

Welcome to a new year at The Clifton School! We often use the start of a new year to reflect on our goals and accomplishments of the previous year and to establish new goals. Please take note of a few of our accomplishments in 2017 and goals for 2018. In addition, please review a few program updates.

A few of our accomplishments from 2017 included:

- We maintained national accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) at both schools.
- The Curriculum Coordinators have been focusing on improving curriculum and organized three successful events for families: The Solar Eclipse Party, Exhibit Night and the Cultural Exchange/Recital.
- We provided over 60 hours of state-approved professional development and training for our teachers and staff. Training topics this year included: Code of Ethical Conduct for Early Educators and Talking about Race and Anti-Bias Practices in the Classroom. Four teachers and administrators from both schools attended the 2017 National Teacher's Institute in St. Petersburg. 20 teachers and staff attended the NAEYC Conference in Atlanta.
- Lead teachers participated in leadership training focused on communication, delegation and leadership skills.
- Six teachers participated in our train the trainer session – a week-long training session that prepares teachers to go through the state training approval process. Once approved the teachers will be encouraged to join the TCS training team offering an opportunity for program and career advancement.
- We were able to offer families workshops on the following topics: Infant Massage, CPR and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.
- We enhanced our extracurricular program activities to include foreign language opportunities for our students.
- The PTA successfully organized and facilitated the Harvest Festival, Teacher Appreciation Campaign and the Annual Auction. They raised enough funds to assist in enhancing our learning environments with new materials.

A few of our goals for 2018 include:

- Improving our private Pre-K program by enhancing curriculum and kindergarten readiness activities.
- Enhancing and improving teacher benefits.
- Maintaining national accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and beginning the process to participate in the state Quality Rated program.
- Improving and maintaining quality parent/family communication by continuing to offer events like: parent/family workshops, Parents' Night Out and First Friday Coffee.
- Making improvements to our summer camp program to include STEM learning activities and fieldtrips.
- Recruiting, supporting and maintaining quality teaching staff by providing professional development opportunities that align with the current, research-based trends in early education.
- Staying abreast of the current research and trends in early education to effectively support children's development in all areas: physical, language, cognitive, and social emotional.

Summer Camp 2018

We have been busily preparing for summer camp! This year, the children will enjoy swimming (senior camp only), water play and exciting fieldtrips on and off site. This year's theme is: Discovery STEM Camp.

Summer camp registration begins January 29th for in-house/actively enrolled families and on February 8th for all other eligible families.

Your child is eligible for summer camp if they will be age 4 by 9/1/18 through age 9. If your child will be transitioning to kindergarten (age 5 by September 1, 2018) or *leaving The Clifton School to attend an outside Pre-K program in the Fall (age 4 by September 1, 2018), their last day in a preschool classroom will be May 24th, and they must be registered for summer camp to receive care at The Clifton School during the summer.* Any age-eligible child whose parent works for Emory, CDC or CHOA or is a full-time Emory student is also able to enroll in summer camp, regardless of whether the family has ever had a child enrolled at either Clifton School location. More information regarding summer camp schedules and fieldtrips will be sent out prior to registration.

An Enrollment Intent Survey will be emailed to families on January 18. This survey provides families with an opportunity to make requests for the coming school year's classroom placements and inform us of any upcoming changes in their children's enrollment. We ask that families complete the survey by February 9, 2018. The intent survey is to be completed by all infant-preschool families, including those who may be withdrawing between now and the fall.

Subsidy: If you are receiving a subsidy, documents for renewal are due by April 15, 2018. For more information on subsidy renewal and eligibility please contact:
Andrea Bourne (abourne@thecliftonschoo.org) at the Clifton site or
Daneill Gunn (dgunn@thecliftonschoo.org) at the Clairmont site.

Inclement Weather Policy

During times of inclement weather, it is our goal to remain in operation to serve families to the best of our ability. We will be staffed by as many employees as possible, depending on the number of employees who can safely travel. However, in the event that BOTH Emory University and the CDC close or announce a later opening time or an early closing time, we will do so also. In the event that the weather should turn dangerous or icy during the day, we will request that families pick up their children as soon as possible so that everyone is able to travel home safely. This information will be relayed through our calling post, email listserv, posted on our website and Facebook page, and when possible broadcast on Channel 2 Action News.

No Idling

Please do not leave your vehicles idling during drop off and/or pick up.

Idling vehicles contribute to air pollution and emit **air toxins**, which are pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. Children's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and children's exposure to them.

Sick Child Policy

As cold and flu season continues to gain momentum, please remember that it is not too late to get a flu vaccination. Also, please be mindful of our sick child policy and keep children who are too sick to participate in group care at home until they are well. Our policy is stated below:

Children excluded from the program due to a fever may not return to the program until they **are fever-free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours**. If your child is sent home due to a fever, he/she is not permitted to return to the program the following day at a minimum.

A fever is defined as a temperature reading on a thermometer of at least 101 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Staff will add a degree to temperature readings taken under the arm, therefore a thermometer reading of 100 degrees will be documented as 101 degrees.

Updated Head Lice Policy

We require that parents notify us immediately if they have observed the symptoms of lice on their currently enrolled children, school age children, or anyone in their home. The first time we observe symptoms of lice on your child, they will be excluded and you will be asked to provide treatment to your child and then provide the center with documentation showing that your child has been treated (the product box or receipt will meet this requirement). Your child will be allowed to return to school based on the current best practice of the American Academy of Pediatrics which states that children do not have to be excluded unless they have active lice bugs present.

Our policy for children who have presented with lice more than once is exclusion outside the center until they are nit-free. We will also provide additional information on treatment to the family as well as refer them to their physician for further information. We base this not only on best practice within the field of early care and education but also as recommended by the state of Georgia in the Georgia Head Lice Manual, which states that a plan should be in place for enforcement around reoccurring infection.

- Ongoing occurrences (of head lice), where it is evident that no follow up treatment has been provided, must be referred to the center director. The director will meet with parents and formulate an individualized Management Plan. Assistance will be sought from the child's medical provider.
- All students requiring treatment for head lice need to have hair checked by parent over a 10-day period to ensure all eggs/lice have been eradicated. If lice or nits return children will be excluded until they are nit-free. This is an important strategy in ensuring eradication.

Georgia Lottery Pre-K

The Clifton School's registration for the 2018-19 Lottery Funded Georgia Pre-K program is February 1-28, 2018. Applications will be sent via email and posted on our website. Your child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2018 to participate in the Georgia Pre-K program. A private lottery will take place on April 12, 2018. Families will be notified of acceptance on April 13, 2018. More information regarding our GA Pre-K program will be emailed later this week.

Important Dates:

- February 20, 2018 School is closed for teacher training

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Executive Director
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