Welcome to Kindergarten
Mrs. Tawnya Gillespie, A.M. Kindergarten

Welcome to the 2005-2006 school year. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child! I believe communication between home and school is a vital part of a child’s academic success. I encourage each of you to contact me with any comments or concerns you may have during the year.

Sincerely,
Tawnya Gillespie
662-8803 (wk)

Class Hours
On late start Monday’s school will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday school will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 10:45 a.m. for A.M. Kindergarten. It is school policy that the children must not enter into the classrooms until the first bell rings. There will be an adult supervisor out on the playground by 7:35 Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 on Mondays.

Attendance
The learning that takes place in the classroom is through experience. It is important that your child attend school regularly. State law requires you to notify the office if your child is absent. Please call as soon as you know that your child will not be attending school, 662-8803. Please keep your child home if he/she has a high temperature or contagious illness.

If there is a need to take your child to an appointment or leave before school ends, please let the office and I know in advance if possible. Also, if your child is tardy you will need to check them in at the office before bringing them to class.

Being Prepared
Students must be to school on time and ready for learning by getting plenty of sleep, time for exercise and play at home, and bringing their backpack with their folder inside everyday. The backpack is our communication link.
Inside the folder you will find messages from the classroom and the main office, as well as completed assignments and homework. It is important that you check your child’s backpack and folder so you can stay well informed with what is happening at school.

**Homework**

Students are asked to read or be read to as part of our homework policy. In October I will begin sending home books at your child’s level for them to read to you. When they come home please have your child read them to you and return them to school the next day. A *reading log* will be enclosed for you to fill out. This helps me as I track the progress of your child.

Beginning in October *Homework Packets* will also be sent home on Fridays as supplemental practice. Students will receive a reward on the return of their homework on the following Friday. I encourage you to work with your child on their homework. I believe that students grow as learners and learn to appreciate the learning process by having the support and encouragement at home. I am counting on you to help reinforce our classroom learning.

**Classroom Volunteers**

You are always welcome, however as a visitor you must check in at the office first. This is a policy to keep our students safe. If you are interested in helping out, please fill out the *Classroom Helper* page in your Parent Packets. I will send home a schedule monthly, starting in mid October for volunteers willing to help out and be a part of our classroom.

**Writing Student’s Name**

Your child is learning to write his/her name using both capital and lower case letters. Please reinforce this at home and make sure your child is correctly holding the pencil as he/she writes.

**Specialists**

During the school week your child will attend music, library, and physical education (P.E.) classes for 30 minutes each. Please be sure your child
wears the appropriate dress (tie on shoes) for P.E. days. I will send home a schedule showing the days that your child will go to each specialist.

**Buddies**
Starting in October we will begin meeting with Ms. Wrzesinski’s Third Grade class once a week. This is known as our “buddy” time. Each kindergartener is paired up with an older student to work with on different projects. Your child will have the same buddy all year. This is a special time for the kindergarteners. They look up to their buddies and the older students really enjoy helping.

**News Break/Sharing**
Students will have a day to share throughout the month. I will be sending home a “News Break Bag”. Your child will be able to choose what they would like to bring on their day. Please be sure to return this the next day. The children will be patiently waiting for their turn with the “News Break Bag”. Guns or other weapons are not allowed at school. Please check your child’s sharing item to make sure that is appropriate.

**Toys:** Please leave all toys at home unless they come in the News Break Bag on your child’s sharing day. At this age when their toys come to school, they are often misplaced and then we have disappointment and tears.

**Contributions**
Children who contribute items to their classroom feel a sense of belonging. Throughout the year, I will be requesting items to be used for parties, or creating in the classroom. If any of this is a hardship, please let me know. We are always grateful for your contribution.

**Birthdays**
Every child’s birthday is special and your child will be celebrated. **Please let me know in advance** if you plan to send or bring something. If your child has a summer birthday we will be happy to celebrate their half-birthday. Please let me know if you are interested.

**Snack**
Snack will **not** be served on a daily basis. Please be sure that your child has fueled up with a good breakfast before arriving to school. On snack days we will have snack after recess and will learn how to wait patiently, use good manners and clean up after ourselves. When we run low I will send
home a note requesting new snack items for our snack cupboard. We will all eat the same item. If your child has any allergies please notify me.

**Book Orders**
Each month, your child will receive some book order forms. This will provide a wide variety of quality childrens literature. Having books at home increases a child’s desire to read. If you choose to order please make check or money orders payable to the specific club. The date to return the orders will be written on the forms.

**Star Student**
For one week each child will be the designated “Star Student”. During your child’s Star Student week they will get to be a special helper in the classroom. Please help your child create a poster about themselves to bring back to school to share with the class. I will provide the paper and you and your child will decorate and create the poster together as a family.

**“Make Your Day”**
“Make Your Day” is a citizenship program that was adopted by the Wenatchee School District several years ago. This program embraces the philosophy that everyone has the right to learn in a safe environment. To Make Your Day, your child must do what is expected and do the best he or she can!

**The Make Your Day Program**
“*No one has the right to interfere with the learning or safety of others.*”
“*Do what is expected and do it the best that you can.*”

In Kindergarten we modify MYD slightly. At the beginning of the year, students are only taught Steps 1&2 to help them modify their own behavior. We will move on to Steps 3&4 soon. Parents are involved in this program at Step 4 or when the students don’t Make Their Day. A Step 4 involves a 3-way conference with the teacher. Your child will be asked to explain what the behavior was and the possible changes that need to be made.

Another essential component of the Make Your Day classroom management model is consistent communication with the parents. Parents are encouraged to ask students about their day. If their child "made their day," the parents understand that school expectations were met and that their child gave their
best effort. After Thanksgiving Break we will begin taking “points”. A student evaluates how well they thought they did in accomplishing what was expected and doing the best they could. Students give themselves 1-10 points, depending on how well they did. The teacher can disagree on the points children give themselves. Students earning less than 7 points for the day will bring home a “Didn’t Make My Day” slip completed with the reason why they did not make their day. These need to be carefully looked at, signed, and returned to school the next day.

Parents are encouraged to use this as a time to help their child determine what happened that interfered with their optimum learning. The intent is that the child will learn from this experience. The school does not expect parents to administer a consequence. Students are expected to honestly reflect their efforts in points, which means that no student will "make their day" all of the time. Mistakes are simply a learning opportunity. The more we work together for your child, the more effective this program will be.

**Going Home**

I will walk students being picked up to the designated pick up area in the front of the school on Peters Street. The bus driver will walk the bus riders to the bus on School Street. Kindergartners are not allowed in the parking lot for safety reasons. If you are picking up your child, please be prompt. If you are not able to pick up your child by the dismissal time (or shortly thereafter), I will take them to the office to wait. If you have any questions concerning the bus, please call Transportation at 662-6168.

*If there is a change from the original routine, please send a note stating the change. If I do not receive a note, I am required to send your child home using the regular route.*