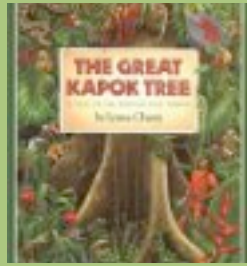


# The Kapok Room Newsletter



August 29, 2011

*Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them.*

*Maria Montessori*

## Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a great summer break. To all of the new families this year, Welcome to The Kapok Room! For those of you who do not know me, let me briefly tell you about myself. I am originally from Oklahoma, which is where I received my bachelor's degree in sociology before moving here to beautiful Key West five and a half years ago. This year will be my fourth year working at the school and during my time here I have obtained my Montessori teaching certificate from the South Florida Montessori Education Center. This year I am excited to welcome our new assistant, Ms Leny, to the classroom. Ms. Leny has been in Key West for 8 years and has worked at St. Mary's since she arrived here, so some of you may have seen her around. We are both very excited to have your children in our classroom and we feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to witness the magic of your children's absorbent mind. We realize that teaching your children is a privilege and feel very fortunate to have this opportunity. We have a very busy and exciting year ahead of us, and look forward to getting to know you and your children!

What your child needs for the Kapok classroom:

- Extra pair of clothes (shirts, shorts, socks, and underwear), in a ziploc bag with the child's name on it. We ask for you to bring it in a ziploc and not a backpack because of the limited space we have for storage.
- If your child is a full-day student they will need to bring a nutritious lunch. (We discourage sweets and candies).
- Because their lunches are stored in cubbies and not refrigerated, please include an ice pack in your child's lunch.
- A pair of slippers (we prefer them not to be big and bulky)
- Do not send your child with a personal snack (unless in aftercare, or particular allergies), we will have a snack available throughout our morning work cycle.
- Make sure your child wears clothes that permits them to move comfortably and allows them to get dirty (paint, food, water, outdoor environment).
- Your child is in charge of taking on and off their shoes, please keep that in mind when sending them to school
- In our efforts to be more green and limit our waste at the school, we ask that you pack a cloth napkin in

The Barroso Family built flower beds for the whole school outside of the Gumbo Limbo room (Thank you!). Our children will be gardening in these beds throughout the year! To prepare for the sowing of the seeds, we are going to need lots of soil and mulch to fill the beds, so if you we ask that everyone bring in some soil during the next few weeks.

## Star of the week

Star of the week is something special that the children look forward to being, because they get to share with the class the things that they enjoy. When making this schedule, I tried to keep the children's turns close to their birthdays. Listed below are the details about the Star of the week.

**Monday: Snack** The child brings in their favorite snack to share with the class (If your child's favorite snack consists of a lot of sugar, please refrain from bringing that in, and bring in a healthier alternative) If your child's star of the week falls on a week that we don't have school on that Monday, just bring in the special snack on Tuesday.

**Wednesday: Book** (The child brings in their favorite book to be read at circle time)

**Friday: Show and Tell** (The child brings in their favorite thing or things that they enjoy at home)

**Special Art project** (A parent brings in an art project to do with the children)

**Walk around the sun** (the child holds the earth or a globe and walks around the sun. The walk represents the earth revolving around the sun. The child walks around as many years old he or she is, this is a fun way to introduce the concepts of months, days of the month, the earth, the sun, and how the earth revolves around the sun.)



			<b>Feb.</b>	
Aug.	29	Erin Kenny	6	Lilian Mayer
			13	Caber Bausmith
Sept.			21	William Ewing
	12	Juaris De la Cruz	27	Milo Marsh
	18	Georgiana Roberts		
	25	Jack Reynolds	<b>March</b>	
Oct.	3	Wallace Blum	5	Marlee Prigge
Nov.			12	Lily Kaufman
	7	Zachary Wilcox	25	Uistean Anderson
	14	Eli Morris		
	28	Virginia McGrail	<b>April</b>	
Dec.			9	Layton Rice
			23	Reece Speidel
			30	Patrick Schofield
Jan.	12	Yara Claudio	<b>May</b>	
			7	Emma Momaly
	10	Phinneas Noah	14	Kara Norman
	17	Harper Beasley		
	23	Thomas Horvath		
	30	Emma Norman		



# Snack

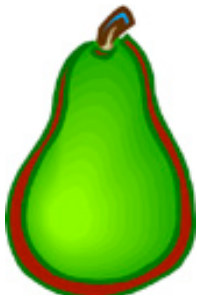
Since you will already be bringing in special snack whenever your child is star of the week, I made that week one of your times to

bring in snack. If the name on the schedule below is in red, that means that it is also the scheduled time for your child to be the star of the week. As far as what to bring for snack, if you would just check with us the

Friday before your scheduled time, we can let you know what we are in need of at that time.

If you have any questions about this, just let us know.

Don't forget to save your receipts and turn them into the office for work-pay hours.



## August

29 **Kenny**

## September

5 **Momaly**  
12 **De la Cruz**  
19 **Roberts**  
26 **Reynolds**

## October

3 **Blum**  
10 **Schofield**  
17 **Speidel**  
24 **Rice**

## November

1 **Anderson**  
7 **Wilcox**  
14 **Morris**

## November (continued)

21 **Milo**  
28 **McGrail**

## December

5 **Prigge**  
12 **Claudio**  
18 **Kaufman**

## January

10 **Noah**  
16 **Beasley**  
23 **Horvath**  
30 **Norman E**

## February

6 **Mayer**  
13 **Bausmith**  
20 **Ewing**

## February (continued)

27 **Marsh**

## March

5 **Prigge**  
12 **Kaufman**  
26 **Anderson**

## April

3 **Roberts**  
9 **Rice**  
16 **Reynolds**  
23 **Speidel**  
30 **Schofield**

## May

7 **Momaly**  
14 **Norman E**  
21 **Wilcox**  
28 **Morris**

June 4 **McGrail**

# BIRTHDAYS



I **tried** to schedule the children's star of the week around their birthdays, so since you will already be bringing in special snack it will not be necessary to bring in another one for the child's birthday. For the child's birthday celebration/Walk around the Sun, the children like to bring in a photo of themselves representing each year of their life. The parents are welcome to join us for the celebration but it is not required. If you do decide to join us, you are invited to narrate to the class, what the child enjoyed during the different years of their life. The pictures that you bring in will be displayed for the rest of the day for the children to see. The Friday during your child's star of the week is the day that we do this celebration, but some children/parents prefer to do this on their actual birthday, so just let us know when it works best for you to come in and join us.

## Thank you!

I want to give a special thank you to Thomas Horvath and his family for sponsoring the Kapok Room! The money given will go towards the purchase of the Waseca Reading program for the classroom. This program will help enrich the language section of the Kapok Room for years to come. I would also like to thank the Anderson family for coming in this summer to help move boxes and furniture. Anne Rice has graciously took on the organization of what is to be our new library for the children and we greatly appreciate that. I would also like to thank the Momaly, Wilcox and Kenny family for bringing in items that were posted on the wish list. Scott Wilcox spent alot of time this summer putting together our new storage shed behind the Gumbo Limbo Room and I wanted to recognize him for this.

Tami McGrail has stepped up to be our room mom this year and Cara Higgins has offered to be her back-up. Thank you soo much for this as it is an important job:-)

Thank you to everyone for all of your help, we rely on and appreciate the help from dedicated parents like you.

