



8107 SW 201st Street Vashon, 98070

<http://www.klahanieschool.org>

Emily Graham, Executive Director/Lead Teacher

Austin Merrill, Specialist & Co-Teacher Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Laura Camner, Co-Teacher & Vashon Sisterhood Co-Lead Wednesdays & Thursdays

Dear Klahanie School Families,

Welcome to a very exciting upcoming school year creating a New together safely and kindly and full of fun connection bridging/weaving. Our Peace Makers we study annually and seasonally (Fred Rogers, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Wangari Maathai, Dr. Maria Montessori, First Lady Michelle Obama) will include local safely screened and invited Special Community guests either in person or recorded, offering mentorship skills-set sharing and assist as anchors in maintaining our weaving of connection supports for youth. COVID-19 and the Equity unveilings and continuous learnings has offered much focused daily observation, learning opportunities and connected awareness of areas humans thrive through Social-Emotional growth supports. We are thrilled to spend time with your children and families and learn as we continue to grow in health together. What a gift always to witness the ten months of growth and meaning for us all and deeply meaningful as we show each other patience and acceptance we are doing the best we can, learning and never will have any of this down perfectly. We will enter this school year in humor and magic moments showing our kindness to one another. Masks and distancing or not, we can always shore up fun and connection and our school promotes returning families and new families to embrace bonkers together, find solace in knowing stories and experiences are shared here. We are not alone. You all will find friendship and surprising kindness at some point in this school year. That is a guarantee with you all.

Checkin for each child for drop off will be involved and take patience in rainy-cold season months. Kids will have fevers and colds and we will stay calm in science. We will view our judgments that arise as fear founded and cradle that to calm so that we ease back into knowing we are all going to respond this school year as boat-mates knowing that we impact one another with great care and kindness. We can mentor and model that to the children who then ripple that

out to the world community. Very exciting stuff when you begin to see your children normalize: masks, playing with distance and care and kindness. Their Lead will keep us all rowing together knowing they daily teach us what works today and could be better for Tomorrow. And oh we teachers are thrilled to Listen and shore up support weaving these daily introductions to practical uses at home. We all need communication-connection Tool Belts and we are happy to share our supplies. Our class is committed to daily Compassionate Listening and Communication introduction and practice within circle time and peer exchanges. Each of the Teachers is masterful in years experience and intention, consistent education of Circle-Council practice and will run independent circles this school year where children will benefit with more connecting, fun and trust of space and teachers. This is the magic that will lead to Montessori pillars in school year flow due to the children leading in their adaption to the New and we will see swiftly what works and successes are generated in the pods we are thrilled to spend time with. Please always contact Emmy if impacts occur, concerns arise. We are a space for listening and solution creation.

Speaking of community, a Huge thank you to our current leader parents who helped shore us up during the bleak transitions to COVID-19 prepared for Klahanie School. Please look to these families for support and testimonials of community through our school, they can share the gold of parent lens and how you may seek to help too.

- ***Kristine and Tammy Kernz*** helped in massive fiscal and substitute in class donation
- ***Hannah and Justin Hanseth*** creating our procurement successes for our 2020 Livestream auction. They are the reason for such a massive turnout and Justin is thick with creativity about diversifying our awareness of work for families to sustainable donors. Who you know is always a gem when seeking ways to broaden fundings to support equitable based tuition programming while maintaining high quality teacher training & salary.
- ***Kate Degarmo*** has offered two years in a row a fabulous Tie-Dye extravaganza and community fun for school as well as golden time as a class substitute. Thank You Kate and she is always seeking to do this earlier in the year
- ***Heidi Grimsley and Jen Keller and Jordan Beck-Vroom*** are now alumni parents and testament to loving caregivers to our school with unparalleled support in subbing, specialist help and auction procurement ---Jen Keller is the reason for our High Rollers! And Jordan has never not been a creator of the magic in our fundraiser evenings.
- ***Laurel McCormick and mom Heidi*** substitute, cut materials for us teachers and are anchors of support for material ideas and resources.
- ***Anna and Isaac Slade*** offer a fiscal donation that feeds family scholarships as well as help in the classroom during subbing needs!

Important Dates:

Please come meet, connect with teachers and help your young child get reacquainted with the school environment. Please read below to know what to bring and **read over the Forms Page** prior to the Meet and Greet. Feel free to email back scanned copies or drop off to the Check/Paperwork Lockbox mounted at the East entry.

