



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our 4 year old Pre-K class in room LC-2. I would first like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Miss Maria and I am honored to be your child's Pre-K teacher this year. This will be my 25th year at Park Shore. Joining us in the classroom will be Miss Tricia and Miss Jackie. Miss Tricia and I have worked together for 12 years now. In the summer months she is our Transportation Director and I actually assist her during the summer months in that department. I am excited to have her again and I know that all of your children will love her as much as I do! Miss Jackie and I have worked together for 3 years in a classroom setting. Many of you may remember Miss Jackie as our amazing school Gym teacher, not to mention a Park Shore camp director in the Pre-school Division for many years before her joining Miss Tricia and I in the class. Your children will love her as much as we do! The three of us have been together for some years now, and I have to say, that we are an amazing team! I am so very blessed to have them this year again! Miss Tricia will be leaving at 2 PM and Miss Jackie will remain with me until the end of the day. Just like you, I too chose Park Shore for my child. That was 25 years ago though. Time flies when you are having fun! Even then, it was the best preschool on the Island! I've always considered Park Shore a college campus for little students. You have all definitely chosen well!

I am so looking forward to working with you and your child in making their Pre-K experience an enriching, as well as, a fun filled experience. We will have many wonderful opportunities to learn, grow and become Kindergarten ready in the months ahead.

Before I list some important information, I believe that communication is the key to a great parent-teacher relationship. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can reach me by calling Park Shore and they will transfer your call into my room. If for some reason I am not available at that time, I will call you back at the end of the day. You also can feel free to e-mail me at mariamoll@att.net. I also participate in the communication App 'Remind'. You can communicate with me through that as well. I will use it from "time to time" if I need to remind you of a special event or just to make an announcement of a special event. I encourage you to participate. You can sign up by cell phone...text to 81010 and then text this message: @dd9ea8 or you can go on-line to...Remind.com/join/dd9ea8. Please remember that if you email me or communicate through Remind I may not get back to you right away. I will be checking into them daily and will respond to you after I do.

As you all know the year 2021 has been, and continues to be, a crazy and unsettling year. Things are changing all the time, nerves are unsettled, and the unknown is quite scary. The only thing that seems consistent is that we are ALL experiencing this together. So together, we will get through this. What we all need to remember is that our children are watching, listening, and reacting to how we are responding to all this so called: "New Norm"! In class, we will address some of these issues in a calm, caring, loving, safe, and logical way. Having said this, here is a list of some important information for this year:

Ready? Here we go! Your drop off time is 8:45-9:00 AM. Upon arriving to PS, as you pull into the parking lot there will be a PS employee directing you where to go. Please remember to have your placard (sign) on your dashboard. The Learning Center Bldg. is to the right as you enter the driveway. It is the long beige bldg. opposite the Fields. Your child's classroom is LC-2. That is where your child will be for their fun-filled school day! ☺ After parking your car, you may walk your child to this building. I am the first door/entrance in that building. Please DO NOT enter the building. Ring the doorbell and one of us will come out and temperature check your child, ask some health/well check questions and we will escort your child into the classroom. Unfortunately due to health safety concerns no parent is allowed inside the building. Hopefully this inconvenience will soon be a distant memory. Thank you all in advance for your understanding.

Your child's pick up time will be 3:30 PM. Entering PS for dismissal will be the same as arrival. Please remember to have your placard on your dashboard. If you are picking your child up from school early, please call ahead or send in a note stating that. Please note: anyone (you or someone else) picking a child up, must have proper ID on them.

Please send your child in with a change of clothes in a zip-locked bag. Please remember to LABEL the bag, as well as, the clothes in it with your child's name. This is in case of a bathroom accident, or if they spill juice on themselves. Please include: weather appropriate clothing, underwear, socks, and even an old pair of shoes (if possible). We will keep this change of clothes here at Park Shore, and will periodically send them home for a weather appropriate exchange. Please label ALL jackets, sweaters, hats, etc. with your child's name.

Please send in a box of wipes.

Children and Teachers will be required to wear masks in school. Please provide extra masks for your child. Place them in a zip-lock bag to leave in their backpacks. Please remember to check them weekly and replenish when needed. Park Shore will have "some" masks to use as a back-up, but it is up to all parents to provide their child with them. Please label the bag with your child's name. Please DO NOT send your child in with a gator they just don't work as well as a mask and are not acceptable.

