

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Mrs. Skop's Class!

About Your Teacher!

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am so excited to be here at Sheridan Elementary! I'm looking forward to meeting all of the students and families in the next couple weeks.

A little about myself: I taught kindergarten at Ottawa Elementary and was an academic tutor at Central Elementary prior to being invited to work with the Sheridan Family. This will be my sixth year here at Sheridan. I am thrilled to be here and can't wait to start another great year! What an awesome school! :-)

I have been married for six years to my wonderful and

supportive husband, Matt. We currently live in Boyne Falls with our three-year-old son, Jackson, and our two dogs, Maggie and Tessa. Maggie is our Great Dane (this would be my HUSBAND'S dog) and Tessa is a Golden Retriever. They are both very sweet. We are also looking forward to welcoming our daughter into the world in December! Yay!

I am looking forward to a great year full of excitement, learning, and fun! Prepare your students for a positive, upbeat, fun-filled learning experience! See you soon!



Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
- Benjamin Franklin

July 29th,
2015

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School Supplies! - Bring a Backpack!

A student list and wish list will be included in this packet but one very important thing needs to be remembered! A backpack! Please be sure that your child's backpack is large enough to hold a large folder and often times, large library

books. Also, backpacks with wheels DO NOT fit in our lockers!

Again, a list of needed materials will be coming home so please take a look at what your child needs to bring to school.

All of these materials will be shared! If you have these materials by Begindergarten (see additional letter) or by the open house, that would be GREAT! Thank you and happy shopping! :-)

Special points of interest:

- Check out the last page for important dates to mark on your calendars!

Snack Time! Please Keep it Healthy!

Snack time is very important to children at this age! Not only does it give a nice break for the kids, it reenergizes them, allowing them to be more focused.

If you could please send your child to school with two snacks each day so that they can have a morning snack and an afternoon snack, that would be wonderful. This way, everyone will be getting a snack that they would like and that each child's parents approve. Please DO NOT send in sugary snacks. Snacks such as cookies, brownies, etc. make it difficult for children to focus and stay on task.

If you are able to send in a box of goldfish or bag of pretzels for the classroom (for students that forget a snack or are consistently bringing sugary snacks) I would greatly appreciate it! Thank you!

Calendars come home each month noting any birthdays. On these days, the student is welcome to bring in a birthday treat for the class to have as an afternoon snack.

Also on these calendars, you will see students names to bring in ingredients for a special snack. I **try** to do a special snack once a week and if there are a lot of ingredients, I will have a couple children split the list. If you see your child's name on the calendar, please look for an attached snack ingredients list. I will assign your child to certain ingredients and then they are responsible for getting those things to me BEFORE the date that their name is on. Calendars and snack lists come home before the next month begins and it will be attached to a weekly newsletter. Please contact me with any questions! Thank you! :)



Volunteering in the Classroom!

Being a part of your child's classroom is very rewarding! Not only will you see your child hard at work, but you will be aiding your child (and other children) in their learning! There are many ways to volunteer in the classroom. You can cut out needed materials, make copies, work one-on-one with a child, or even run a small group! Don't be shy about coming in... I love putting people to work! :-)

If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, just let me know! You will need to fill out a Background Check which can be picked up in the office prior to coming in to volunteer. Having a schedule of when we can expect you would be wonderful but if your schedule doesn't allow consistency, just pop on in! :)



Attendance/Absences and After-School Arrangements

Simply coming to school is extremely important for kindergarteners. The children learn so much by participating in our group activities and interacting with other children. If your child is ill, please call the office (348-2140) and inform us of your child's absence. This is for your child's safety. If your child must leave early for an appointment, go to the office

to sign him/her out, and the secretary will call him/her to the office. Please do not send another person to pick up your child without informing me and the office.

Once your child returns from his/her absence, I will send home the appropriate homework in the Thursday Folder. However, not everything we do in school can be sent home so regular attendance is

mandatory.

Young children often forget or become confused if their routine is changed. If, for any reason, your child is not to return home in the usual way, please send a note to inform me of the change. Without a note, your child must be sent home by his/her regular route.

