



Kindergarten Registration Evening

January 2012

Welcome Class of 2025!

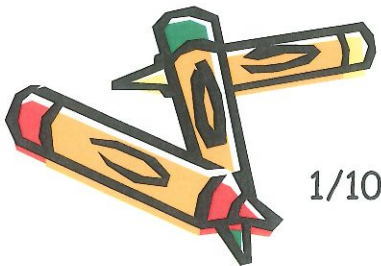
Excitement

Anxiety

KINDERGARTEN

Fun

Independence



1/10/12

"Open Enrollment"

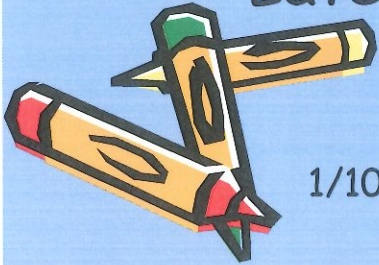
- Parents specify order of preference for five elementary schools.
- Lottery held in April for schools that are over-subscribed.
- 96% to 100% of families will be placed in their first choice school.
- Last year ten families did not receive their first choice at the time of the lottery. By the time school started, 100% of our kindergarten families are in their first choice school.



1/10/12

Timeline

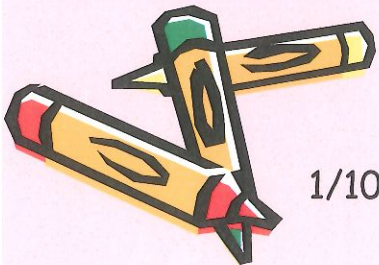
- Tonight: General Overview
7:00 to Curriculum
8:15 Registration
8:15 to 9:00 Before/After School Care
- The next Two Months:
Visit and learn about each of the five schools
- March 13 and 14 Register with order of preference.
- Late April Lottery and school assignment.



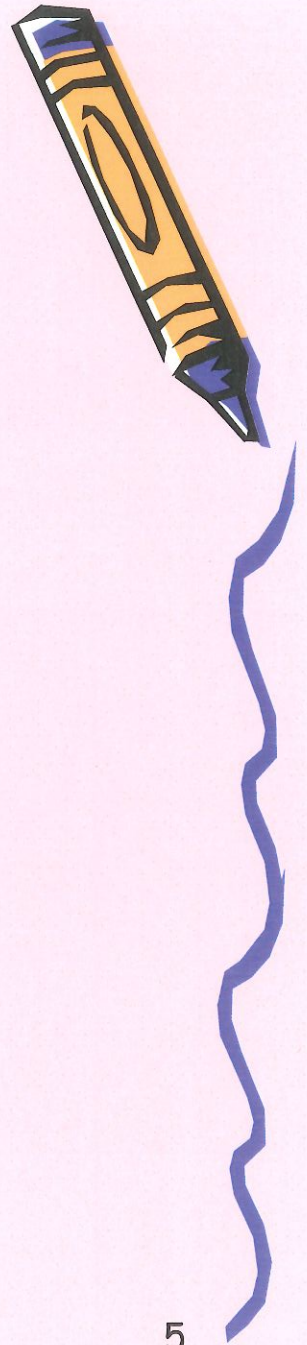
1/10/12

In the Acton Public Schools, You will Find

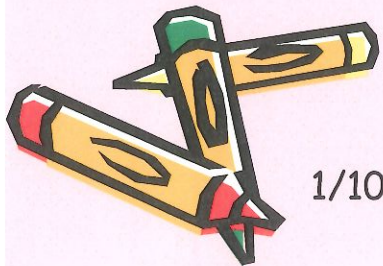
- Caring experienced Principals
- Rich Curriculum
- Exciting caring teachers
- Diverse engaged students
- Committed Parents
- Children who thrive



1/10/12



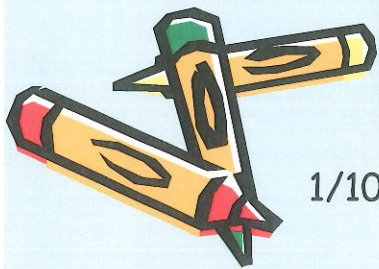
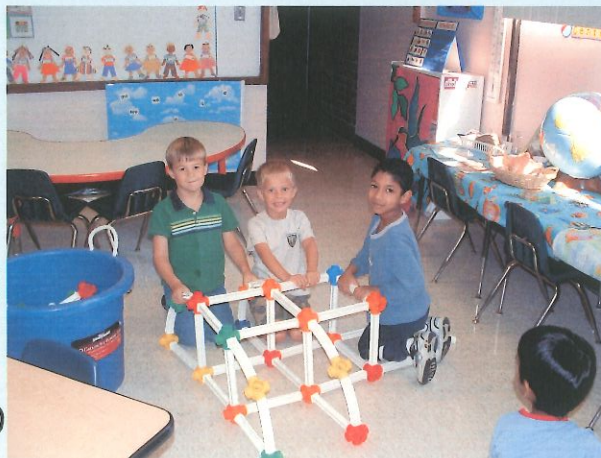
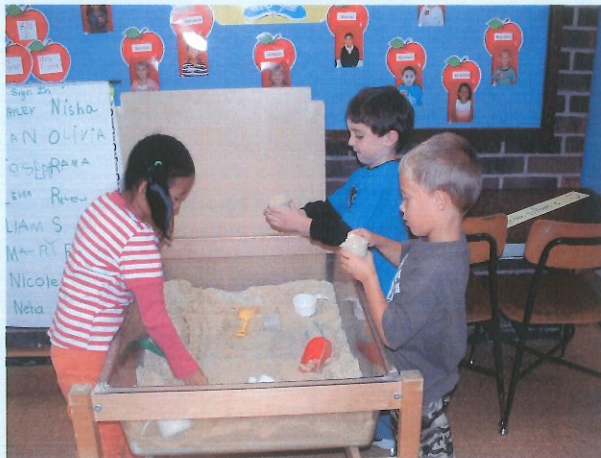
Welcome to a Day in the Life of a Kindergartener



