

## **Favorite Playground Piece...the teeter-totter...August 28, 2020**

### **Bobcat ready:**

\*Friendly hidden faces and small voices muffled in the cavernous hallways of Camelot this past week - an exhilaration for our staff of what was and can be. Even through the face coverings. 20-21 school year is upon us and your amazing understanding and patience shored staff excitement and purpose. Warm thanks for your support this week, thoughtful assistance in providing comfort for your learner, but most of all, the confident smiles behind the masks.

\*School begins Monday, August 31. Learners are welcome on school grounds after 7:30 and should wait at the school entry assigned by your home room teacher. Students will begin entering the building at 7:45. The tardy bell will ring at 8:07. Do your best. We know this unusual start and protocol will be a navigational difficulty at first. We will not count students tardy this week as we all learn what is best to enter and prepare for the day. Take your time, be safe and find the optimum drop-off for your family.

\*Best drop off is the northeast large parking lot and don't hesitate to drop off at any location by the sidewalk or even on Camelot Street if it is safe and works. Buses will not use the bus drop off until 7:40, so if you are early, feel free to drop off in the Bus Zone unless you see a bus coming or buses are parked in the zone. You can also drop off on Christine if necessary, but please follow all traffic laws and remember there are children, everywhere. If your learner is to use the front door entry, you can surely drop off in the school front parking lot.

\*End of school - school ends at 3:22 - best to pick up where you drop off if possible and please make a plan with your learner. We will ask all learners, with the exception of GAP students and a few bus students to exit the school property by 3:30. School property ends at the sidewalk north of the playground and at the three street boundaries that surround Camelot. Again, we will assist students to find the best way to get to where they need to go this week - so don't fear if you have other siblings or obligations that may make you late this week as we find our happy medium. If there is inclement weather, we will also help our students take shelter.

\*Cell phones can certainly be an aid to communicate with your learner. Students may use their cell phone as soon as they leave the building as appropriate. During the day, they should leave their phone in their locker. If there is an emergency or other need for family connection, just let us know and a learner can come to the office to use their phone for any necessity.

\*Visitors are not permitted in the school proper. If you wish to meet with a staff member, please set an appointment. Any drop off of resources will be made in the front foyer.

\*Our drinking fountains are not to be used during this time. If your learner typically needs extraordinary hydration during the day, a water bottle is permitted and encouraged. We have water bottles in the office if needed.

\*Masks are required. We do have disposable extras and will wash masks in the evening if a learner wishes to leave it for us at the end of the day.

\*Items to reinforce: Social distance of double arms length with most, chicken wing length for pairs and pods; wash hands thoroughly when permitted and use sanitizer throughout the day; make masks comfortable and reinforce the need for masks to protect others. Having four or five masks is recommended but we do have some extras and some disposables. Our lasses and lads are so altruistic, they want to help and they love their classmates and teachers - when that is the reason for the mask - they will agree. And so will we, how can we not?

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\*I know you all have been changing the circadian tone of home and child. A good night's sleep is so important, 8-12 hours, and a good breakfast can make a world of difference. We have lunches at 11, 11:30, noon and 12:30 - if you are trying to make a plan to assist your hungry learner, just email your teacher if you wish to know the time of your learner's repast.

*\*Perhaps a portent of things to come, the teeter-totter was my choice of playground equipment. I found the rise and fall an accelerant of joy, but more significantly - the chase for that elusive collaborative balance was a most challenging ambition. It is symbol of now - finding the equipoise of the human interaction key of instructional progress with the safety priorities in this time. As our staff has labored, every lean and shift of decision, has led to an equal transfer and alter at the other end of the board. I am sure you have felt the same way. One assurance, we will continue to teeter as cautiously as if our best friend is at the other end of the totter, and keep searching for the perfect countervail of every eventuality and contingency. There will be gravity of factors pulling us both to the earth and high in the air, but we are ready. This talented Camelot staff are experts on this beam and you can count on them to find that golden mean, every moment of every day. Wishes for the symmetry of perfection for you and your family throughout the school year. Call upon me, any time I can aid in that harmony of happiness, when as our children say and take the greatest pleasure of fairness and firmness, "We are even-stein."*

*Willing and loyal servant to eh Camelot and Brookings Community - Kevin*