Meet & Greet x2 Thursday September 10th & Monday September 14:

- AM A-G 9:30-10:30
- AM H-Z 10:30-11:30

Please Note: PM Session would only come on the day of Meet & Greet enrolled

- PM M/T session 1:30-2:15 (Sept 14th)
- PM W/Th session 2:30-3:15 (Sept 10th)

Please Email the school September 1-10th:

- ❖ **Picture of your child**
 - **In Mask**
 - **Without Mask**
 - **Bio: What do you love? What do you like to be called?**

Please Drop Off Tuesday Sept 8th or Wednesday Sept 9th 10:30-1:30pm, on the Silver Table @ East Gate, in Name Labeled Plastic Bags (Can Bring to Meet Greet @ Latest):

- ❖ **Name Labeled slippers**
- ❖ **Name Labeled Emergency packet** (please refer to Vashon school district website for list/ online sites which need to include the following: space blankets, non-perishable foods, photo of family & emergency pickup person, comfort stuffy, child dust mask, glow stick)
- ❖ **3 Clean Name Labeled Masks in Name Labeled sealable plastic bag.**
- ❖ **September Tuition and Art Fee (Payments can be made Klahanie School/ Venmo or Cashapp or Direct Deposit to Our Community Credit Union/ Klahanie School. Checks and paperwork handed in can be placed in the LockBox)**
- ❖ **Filled out and Signed Waivers & Forms found www.klahanieschool.org**

Intro Days Sept 15-Thur Sept 16 for AM Montessori Early Ed Class:

- Multi-age class will be split in half to ease children and families to school routine and introduction to school environment and classmates
 - **9:15-11:15am Half of the Class**
 - **11:45-1:30pm Half of the Class**

Regular class times begins week of September 17th

Class Preparedness & Separation Anxiety Supports

Most likely your child will have a couple of adjustment weeks, and these can look and feel crushing to parents in the midst AND with gentle consistency (the four days a week helps tremendously) and dependable routine, there is always massive light at the end of the tunnel. Separation anxiety is also a clear showing of connection parenting you establish and a hard compliment. These students are usually our most bonded children and very happy school mates when through that adjustment period.

The biggest key for helping move to that smoother drop off is reading books about school and topics of trying new things and inner bravery- coping to resiliency steps. There are massive selections now to order for children specific books as well as parenting books dealing with transition to outside of the home care, schooling for young children.

The biggest key is the child knowing a return is always happening so having a calendar with the days showing school and routine, who drops off and who picks up is very helpful. The practice at home of preparing children wearing masks, putting on their own shoes/coats, using the bathroom and dropping off to school are all things to practice at home. This is not to make into a daily lecture or huge topic but can be integrated smoothly in a day, throughout the day to normalize.

I do highly suggest this, especially with all the physical restrictions we have with COVID-19 today, the practice of being more self reliant (age and brain appropriately) is key to feeling relaxed in the trying which in turn becomes a flow—true adapting.

Please Practice At Home:

- **Read children books about starting school and bravery/ resiliency in new adventures** as well as books about parents and children coming back together after longer days away from each other.
- **Find one or two parent guide books on separation anxiety** (HUGE topic for kids these days!) and ways to practice now at home. For our boys sometimes the transfer of me to their papa or a grandparent would spark that separation discomfort and tantrum so we would practice when Alex would get home, I would “drop off” our sons to go for a walk or run errands so they could practice that exchange. School they still would cry but not full tantrums and transition to school activity quickly.
- **Begin conversation about emotions.** “What do you feel when we go to...” and using open ended questions, explore what makes us feel in certain places and where are the places we feel most comfortable and safe? What does that feel like? Then you can say things related to school, weaving that in conversation that school and naming us teachers (Emmy, Austin, Laura) are here to help always and have fun also in school.

- **Highlighting the things your child loves at home are also at school** : animals, counting, puzzles, blocks, etc.

- **Create with your calendar and schedule** maybe a reward system? Every time you come to school and take deep breaths (hug your torso/ tap) instead of tantrums, is it a reward when picked up? Stickers to a bigger reward. I will give the heads up that the reward system really only works if consistent so if any nervousness about follow-through, I would suggest a different route that feels more compatible with how you parent. There are many other physical methods children can harness when feeling scared, nervous, angry vs a tantrum and that might be fun to talk over as a family— healthy methods we use when feeling those big emotions.

- **Practice masks at home and run errands. Continue to familiarize with a masked world and taking it off and on independently.**

- **Wash hands in transitions.** At school we do a lot of work in the first couple weeks with self care and environment care: washing hands, arm covering mouth (even in mask) and putting on clothing independently/ coats and cleaning up areas before transitioning to new activities and washing hands in between.