1/10/12

Choice Time

Typically, the Kindergarten day begins with choice time. This child directed time is a chance for children to transition into the school day, to explore the classroom, and to interact with their peers.

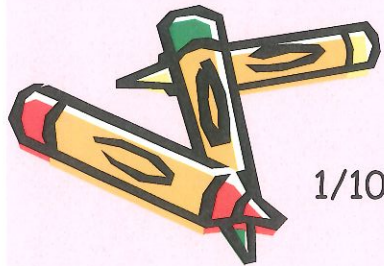
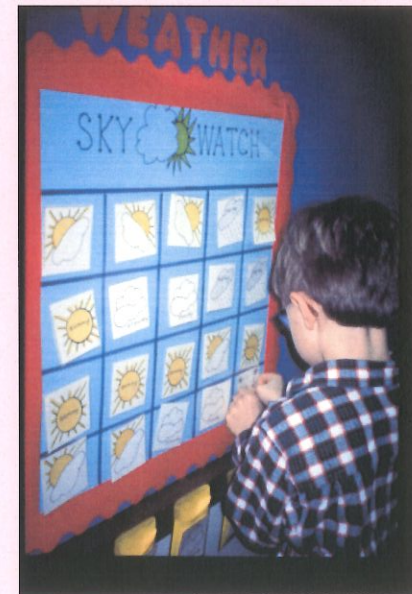


1/10

Morning Meeting

When Choice time is over, the class comes together for Morning Meeting. This is a time for children to practice the hands on, listening and behavior skills they will need for school.

Morning Meeting is also a time when children are actively engaged in important elements of the academic kindergarten curriculum. Meeting might include sharing a story, the days of school, or a calendar and weather.



1/10/12

Curriculum & Instruction

After Meeting, it's generally time for more instructional time. Sometimes instruction is independent, sometimes it is done in groups, and sometimes there are whole class learning activities. As you will see, there's plenty to do, endless fun to be had, and so much to learn!

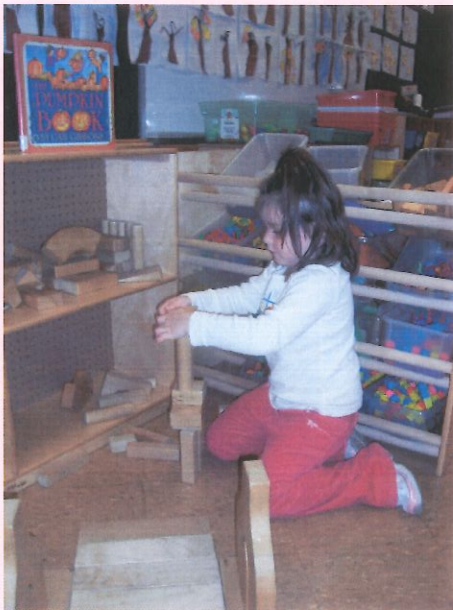


1/10/12

Mathematics

In kindergarten children learn math through many hands on activities:

