday for our first day of school!! Please come to our [ribbon cutting ceremony](#), which will take place from 8:35 -8:55. Just after the ceremony, we will transition students into their Gentle Beginnings groups. Parents are welcome to stay for our [parent coffee from 9:00 – 9:45](#). Remember, for Monday and this whole week, we are asking parents to walk their kids into school – parking on Bronson or another side street. Very soon, we will be setting up drop-off on Bronson Ave., but in the meantime please escort your child in.

Before getting into all of the nuts and bolts, I want to explain the text at the top of this newsletter. In the colored boxes above are the core principles that, together as a staff, we developed at the start of our three-week orientation. Together we defined and crafted these principles in response to the questions, 1) "What does it mean to educate children for the 21st century?" 2) "What makes for a powerful learning experience?" and 3) "What are the elements of your ideal school setting?" I look forward to telling you more about this process in the near future. In the meantime, however, please read through this newsletter and continue to get excited for our landmark first day!!



With care,
Marissa Berman, Founding Principal

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION:

- Parents should walk their children into school after parking on Bronson or a side street.
- Since parking might be limited, please try coming early so that you have plenty of time to arrive on time.
- We will be doing a ribbon cutting ceremony from 8:35 – 8:55 that we are including all families and students in. Please come and help us celebrate the opening of our new school!
- A parent coffee will take place just after that on the picnic tables from 9:00 to 9:45. Feel free to stay and meet others if you are able.
- To help ensure a clean and smooth transition, we will be calling up students into their Gentle Beginning Groups after the ceremony and asking parents to not walk into the building with their children on this first day. Students will walk in groups with their Lead Teachers and TA's. This will help to make the goodbyes to parents short and sweet. If possible, please prepare your child for the morning, ahead of time, to ensure they know what to expect.
- If, on Monday, you are bringing supplies from the list sent out by teachers, we will have a place for you to drop those things off outside.
- Students should be able to carry their own bag, lunch or other light personal belongings (jacket, etc.) into the school building.
- Hot lunch will be available as well for those need or have already signed up.
- Please bring your child to school with a snack, whether they are eating hot lunch or not. Although we will have loads of backup emergency snack on hand for this first week, we will be asking families to provide this. We want to make sure all students have enough food to fuel their energy for the whole day.
- Pick-up at 1:30 will be at the Bronson Gate at the end of the CWC walkway.

WORK PARTY INFORMATION AND REQUESTS:

- The work party will be taking place from 11 – 4 tomorrow, Sunday, September 12th.
- Please bring cleaning supplies and work tools if you have.
- It was wonderful that many of you brought snacks to our last work party. If you are able, bringing communal snacks would be great. We will set those up on the picnic lunch tables outside.
- Children are welcome. We will rotate childcare as a work party job and also have low key things for kids to do in the classrooms.
- SPECIAL REQUEST: IN NEED OF REUSABLE PLASTIC BOTTLES. For our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, we are trying to make handmade musical shakers for children to have. We will be making these out of clear plastic bottles. If you have any of these at home that you were going to otherwise recycle, please bring!! Thank you.

OUR GENTLE BEGINNINGS START:

As you know, for the first three days of school, all CWC students, Kinder and 1st grade, will be rotating in groups to different teachers and spending time in each of the classrooms at each grade level. For Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, all students will be in the same group and will have an opportunity to interact with all teachers at their grade level and participate in first week of school activities. I'm excited to implement this structure at CWC and believe this will be an important mechanism for placing students, ultimately, in the best class groups for the duration of the school year. This is just one part of CWC's commitment to understand your child well and develop learning environments that meet all of our students needs as best as possible.

Although we will be calling students up into their Gentle Beginnings groups on Monday after the ribbon cutting ceremony, below is the rotating schedule for the first three days for each Gentle Beginnings color group students. Having this information ahead of time will help to make both you and your child feel the most prepared, calm and ready for the start of school – a momentous occasion for all students, especially those starting Kindergarten for the first time. Please note, since the groups are rotating to different teachers, students will not necessarily be starting with the same teacher each morning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. For this reason, although we will be there to guide you each day, make note of where your child will be going each morning.

