



August 22, 2012

It was wonderful meeting many of you at the Meet Your Teacher Night on Monday. Thank you for taking the time to meet Mrs. Mehling, myself, and the rest of the school staff. You may be wondering a little bit about me. This is my 9th year teaching kindergarten, my sixth here at Beartooth. I previously taught kindergarten in Arizona. I am very excited for the opportunity to work with and get to know your child in our full day kindergarten program. On a personal note, I am also a parent. My husband and I have a son, Jonah, who is a 4th grader here at Beartooth and we also have a 1 year old daughter.

Student Teacher

This semester we are lucky enough to have a student teacher from Rocky Mountain College, Mrs. Erika Mehling. Mrs. Mehling is from Roundup, MT and will graduate in December. She likes cheerleading and backpacking. She is the new Head Cheerleading Coach at West High.

Full Day

Full day kindergarten is a fantastic opportunity for your child to further develop math, science and reading skills, as well as learn how to work through social situations such as sharing, problem solving and developing respect for others. What is developmentally appropriate for your child will always be considered when working through activities. We will not have naptime. After lunch, we will have a bit of quiet time to listen to a story or work on quieter projects. Expect your child to be tired during the first two-three weeks. Once a routine is established, your child will be used to going to school all day!

Class Rules

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. No talking when someone else is talking.
3. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself.
4. Talk nicely and share with your friends.

Consequences for not following rules will be moving a clip on our "behavior board". Each child will start their clip on green or "great" every day. If a student is not following a rule, they will be reminded once and after that they move their clip to yellow and the consequence is walking 5 laps at recess. This still allows the student to get some fresh air and exercise, but they lose a little of their "play" time with friends. If a student continues to misbehave, their clip is moved to orange and the consequence is 10 laps at recess. If

the student continues to not follow classroom rules, the principal will be called and in certain situations the parents will be contacted. If your child is consistently moving clips or I see a pattern of behaviors, I will contact you so we can discuss what is going on with your child and how best to help him or her be successful.

After each recess, students will move their clips back to green. This allows them to start "fresh" and begin making better choices. Students who stay on green all day will receive stickers and earn rewards for their good listening skills and behavior. Students with excellent behavior have the opportunity to move their clip to purple or "Wow!" on occasion.

Wednesday Folders

Each Wednesday I will send home your child's red "Wednesday Folder". This will contain papers that were completed over the previous week, as well as any school information or papers that need to be returned. It is very important that you check your child's backpack every night, but especially on Wednesday nights. After you have removed the papers in your child's Wednesday folder, please put the empty folder into your child's backpack for use the following week.

Classroom Blog

I will maintain an online classroom blog that will be updated weekly. The blog will contain information about what we are learning that week in school, activities to try at home, and any important school information. I also love to update the blog with pictures and videos of your kids learning and having fun in kindergarten! Please make it a habit to check the blog frequently. The address is: <http://mrspiltzkindergarten.blogspot.com>

A form has been sent home asking for permission to include your child's name and photograph on our blog. If you do not wish to have your child included, please be sure to indicate that on the form. A printed newsletter will also be sent home each week with all of the important pieces of information.

Schedule

In addition to our classroom daily schedule, kindergartners also have the opportunity to participate in three special classes each week: Library with Mrs. O'Brien on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:00, P.E. with Mr. Pfeifle on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:00 and Music with Mrs. Martin on Thursdays from 12:00-12:30,. Please remember to dress your child appropriately (socks and tennis shoes) on P.E. and music days.

Your child will soon be able to check out a library book from school. It is a good practice to return the book to your child's backpack once you have finished reading it. This way, it will not be lost and your child will have it at school for library day.

Birthdays

We are not allowed to give out addresses or phone numbers of students, even for birthday party invitations. The PTA will sell a student directory sometime this fall. Party invitations are only allowed to be passed out at school if you plan to invite ALL students from your child's class.

You are welcome to bring cupcakes or another special treat on your child's birthday. If you plan to do this, please contact me ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

Open House

An Open House for Beartooth students and their families will be held on September 20th. This is an opportunity for parents to visit their child's classroom and find out what they have been learning. More details will follow.

Water Bottles

Students may bring a water bottle to drink from while at school. (In fact, I encourage it, particularly during these hot days.) Please be sure it is a bottle with a tight fitting lid that will not spill. Please only fill the bottles with WATER.

Lunch

A new experience for kindergartners will be lunchtime at school. At Beartooth, kindergartners will eat first, then play on the playground. We will be eating lunch at 11:00. Recess will begin at 11:20. Students who need more time to eat will be able to stay in the lunchroom and eat as other kids are dismissed for recess. I will pick up the students at 11:40 to begin out afternoon. Students may purchase a lunch ticket in the gym/cafeteria in the mornings from 8:10-8:25. Monthly lunch menus will be sent home in your child's Wednesday folder. A special lunch menu with less choices will be offered for the first two weeks of school. This menu is included in your child's folder.

If you send a lunch with your kindergartner, please be sure he or she can open the items inside (Lunchables, snacks, etc.) This is really helpful during a hectic lunchtime. If you would like to eat lunch with your child on a certain day, you are welcome to. Please let the school office know if you are planning on eating a school lunch, so they can plan accordingly. Please sign in at the school office before you come into the lunchroom.

Snack

In kindergarten we typically eat two snacks each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The snacks you have supplied will last us for about a month. Starting in October, I will send home a monthly snack calendar assigning each child a "Snack Day" in which they are responsible for supplying snack for our class. This does not need to be anything elaborate, and we do have a small fridge so you are encouraged to bring items like fresh fruit, veggies or yogurt. **Please note that we have two children with severe nut allergies in our classroom so please be mindful of this as you are planning snack and do not send anything with nuts or peanut butter.** We also

have a student on a gluten-free diet, so anytime you can send a gluten-free snack (fruit, veggies, yogurt, etc) it is appreciated. Thank you for your help in keeping our classroom a safe place for all of our students!

Book Orders

In the next couple of weeks, I will be sending home book orders in the Wednesday folders. You are not obligated to purchase any books, but they offer many great stories at low prices. Many of the stories we have read in class. They also sell great beginning reader books at reasonable prices. I have also set up online ordering through Scholastic, so you will have the convenience of ordering online from home. That information will be included with the first book order.

Attendance

It is so important that your child is in attendance at school. Many of the activities that we do in kindergarten are hands on and verbal activities that require participation. If your child is not at school, he or she is missing out on valuable learning time. The bell will ring at 8:25 to begin school. After 8:30, your child is tardy and will need to check in at the office for a tardy slip. Before school, we will line up near the bike racks, behind the spray painted PK sign. This is located outside our classroom door area on the blacktop (Entrance B). After school, we will all wait as a class against the brick wall outside our classroom doors. Students will need to say "good bye" and give me a High 5 so that I know that they have left with the right adult. If your child is going to daycare, please let me know which one and be sure your child can recognize their vehicle as many daycares come for pick up.

Supplies

The kindergarten students will start the school year with many supplies that have been purchased. They will use up many materials throughout the course of the year. As we begin to run out of supplies, I will ask parents for help in supplying additional materials. Thank you in advance for your support!

If you have any questions or concerns, or would ever like to set up an appointment with me, please do not hesitate to call. You can phone the school at 281.6356, or email me at piltzt@billingsschools.org. I am looking forward to a great year!

Thank you,

Mrs. Traci Piltz