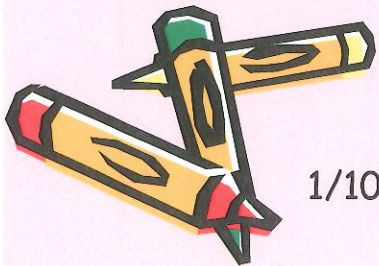
Counting with blocks



Geometric shapes



Measurement

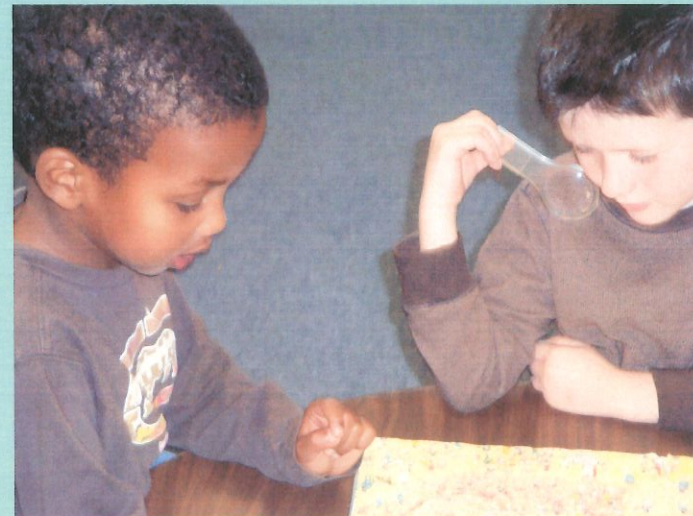


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Science



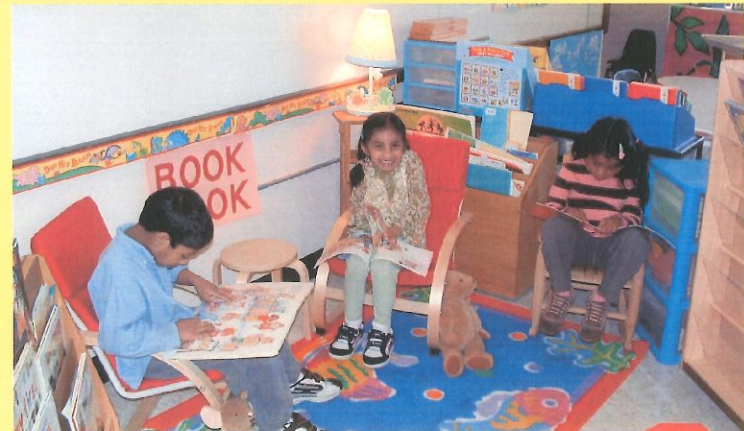
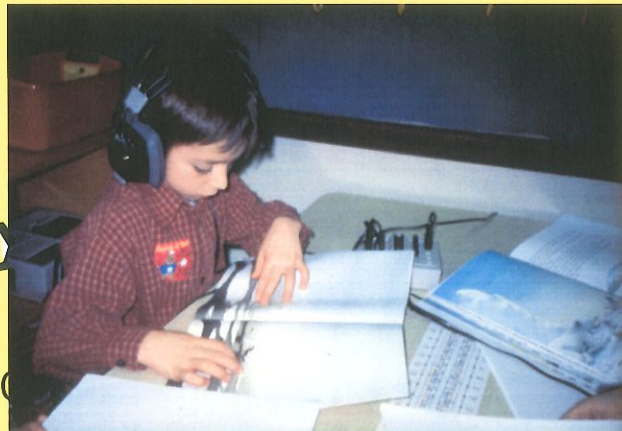
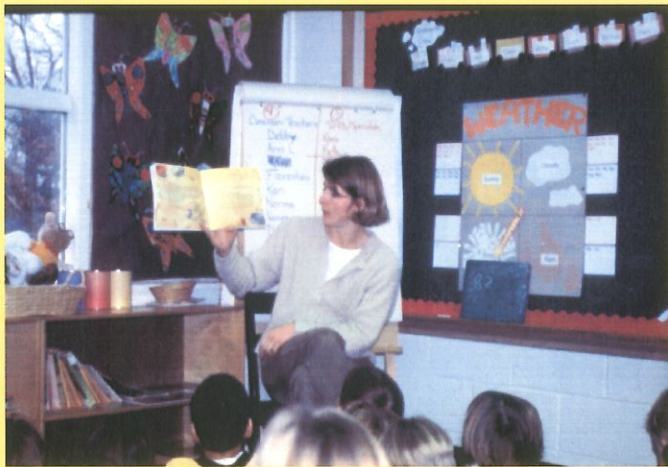
Science in Kindergarten is a chance for children to improve their observational skills, and to become more aware of the world around them.



1/10/12

Reading and Literacy

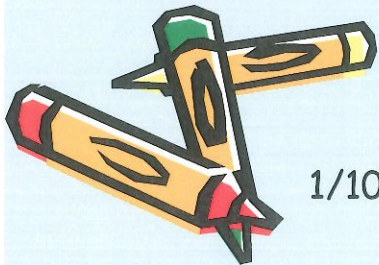
In Kindergarten children work on a variety of pre-literacy and early literacy skills.



1/10

Art, Music & Phys Ed

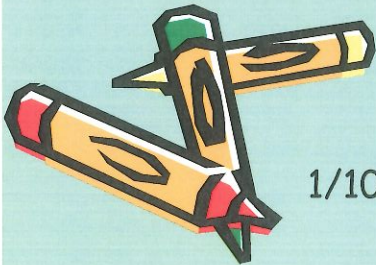
The Kindergarten curriculum includes Art, Music, and Physical Education. These are critical components to the development of well rounded kindergarten students.