If you would like, you are welcome to send in 4 books that your child really likes. Place them in a BIG ziplock bag with their name on it. They can use those books to read during our library time. Periodically we will send them home and you can replace them with different ones...if not then we will use some of our PS books.

Please send your child in each day with a backpack. There may be important school notices, as well as, beautiful projects that we will be sending home. I recommend that the backpack you buy be large enough to accommodate them. It would be a shame if they were ruined. Please remember to check and clean out their backpacks each day. There may be an important notice that you will not want to miss.

Park Shore will be offering Hot Lunch through a Company named "The Garage". If you are purchasing hot lunch then your child will also receive an afternoon snack included in that package. Park Shore will NOT be supplying snack this year so please send your child in with their own snack for the morning and afternoon. Again... if you are purchasing hot lunch then you'll only need to send in a morning snack. It is nice to see that over the years parents have chosen to send in snacks have been healthy choices. If you do decide to send in fruit please note that all fruit must be cut very small so it will reduce the risk of being a choking hazard. I would like to stress the importance that it be a peanut free snack. As you know, we are a peanut free school, and I would be very upset to have to disappoint your child by having to say that he/she could not have the snack that you have sent him/her in with. Please remember to check all labels. Although the snack you want to send in is a peanut free item, it may be packaged in a nut facility. We will not be able to serve that snack so again, please check and then check again to be safe. Please note that we may have children with allergies other than peanuts. When I have all of that information I will be happy to update you. If you are not purchasing Hot Lunch here, when sending in lunch from home, again, remember it must be a peanut free lunch as well. We do have a microwave in our classroom as well as a mini refrigerator. I would suggest that you pack your child's lunch in a lunch BOX with a cool pack.

Note: Your contact information sheet was mailed to you. Please fill it out and send it to me as soon as possible. I would like to learn your child's likes/dislikes, any wishes that you may have, and most importantly, any allergies that your child may have. Please feel free to include that information onto that sheet. There was also a list mailed home of unsafe snack/fruit which is not permitted to be served to any of the children. Please review that list before sending in any snack/lunch and remember that it is a guideline and may not list all snacks that are unsafe. If in doubt then please feel free to ask me. Please remember to fill out the 14 Temperature check list and send it in with your child on the first day of school. You also received a daily health question form. Please fill that out daily and hand it to the teacher that is greeting you and your child each morning upon arrival.

Okay...sooo here we go...Illness! Huge issue, big concerns, and much confusion as to what to do this year. Many parents are concerned, and rightly so. You are NOT alone. Most of us are! Let me try to put your minds at ease. We here at PS are going to do our very best to keep your child and our employees as safe as possible by following the Guidelines that the CDC and the Health Dept., as well as, NYS has given us. We will be monitoring your child throughout the day. We, and the children, will be washing our hands and or using hand sanitizer from one activity to another. Our room's surfaces will be sanitized throughout

the day, as well as, our bathrooms. At the end of each day our room/toys will also be sanitized. Masks will be worn while indoors by staff and children. Having said this, please know that the children will have a few mask breaks during each day, INSIDE. While playing outside the children DO NOT have to wear masks. We will do our best to enjoy the outside as much as possible, weather permitting. Each class has a designated area outside where we will hold some of our circle time/learning experiences weather permitting. We are all praying that this will be enough to keep our children and staff safe and well. We have to remember that these guidelines need to be followed at home and outside of school for this to truly work. This now brings us to the topic, of what to do if your child is not feeling well.

My motto is: WHEN IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT. If your child is not feeling well, please call us and let us know if they will not be in. If they have a fever please keep them home until "24" hrs. of being FEVER FREE WITHOUT medication and your child must return with a cleared Doctor's note saying it is safe for he/she to return. I know that this, at times, could be a little tricky. You know your child better than anyone else. If they are not up to par health wise, they will not have a productive or enjoyable day and they will only spread the illness to another friend. In this horrible feared COVID lifestyle we are all living in, this year we HAVE to be more diligent in how we make our decisions of what we feel or believe to be a reason to keep our children home because they may not feel well. So....if your child has a runny nose, it could very well be the common cold or an allergy. I totally understand that if your child is kept home for that reason, well they may never come to school. LOL. Now...if their nose is running profusely, then they definitely shouldn't come to school because they'll be very uncomfortable. They will be wiping their nose and washing/sanitizing their hands most of the day. It will be a very unproductive day for them. If your child has an "Upper Respiratory Issue", a runny "green or yellow" nose, "sore throat, etc" then definitely DO NOT send your child in. If your child displays these symptoms upon arriving to school, or during the course of the day, he/she will be brought to our well care infirmary where they will be held and cared for until your PROMPT pick-up. Your child should then be brought to a Doctor and return with a Doctor's note saying it is safe for them to attend school. If you are unsure as to what to do, please call me, and I will be happy to help walk you through your decision.