- **If ok with some screen moments: Watch our Klahanie School YouTube channel** for a book or two from each of us teachers periodically and more consistently before we start school. This will help familiarize.

- **Find some Montessori books about independence at home and start implementing those little activities and cleanup steps at home.** This is to familiarize with the routine and also offer stability in the act of concentration, order and independence. That trust building and confidences create ease, calm and then creative-engaged and fun learning! That will also feel familiar to your child as he/she relaxes in school.

With these starts, you might see some shifts that will surprise you.

Please keep communications open and all these referral suggestions can be found on our website (book referrals) and some Montessori magic resources to look into.

here is a fabulous write up on a AMS (American Montessori Society) training blog for the first days of school preparations:

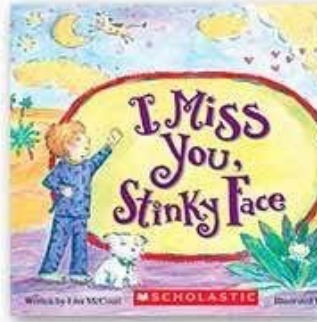
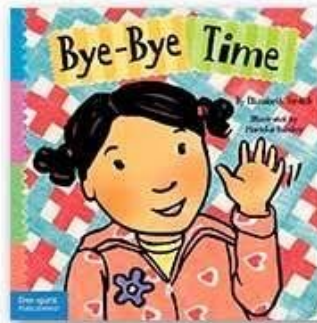
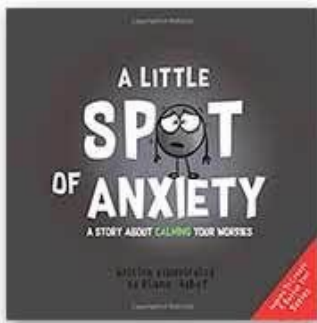
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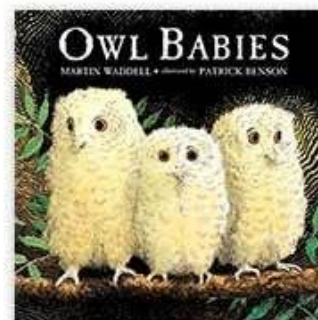
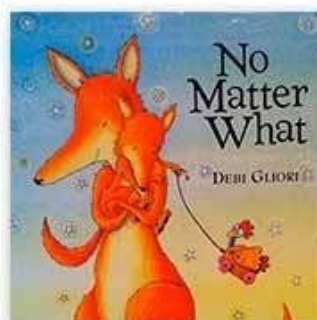
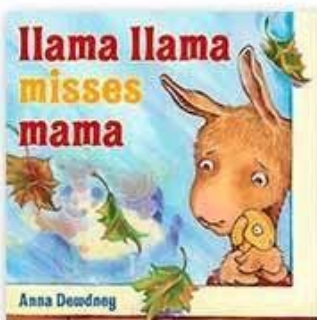
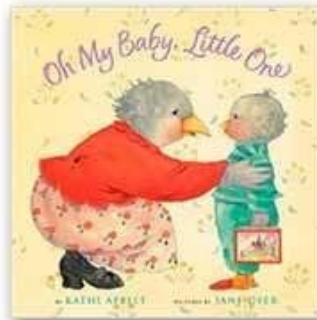
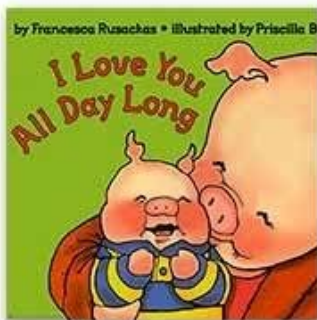
Absolutely we will comfort when and if the child allows, with masks and might wear gloves (prepared on our persons with a daily materials belt we will have on for such needs).

Many times in anxiety separation (my experience lens over these years) children deep in transition seek to be comforted with presence and invitation to be close. Many times once a child is calmed and not screaming (that is the most common response in separation anxiety) then we talk and connect through. We play, engage in an interest and also continue sharing we understand feeling pain and that it hurts and it will not last. We are there to help transition to feeling trust and then fun!

Letting us know his passions (special animals your child loves: last year we had a child who adored Arctic Fox so we all bonded through that) is super helpful.