1/10/12

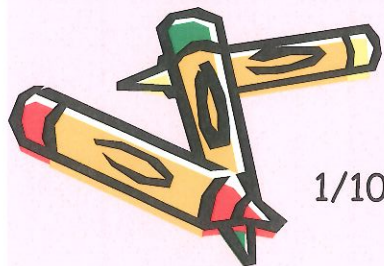
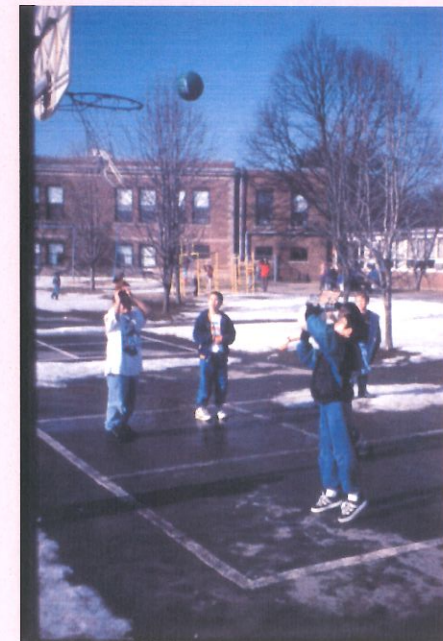
Fieldtrips and Special Activities

Value is added to the curriculum through the use of outside resources including visitors and fieldtrips.



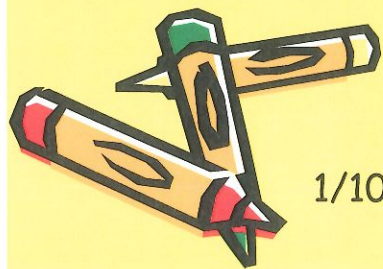
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Snack and Recess



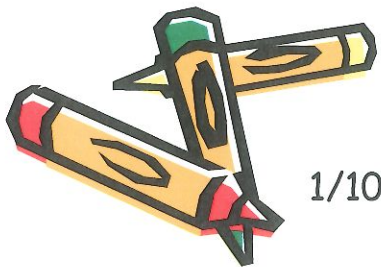
1/10/12

Then, it is time to go home!



1/10/12

Now... On to the Nuts and Bolts of
Selecting a school and
registering for Kindergarten...

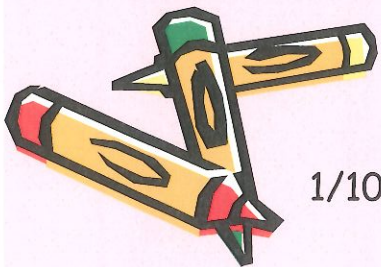


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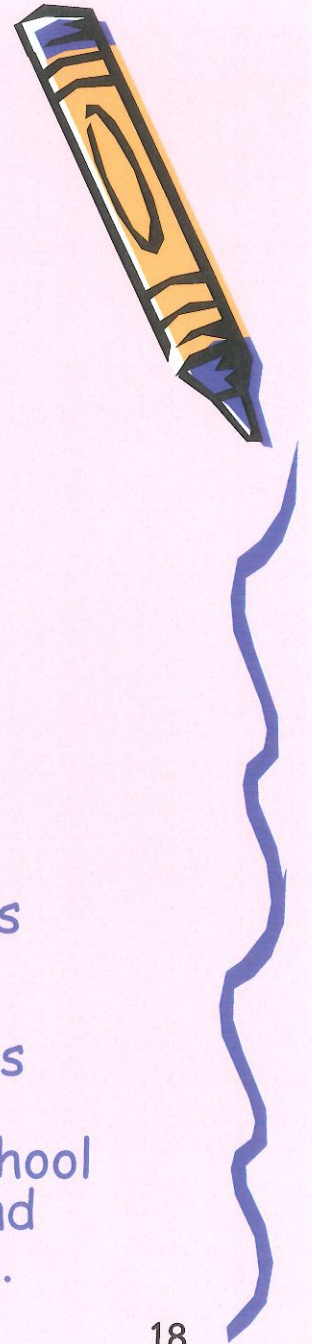
Two School Districts

- Acton Public Schools
Grades K - 6
5 Elementary Schools
2400 Students
- Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools
Grades 7 - 12
R.J. Grey Jr. High Grades 7 & 8 1000 Students
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
 Grades 9 - 12 2000 Students

Students attend the Jr. High and High School from the five Acton elementary schools and Boxborough's Blanchard elementary school.

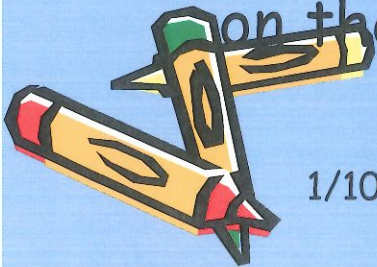


1/10/12



Boxborough Public Schools

- Separate School System
- Two towns are exploring the possibility of regionalizing K-12
- There might be an option for Acton students to enroll in Boxborough's Blanchard Elementary School starting next year if seats are available.
- Parents would need to drive students to Blanchard or to the Ice Rink to ride the bus.
- Please indicate if you are interested by filling out the Blanchard interest form. Copies are available on the tables outside.