Kindergarten Gentle Beginnings Schedule - By group and Lead Teacher

Monday - Kindergarten	Tuesday - Kindergarten	Wednesday - Kindergarten
Blue Group – Mrs. Lee	Yellow Group – Mrs. Lee	Red Group - Mrs. Lee
Red Group – Mr. Coronel	Blue Group – Mr. Coronel	Yellow Group – Mr. Coronel
Yellow Group – Ms. Al - Kassir	Red Group – Ms. Al-Kassir	Blue Group – Ms. Al - Kassir

First Grade Gentle Beginnings Schedule - By group and Lead Teacher

Monday – First Grade	Tuesday – First Grade	Wednesday – First Grade
Orange Group – Ms. Grakal	Green Group – Ms. Grakal	Orange Group – Ms. Grakal
Green Group – Ms. van Heerden	Orange Group – Ms. van Heerden	Green Group - Ms. van Heerden

**THE LIST OF GENTLE BEGINNINGS GROUPS CAN BE FOUND
BELOW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

Kindergarten Gentle Beginning Groups

Blue

Luca Basil
Andy Zuniga
Lila Kim
Jude Slava
Diego Martinez
Bruno Verneti
Jorge Roe
Breanna Amado
Zoe Kazan
Ashlee Hoyt Bustos
Iris Wiater
Ella Lazare
Jordan Riddell
Rahmi Karim
Maxwell Mogavero
Gunnar Hoyt
John Gussman
Julius Soto
Matilda Moss
Jennifer Godoy
Samantha Kim

Red

Elijah Small
Jovito Baldovino, Jr.
Ethan Aviles
Nathaniel Levander
Raiden D. Kim
Ava Elliott
Sadie Barksdale
Siena Carlone
Madison McLaughlin
Zoe Metz
Lino Soto Mayor
Edwin Martinez
Logan Ball
Taylor Alexander
Diego Martell
Jaydn Kim
Kayla Perrin
Sydney Kim
Lubea Martinez
Julia Ellison
Hayden Blocker

Yellow

Robert Olivares
Nicole Martinez
Ella Pearl Bindle
Katherine Ko
Venice West Gonzales
Bryan Rodriguez
Zander Meyerson
Riley Schmedeman
Astrid Lima
Sofia Quero
Tabitha Foster
Lily Vizcaino
Sofia Alexis Escuadro
David Orellana
Gustavo Barajas Reyes
Elijah Owens
Oliver Martinez
Daniel Sivochek
Marlon Martinez
Lexa Shampansky
Isabella Greig

First Grade Groups on the Following Page

First Grade Gentle Beginning Groups

Orange

Micaela Trujillo Ponce
Elisha Lescot
Allison Ramos
Casey Lee
Ian A. Khan
Titan Choi
Daniel Lee
Jalaluddin Slava
Tyler Williams-Hicks
Caroline Miguel Barrera
Allan Najera
Aubrey Lardizabal
Danielle Altamirano
Hannah Ban
Zoe Lloyd
Caedmon Barksdale
Jahsyra Hamilton
Gautam Singh Gupta
Alex Kucher
Mason Castillo
Cooper Toronyi

Green

Isabella Steketee
Chloe Lemoine
Sehvoe Synn
Cheyenne Kim
Denise Marie Del Orbe
Ricardo Madelon
Seth Ko
Nathan Castaneda
Logan Childs
Jamie Nam
Janella Orellana
Lanette Ramos
Alethea Crawford
Sophia Barksdale
Naomi Stevens
Ryan Jung
Aidin Corob
Caelan Leo-Fields
Matthew Chak
Sarai Elder

Additional Staff Bios:

After our last newsletter, we hired a few more people who I'd like to introduce before Monday. Namely, one of our Teaching Assistants, Nicole Smith, and Cynthia Romo, our Music Teacher – both fantastic additions to our staff. Although we did have a fifth Teaching Assistant hired, she needed to withdraw her acceptance of a job at CWC for personal reasons. For that reasons, we're in the throes of finding a fifth Teaching Assistant, who will be working at the 1st grade level. For this reason, Jackie Melendez, who is our other fantastic 1st grade Teaching Assistant, will split her time between Carol van Heerden and Nikki Grakal's classes until we've found the last person to round out the 1st grade team. My hope is that our last TA will be hired and ready to start with us in the next week or two. In any case, see Cynthia and Nicole's bios below.

