

AUGUST

Back To School!

It is hard to believe that it is time for another school year to begin. We can hardly wait to see all those smiling faces as we walk into each room. Another outstanding year is about to begin at The Friendship Company. We want to thank everyone for their patience throughout these first few weeks of school. Figuring out invoices, class schedules, and enrollment can be quite tricky!



Safety First!

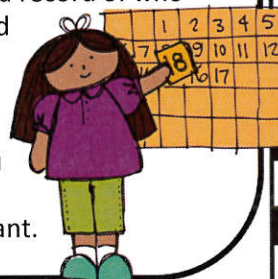
Our security system was designed to keep our kids safe. If you have not been given an access card, let us know. **Please remember that the doorbell is intended for visitors who have NOT been issued a card.** Each time the doorbell rings, someone must leave the classroom or office to answer the door. This can leave classrooms out of ratio. With over 100 families enrolled in our program, staff members can be kept quite busy just answering the doorbell. If you misplace an access card, please let us know so we can de-activate it. Each family is issued 2 access cards. After that, there is a \$25.00 fee to replace lost cards.



Sign In & Out

Please help us keep your children safe by signing them in and out **every single day!** It is a DCFS requirement that parents sign their children in and out. It is not unusual for DCFS to go through every signature for the month on the sign-in sheets. Also, if you do not sign your child in and we have to evacuate the building, we will have no record of your child being here.

It is also very important for you to sign your child out. If we do not have a record of who picked up your child, it would be easy for us to assume he or she is lost if they are not in the building and no one has signed them out. As you can see, signing your child in and out is extremely important.



Nut Free Zone!

The Friendship Company is a **NUT FREE CENTER**. This includes foods containing **peanuts, almonds, coconuts, walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts, etc.**



Cubbies!

Please be sure to check your child's cubbie **every day** for daily reports, newsletters, menus, notes from your child's teachers, and other important items.





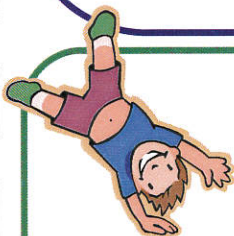
What to Wear

All girls ages 2 years and up must wear shorts, bloomers or tights under dresses and skirts. It is also a good idea to send your children to school in play clothes. Even though we try to be careful, your child's teachers cannot be held responsible for messy clothes. Please do not send your child to school in their best clothing.

It is very important that you **label all of your child's belongings**. It is easy to accidentally pick up the wrong jacket, backpack, extra clothes, etc. Putting your child's name on everything they bring to school will help ensure that things do not get lost. *The Friendship Company will not be held responsible for lost items from home.*

Small hair clips present choking hazards for young children and are easily lost. Children under age **three** should not wear small hairclips to school. (Hair bands are fine.) Teachers will not be held responsible for keeping track of hairclips, bows, ribbons, jewelry, etc.

Every child will need a set of extra clothes for school. Spare clothes will be placed in a small tote and kept in your child's classroom. Soiled clothing will be kept in the soiled clothing bin. We will put a note in your child's cubbie letting you know that there are soiled clothes in the bin that needs to go home. If you do not know where the soiled clothing bin is, please ask your child's teacher.



Balance Beans

This year, I am torn between two gymnastic programs for the children.

The first is Lil' Tumblers, a 66 passenger school bus which has been converted to a gym. The cost is \$80 for an 8 week session.

The second is called Balance Beans, which is a program that would utilize our sanctuary to teach a gymnastics program. The cost is \$40 for an eight week session.

I feel like the best way to determine which program is best for our building is by inviting Balance Beans in for a session and seeing how it works out. They will begin the session on August 11th from 2:30-3:00p.m. We are excited to welcome them into the building and curious to see what their program holds. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity please call Christy at 618-978-2588. Please remember we are not affiliated with Balance Beans and do not handle payments or communications.

Scholastic Book Orders

Order forms will be put in your child's cubbie this month. Orders are due by Friday, September 2nd.

You can put the order form and a **check (no cash) made out to The Friendship Company** for the **exact** amount in an envelope and place it in the manila envelope on Miss Meagan's window by Sept. 2nd. OR you can order online at www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs.

If this is your first time to order online, go to the parent page, click the *First Time Parents?* link, then register for your own username and password. When prompted, enter the Class Activation Code (2KVQ2) which ensures that your order will go to The Friendship Company.



Nap Time!

We provide bedding that is laundered weekly. **Pillows and blankets from home are not allowed.** It is fine for your child to bring one **small** stuffed toy as a comfort item for nap time. Ideally this item will be kept at school on your child's cot. However, if it needs to go home every day, the item must be kept in a backpack so that your child's cubbie can be used for class work, newsletters, etc.



Family Night at McAlister's and Cold Stone Creamery!

We apologize for canceling the previous fundraiser, but with the storm, we were not going to be able to have enough staff members there to pull it off. So we are going to try again by having a dine-out fundraiser on Sunday, August 28th from 5:00-8:00pm at McAlister's and Cold Stone in Shiloh. You do not have to feel obligated to eat at both places. We will have a few staff members at each place. We are excited to see all your amazing children out in public and to create memories as a Friendship family. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Kristi in the office.



Aaaa-choo!

The Friendship Company is a "well child facility." This means if your child is sick, you must make other child-care arrangements until he or she is well and is no longer contagious. Sick children expose other children and their families to the illness.

In the event of illness, it is the parent's responsibility and a matter of courtesy to make other childcare arrangements. If a parent knowingly leaves a sick child at the center, the director has the right to terminate that child's enrollment. Please review pages 8 and 9 in the Parent Handbook so you will know under what conditions your child will need to stay home.



IPM Plan

A summary of our *Integrated Pest Management Plan* can be found in the Parent Handbook. This month our pest control inspector will be here on Friday, August 5. If you would like to have another copy of our IPM Plan, you can stop by the office and pick one up.

Happy Feet Soccer

Happy Feet Soccer is a wonderful program that introduces important life skills such as listening, following rules, and respect for others along with basic soccer skills. We do not handle fees or communication between parents and Happy Feet staff. If you would like to sign your child up for this program, or want more information, there are brochures by the parent bulletin board or you can call 618-741-4787 or visit their website at www.southernillinoishappyfeet.com.



Coming Events

Friday, August 5
Last Snow Cone/Water Day

6pm Pest Inspection

Sunday, Aug. 28
McAlister's Deli
Cold Stone
Fundraiser

Friday, Sept. 2
Scholastic Book
Orders Due

Monday, Sept. 5
Closed for
Labor Day!