1/10/12

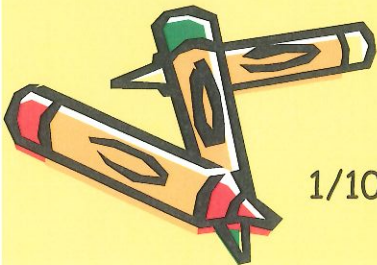
Five Elementary Schools

The Parker Damon Building



McCarthy-Towne

Merriam



1/10/12

Five Elementary Schools



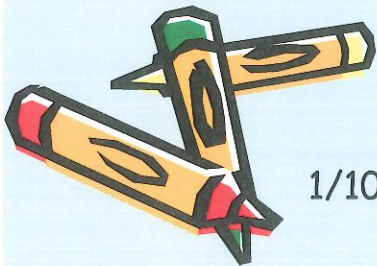
Conant



Douglas



Gates



1/10/12

Five Elementary Schools

McCarthy-Towne Rt. 111 - School Campus

Merriam

Rt. 111 - School Campus

Conant

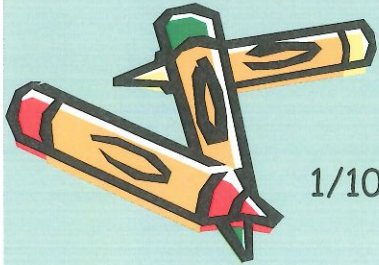
Taylor Rd./Route 2

Douglas

Elm St. West Acton

Gates

Spruce St. West Acton



1/10/12

All Day and Half Day Kindergarten

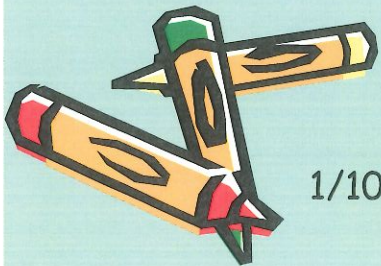
- Each school has three kindergarten sections*:

Two Half Day

- » One AM
- » One PM
- » Switch at end of January

One All Day

- » Fee based
- » \$4500 per year



1/10/12

Early and Late Schedules

- Early Schedule 8:30 - 2:45 (All Day K; 1-6)

2012: Gates and Douglas

Half Day Kindergarten 8:30 - 11:15 (Thursday 12:15)
12:00 - 2:45

- Late Schedule 9:15 - 3:30 (All Day K; 1-6)

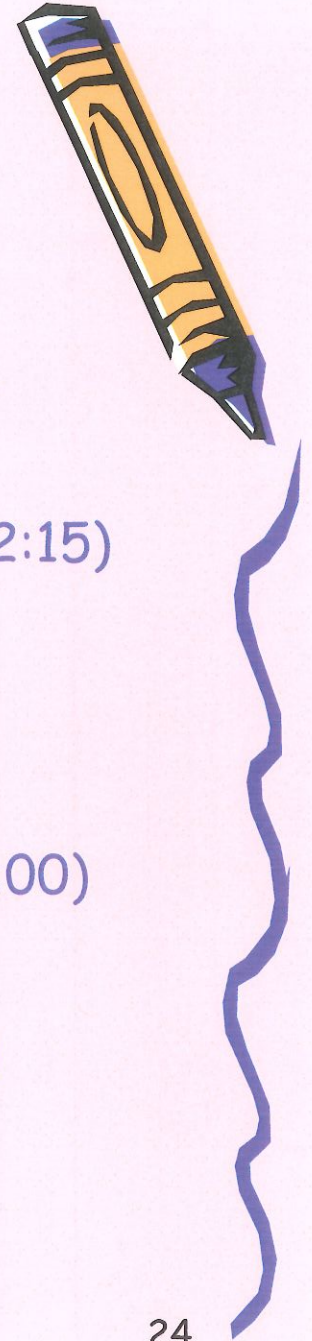
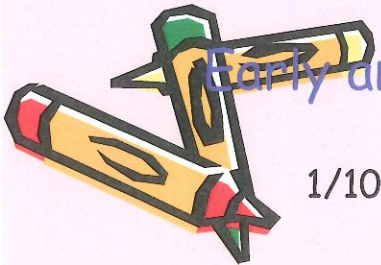
2012: McCarthy-Towne, Merriam and Conant

Half Day Kindergarten 9:15 - 12:00 (Thursday 1:00)
12:45 - 3:30

Elementary Schools have half days every Thursday - no PM Kindergarten

Early and Late Schedules alternate each year

1/10/12

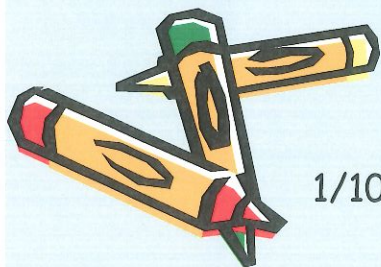


Kindergarten Entrance Age

Children reaching the age of five
on or before

September 1st

are eligible and expected to be enrolled in
Kindergarten in September of that
calendar year.