Nicole Smith
Teaching Assistant



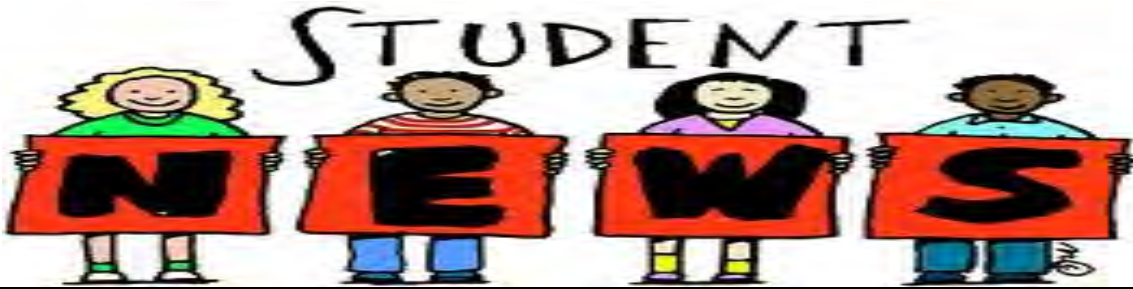
Nicole Smith comes to us most recently after spending four years as a behavior therapist working one-on-one with children of various ages who have special needs; helping them to be successful in the classroom and facilitate peaceful relationships with their peers. Before 2005, Nicole lived in South Florida, where she grew up with her mom, dad and younger sister. She graduated from J.P. Taravella High School and attended the local community college before deciding to bring her imagination and experiences to Los Angeles. Nicole is currently attending Santa Monica College and will transfer to UC Northridge to earn a degree in child development. Her ultimate goal is to be an educator of students with various abilities and capacities, regardless of their cognitive, physical, or emotional differences. Aside from her love of working with kids, Nicole also enjoys reading, art, yoga, TV, eating with friends, being with her fiancé, spending time with her cats (Blue and Merlin), and sleeping. She is very much looking forward to being a part of this amazing community that we are ALL about to be a very important part of. As the saying goes, "It takes a village."

Cynthia Romo
Music Teacher



Ms. Romo was born and raised in greater Los Angeles. She attended Azusa Pacific University where she received her BA in Music Education and is currently attending Cal State Los Angeles earning a California Credential. She has always had a passion for music: playing, performing, and teaching. She is inspired to teach music to children from all parts of the world and has been lucky to have taught internationally as well as locally. She most recently spent the last 3 years working with Camino Nuevo Charter Academy in general education as well as music education. Ms. Romo is looking forward to the opportunity to share her love for the art of music and to explore, create, grow and learn with the future leaders of CWC.

Below is the mailer that was sent out to all families this past week from Daniela Cosentini, our Family Support Coordinator.



The **first day of school** is **Monday, September 13th**. Please arrive promptly at **8:30am**. For the first week of school, parents **must** park (anywhere along Bronson or on a side street) and walk their child into school. On Monday, from 8:35-8:55am, we invite you to join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony, which will take place right outside the office. From 8:55-9:00am we will transition all students into their Gentle Beginnings Groups and students will travel to their classrooms with their teachers. We will ask parents to say goodbye to their children after the ribbon cutting ceremony outside and not accompany children into the classrooms on this first day. We believe this will make for an easier transition for all. Parents are invited at this time to join us for bagels and coffee at the lunch tables outside of the office.

School hours for the **first three days** of school are from **8:30am-1:30pm**. Thursday, September 16th will be the first full day of school; students will be dismissed at 3:15pm. At dismissal, students will be lined up with their teachers on the green space just north of Le Conte's main entrance. We ask that all parents park and meet their child on the green. Children will not be allowed to walk alone to meet parents at their cars. Parents who are picking students up from the after school program must also park and come into the school to sign out their child. Please make sure your child knows whether or not he/she will be participating in the ASP before dropping them off. This will help to make for smoother transitions each afternoon.

Our **lunch program** will begin on the first day of school. Although we will eventually be serving hot lunch, various cold lunches will be served for the first week. These lunches cost \$3.75 unless you qualify for free or reduced price lunch. Students may bring an envelope to school with their lunch money for the day or a check can be made out to Citizens of the World Charter School for the week. A lunch calendar will be available on the 13th for the rest of September.

Morning care will be available starting the **first week of October**. More information and applications will be coming your way soon.

Join us on Sunday, **September 12th, from 11 – 4 for another CWC Work Party!** Thanks to all the families who helped out last time!

*Don't forget all enrollment and immunization forms are due by the first day of school.