Clothing and Conferences

Please label your child's clothing, books, backpacks, coat, snowpants, boots, shoes, etc. So many of these items get lost throughout the school year.

Also, please dress your child accordingly. Northern Michigan has very fickle weather. Please remember that children will have a 15-20 minutes outdoor recess (except when it is raining or below zero degrees). We don't want any cold kindergarteners!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held at the end of the first and second tri-

mesters. You will receive your child's report card at that time, and we will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and over-all progress. Conferences, in addition to e-mails, notes and telephone calls, are great times for you to ask me any questions you may have.



Note: Please pack an extra pair of clothes in your child's backpack in case of accidents. Sometimes unexpected accidents occur and extra clothes come in handy.



Contact Information and Emergency School Closings

You can contact me via my email address: skop.wr.t@petoskeyschools.org. I do check my email on a daily basis, both before and after school. If you need to discuss something urgent, please call either the office (348-2140) or my direct line (348-2456). Please note that during school hours, my direct line will go to my voicemail. I usually do not get a chance to check my voicemail until after school is dismissed.

If schools are closed for a snow day or

any emergency, radio stations (105.9, 102.9, 96.3 are a few I know) or the local TV stations (channels 7&4, 9&10 and 29&8) will make an announcement, usually by 7:00 a.m.

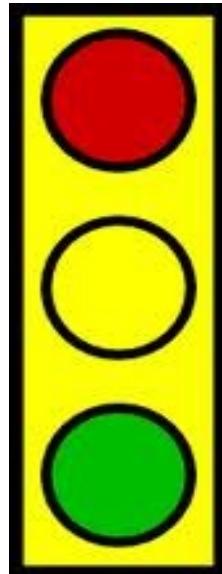


Kindness

Kindness is expected in our classroom. We treat all children and adults with respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be allowed. This helps to create a safe learning environment for all.

In the past, a stop light system has been used to ensure that the classroom runs smoothly throughout the day. Every child begins the day on green. Repeated disruptions, arguing, name-calling and other inappropriate behavior will result in moving to

yellow. This is a five minute timeout during recess. If misbehavior continues, the student then moves to red. At this point, students will be sitting during their recess and a note will be sent home or a phone call will be made to the guardians if this happens on a consistent basis. However, exceptional behavior will also be recognized using the "purple cir-



cle." It will be the children's goal to end up on purple (or stay on green) at the end of the day!

Positive reinforcement, focusing on desired behaviors, and recognizing students for their efforts are my main strategies within the classroom. However, when disruptive behaviors continue, that is when the stoplight is generally utilized :).

Mrs. Skop's Class!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments.

skop.wr.t@petoskeyschools.org
School phone: 348-2456



Specials' Classes

Each week, students will attend art, music, gym, library and computer lab. Those teachers may send home notes telling you what is required for their classes. We do know that children MUST wear rubber-soled gym shoes in order to participate in gym!!! Also, please send in an old t-shirt (with your child's name on it) for your child to wear for art class. This will help prevent your child getting paint or other material on their school clothes. Thank you!



Here are some important dates to mark down on your calendar!

- **BEGINNERSGARTEN** - on Monday, August 31st from 10:30-12:00. The students will have a chance to meet me and do a project in our classroom! A snack will be provided!
- **OPEN HOUSE** - To be announced. I'll have a handout at BEGINNERSGARTEN with this information. With school starting on a Tuesday (rather than a Wednesday) this year, I would imagine it will be one evening the week before school starts.
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** - Don't forget this date! Tuesday, September 8th! Doors open at 8:00! Official school hours: 8:10-3:06

Prepare your child for a GREAT year!

Fire Drills

All schools are required to have practice fire drills in the event of a real emergency. I know that the blaring sound of a fire drill can be scary and shocking to some children, so we will practice and become familiar with the fire drill procedure before our first scheduled drill. Students will be expected to walk quickly and quietly to the designated area during a fire drill. Other drills include tornado and lock-downs. Again, we will familiarize the children prior to practicing them so they know what to expect!