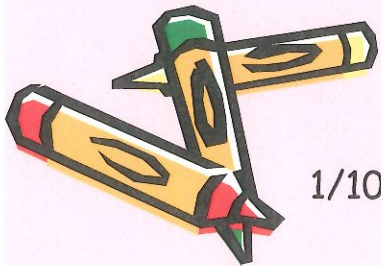


1/10/12

Priority Enrollment

Families will be placed at their first choice school if they meet certain criteria:

- Siblings of students currently in grades K-12 who attend or attended that elementary school.
- Walkers - families who live less than a one mile "safe walk"
- Some children with special needs
- Priority students may enroll January 17 & 18



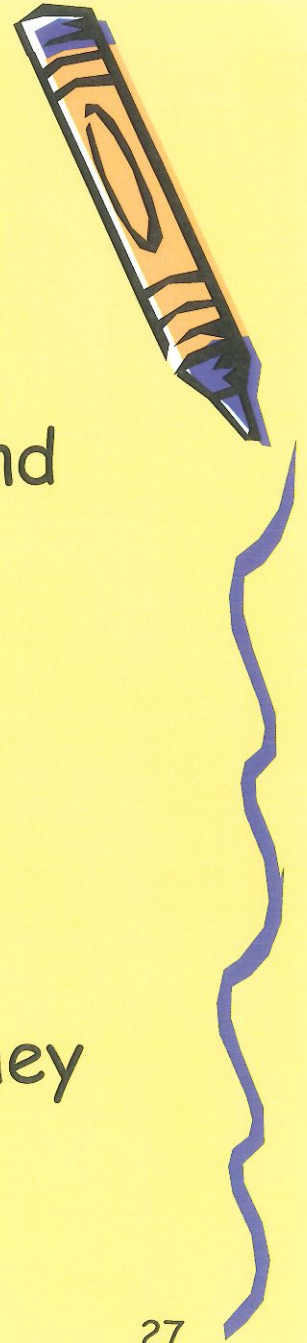
1/10/12

What About Twins?

- If there is a lottery, and one child gets into a school or program, then the second child will also get into that school or program.
- If one gets into a school, they both will get into that school.
- If one gets into all day kindergarten, they both get into all day kindergarten.



1/10/12



Children with Special Needs

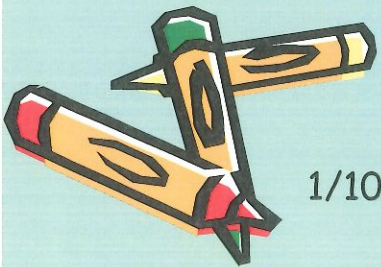
- Most children with special needs can be placed at any of the five schools.
- If a child needs to be placed at a specific school, it will be discussed at the Team Meeting.



1/10/12

English Language Learners

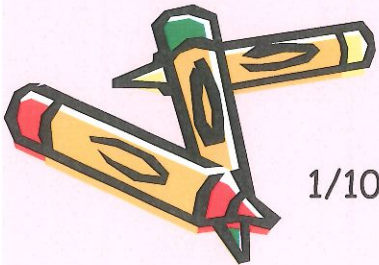
- We have support programs for children for whom English is not their primary language.
- The Registration form has questions related to spoken languages. The ELE Teachers will screen students.
- ELE is available at all elementary schools.



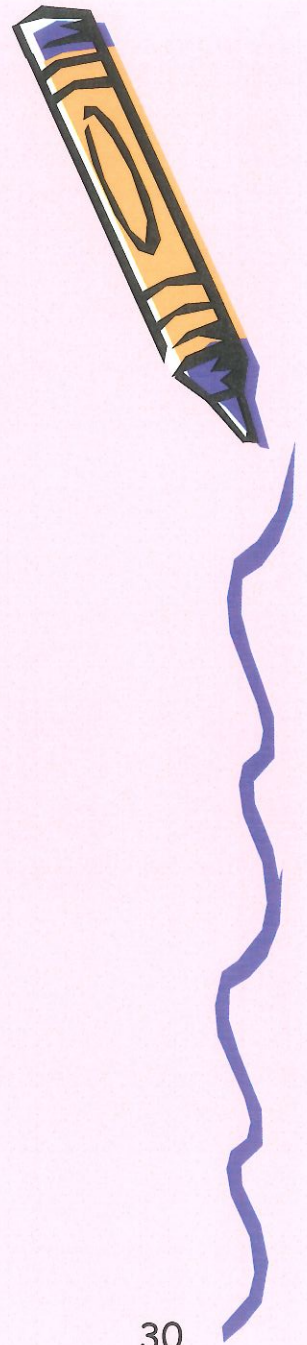
1/10/12

Handouts

- Kindergarten Registration Schedule
- Kindergarten Handbook
- Kindergarten Registration Forms
- Extended Day Program
Registration Form
Information Form
Brochure



1/10/12



Registration Schedule

- School Daytime Tours - January - March
- Early Registration for Priority Candidates -
Siblings & Walkers Jan 17 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
and 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Jan 18 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
- School Based Parent Information Evening
Meetings - Tuesday nights January 24 - March 6
- Kindergarten Registration for new families -
March 13th 9:00 am - 12:00 noon and 7:00 - 9:00 pm
March 14th 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Lottery and Placements: End of April



1/10/12

School Daytime Tours

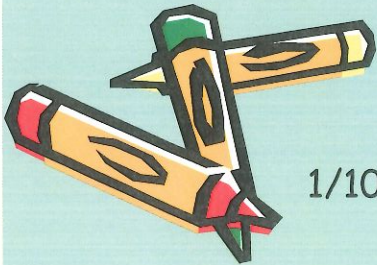
1/18; 1/27; 1/31; 2/6

Douglas and Gates :

9:30 - 10:45 &
11:00 - 12:15

Conant, McCarthy-Towne and Merriam:

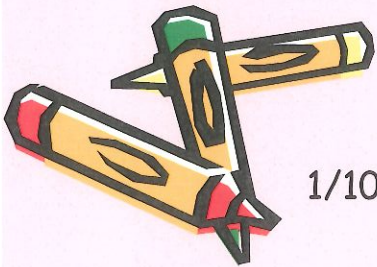
8:45 - 10:00 &
12:30 - 2:00



1/10/12

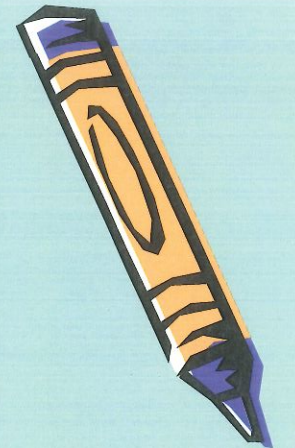
Early Registration for Priority Candidates

- **January 17** 9:00 am – noon; 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- **January 18** 9:00 am – noon
 - Siblings of current Acton/AB students
 - Walkers



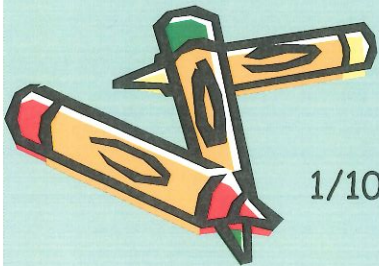
1/10/12

Parent Information Evening Meetings



Will be held in the Cafetorium at each school

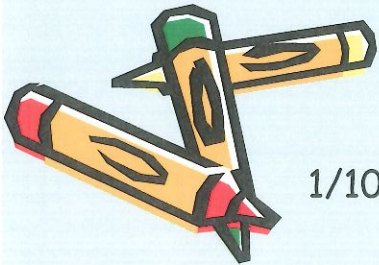
- Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. @ McCarthy-Towne
- Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m. @ Gates
- Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m. @ Merriam
- Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. @ Conant
- Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. @ Douglas



1/10/12

Kindergarten Registration

- March 13th and 14th
 - at R J Grey Junior High
 - 3/13
 - 9 am- noon & 7 pm- 9 pm
 - 3/14
 - 9 am- noon



1/10/12

All Day Kindergarten

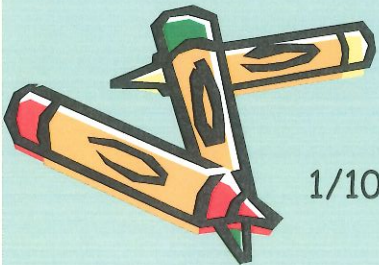
- All-Day Kindergarten is an optional fee based program. It is available at all schools.
- This year, All-Day Kindergarten tuition will be \$4,500.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$450 will be due on May 15 to secure placement. This payment will be applied to June, 2012.
- The remaining tuition is paid in nine monthly installments August 1 to April 1.
- Withdrawals will not be accepted after August 1. After that date, families will be responsible for the full year's tuition.



1/10/12

All Day K Lottery

- Each school has one all day classroom and two half day classrooms.
- One third of the students enrolled in each school will be able to attend all day kindergarten.
- Students are placed in a school first. Then the all day K lottery is held among the students in each school.
- Historically, most schools have had a waitlist of 5-15 students for the all day kindergarten program.

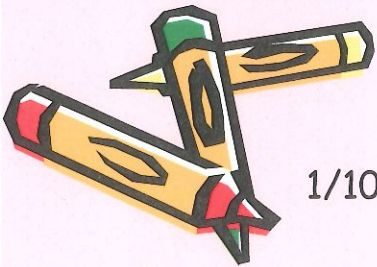


1/10/12

Before and After School Care

- Available at all five schools plus Admin Building
- Community Ed Extended Day
Gates; McCarthy-Towne; Conant; and Admin
- School Based Programs
Douglas and Merriam

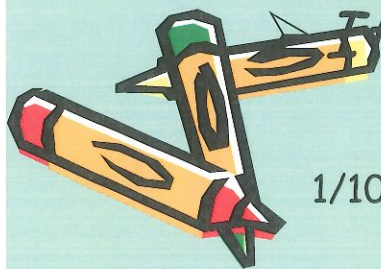
Full Description at 8:15



1/10/12

What to bring to Registration?

- Copy of birth certificate or Passport
- Copy of immunization record & most recent physical exam from your physician.
- Complete all forms in packet:
 - Registration form
 - State demographic information form
 - Language Form
 - Completed CORI forms for each adult who may wish to volunteer for school activities
 - *If applicable, All-Day Kindergarten form*

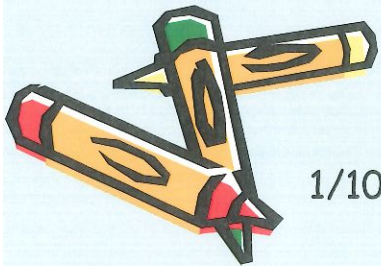


1/10/12

Health Forms

Child's completed immunization history
and record of a full physical completed
within one year due at the school nurse's
office:

July 31



1/10/12

Selecting a School

- Tour each school
 - visit K-3 classes
 - talk to the Principal
- Check our website: <http://ab.mec.edu> and each school's website from there
- Attend parent nights at each school
- Talk to other parents

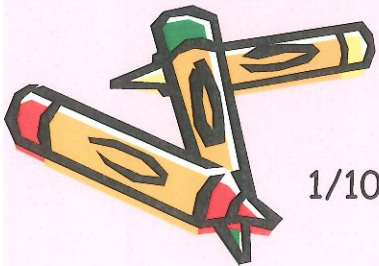


1/10/12

On School Tours and at Parent Evenings, **Ask About...**



- Of what are the faculty and parents most proud?
- School staffing and structure
- The roles that parents play in the life of the school
- The school's goals and improvement plan

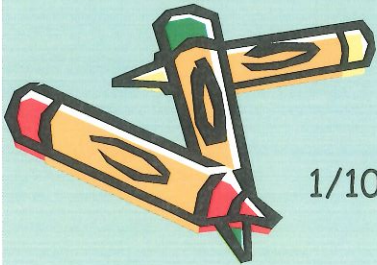


1/10/12

*Watch and listen to how people
relate to one another*

Making a Decision

- Consider who your child is and what kinds of settings would work for him or her
- Consider which settings make you feel most comfortable

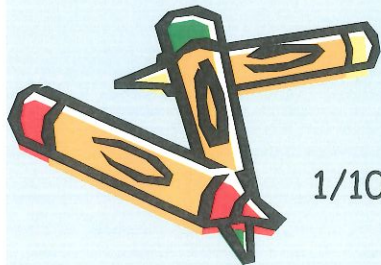


1/10/12

Kindergarten Enrollment and Class Size



- In October 2010, there were 328 children enrolled in 16 sections. The average class size was 20.5.
- In October 2011, there were 304 children enrolled in 15 sections. The average class size was 20.25.
- The projection for 2012 is 288 kindergarteners. We expect to have 15 classrooms (3 per school) averaging between 19 and 20 students per class.



1/10/12

Placement in Schools

- Siblings and Walkers register in January
- Post counts of siblings and walkers on school website late January
- New families enroll in March.



1/10/12

Kindergarten Lottery



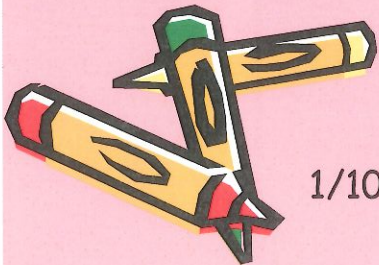
- Lottery Held in mid-April
Two parents (without kindergarteners)
from each school attend lottery.

Each school is filled with first choices

Parents draw names for waitlists for over
subscribed schools

Second choice students are placed, then third, etc.

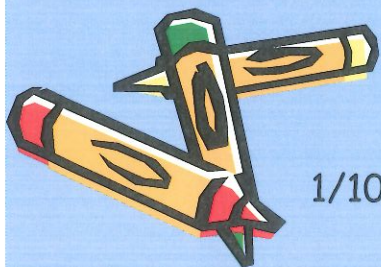
Once students are placed in each school,
an all day K lottery is held for each school.



1/10/12

What if we don't get our first choice?

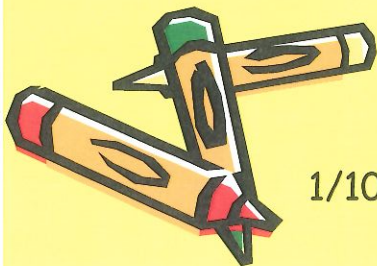
- Waitlists are kept for all schools.
- Your placement letter will tell you where you are on the waitlist.
- As new families move to town, they are placed in schools without waitlists, making room for students to move schools.
- We will call you if a spot opens up in your school.



1/10/12

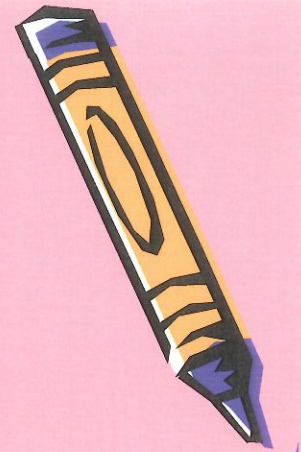
What if we don't get into all day K ?

- Waitlists are kept for all schools
- We will call you if a spot opens up
- Non-refundable deposit is due May 15. Second month is due August 1.
- Community Ed offers extended day for the other half of the kindergarten day.

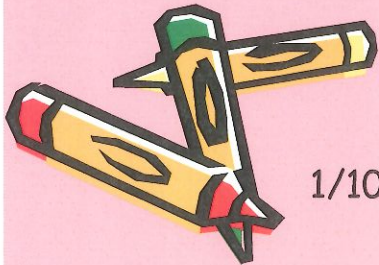


1/10/12

Remember to Enjoy...



- Your child will have a wonderful kindergarten experience.
- You have an opportunity to learn a great deal about all five schools as well as the development of five year olds.
- See how happy the kids are in each of the schools.
- There are advantages to each of the schools and each of the programs.



1/10/12

You can't make a bad choice...

Questions?



1/10/12