On a lighter note: Birthdays...I love birthdays! We will celebrate every child's birthday even if they have a summer birth date. In those cases, we will celebrate them together in May/June. Feel free to send in something for their special day. It can be cupcakes if it is absolutely peanut-free and not made in a peanut facility. Please note that they must be store bought & must be labeled with the ingredients. Please check with me before buying them. Ice Cream cups are also a big hit with the children. Trader Joes sells adorable little ice cream cones perfect for little hands. They too are always a big hit! Unfortunately we cannot have any visitors or surprise readers this year in class. I'm sorry. ☹️ I can promise you that we will make each child feel special that day and we will sing them Happy Birthday. I will send you pictures/videos of that special day. Each child will receive a class card from their friends and will wear a special Birthday Crown.

You will all receive a class schedule during the first week of school. This will give you an idea of what goes on in the course of your child's day. Unfortunately we will not be having individual class specials this year. We will have some Music daily and we will be outside exercising our gross motor skills as much as possible, weather permitting. We will have time for Science within the classroom/outside weather permitting each day as well. We will also have I-pads in our room to use during scheduled times during the week.

You will receive a "monthly" classroom newsletter which will be posted on "Park Shore's Web Site". This will help to keep you informed as to what is going on in the class and in the school as well. Please try to remember to check it out. The Web Site is also the place to go for pictures that are taken during school. I will also periodically send pictures on the Remind App. This is difficult at times to do because I have to send them one by one instead of hitting select and send many. So check the Web Site and go to our class to view pictures.

In the event that School closes due to a COVID outbreak please note that PS classes will go virtual. More information will be sent out during that time.

You will be receiving 3 progress reports during the school year. The first one will be in November. This one will let you know how your child is adjusting to his/her new classroom and class friends. The second one will be in February/March. This one will give you a good understanding how your child is doing academically, as well as, socially. The last one will be in June. With this one you'll be able to see the academic growth that your child has work so hard on in class this year. Please note that we will "not" be having an official parent/teacher conference day in November or during the school year. If you would like to have one, please feel free to contact me and we can set up a time for a phone call.

I will touch base with all of you approximately at the end of the second/third "full" week of school. I will at that time, let you know how your child is adjusting to their new surroundings. I will be assessing each child within those first few weeks of school. This will be a good way for us together to set up goals for your child. It will be nice to see the progression they make from the beginning of the year to the end. I will let you know those goals when I call you by the third full week. Please know that you don't have to wait for my call. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to reach out to me.

This now brings me to the most important part...."Separation!" It's a horrible thing. Believe me, I know. I've been there, and I have done that! I can say with confidence and experience that there is light at the end of that tunnel! Although it is not fun and it is difficult, especially during these times, I want you to know that we are here for you and will help you through it! Remember that it mostly happens during "transition" times. I promise that if you give it 2 full weeks, in some cases less, you will see those little tears turn into big smiles! It happens every time! Call me. I will let you know how they are doing. Don't feel bad, believe me they are going to have the time of their lives! Please do not get discouraged! This "is" normal! It is difficult for some children to understand that it is okay to have fun without mommy or daddy. They need time to become familiar with this new surrounding that mommy or daddy is leaving them in. I have "never" had to say to a parent that their child is just not ready for Pre-K. I will give you this advice, and "please follow this direction". If your child is crying and says they do not want you to go, you must "not" listen! Yes, that's right, I will say it again, you must "not" listen! LOL:). I know it's difficult, but bend down, give them a big hug and kiss and with a big smile say: "I love you very much, I want you to have a lot of fun now, and I will see you later". Make a clean break, and leave them to us. We will comfort them, wipe their tears, we will tell them that you love them, and that you will be back in a little

while. Yes, they will cry for a little while, but in October you won't even believe that this happened at all! After you leave please don't go through the day holding onto the memory of your child crying. That is just heart breaking. Call me after a little while or reach out through the Remind App and I will be happy to let you know how they are doing. Every child and parent has survived Pre-K! :) Honest!

Well, I think that's it! I have covered everything. I am truly looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year with you and your children. I look forward to speaking to you, as well as, meeting all of you.

Sincerely,

Miss Maria LC-2