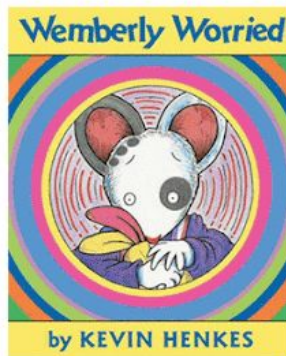


CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT SEPARATION ANXIETY

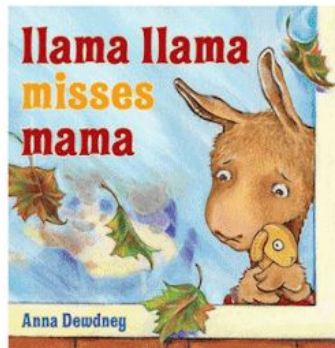


12 PICTURE BOOKS TO *calm* YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY

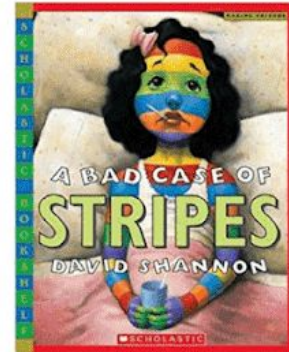
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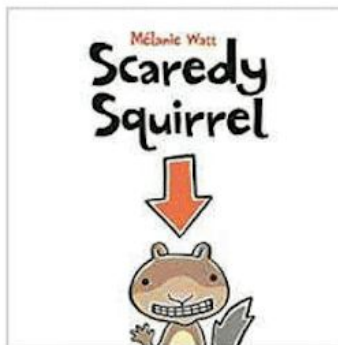
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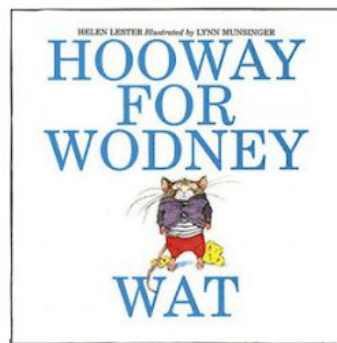
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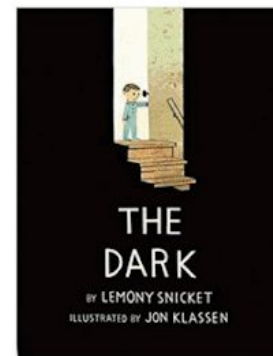
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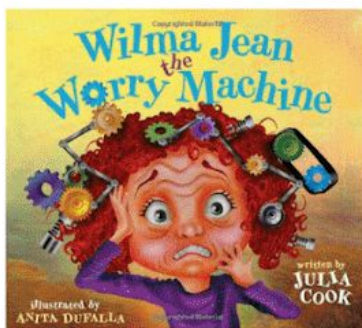
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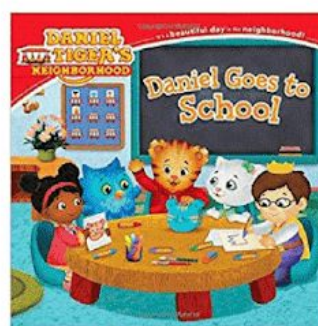
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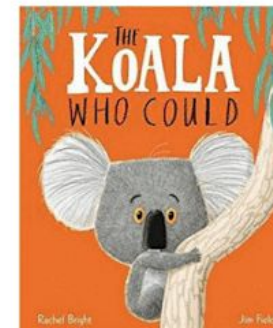
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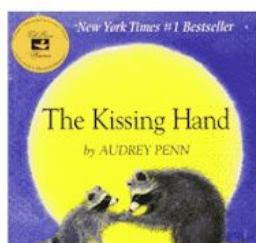
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Please fill out bottom portion and return to school with forms											
Child' Name:											
		Name of Pickup Person	Phone Number (s)	Parent Initial							
Monday											
Tuesday											
Wednesday											
Thursday											
Please Review school parking guidelines with all driving helpers. Initial:											
Please note: any revisions to the schedule above or added pick-up helpers require a written revision submitted to Director/Lead Teacher prior to releasing your child.											
Thank you for your help maintaining safety for our school.											
Please list below your first and second Emergency Pickup parent support from our current Klahanie School community.											
Emergency would include a natural disaster (earthquake, etc) requiring immediate pickup protocol. This contact would be the person to pickup your child and transport them to a safety destination if arrives first to school. Parents in school suggested.											
EMERGENCY KLAHANIE SCHOOL PICKUP CONTACT:											
Names:			PHONE NUMBER:	Parent Initial							
1			1								
2			2								
3			3								

