

Young Fives Times

Issue 1

From Room 116 Ms. Singleton's Class

August 24, 2011

HELLO, and WELCOME to our Young 5's Classroom!

School is about to begin, and I am very excited about having your child in my class this year! I have lots of fun and exciting activities planned for the months ahead. As we begin the school year, I look forward to getting to know you and your child much better. Please help your child fill out the "My New Friends" page, and return it to school on the first day so that we can learn more about our new friends! Again, I am looking forward to a great year and many successes with your child!

A Little About the Teacher . . .

Hello. My name is Ms. Andrea Singleton, and I will be your child's teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Your child and I will be spending a lot of time together over the next several months, so I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Kettering, Ohio on January 5th. I attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. It is there that I received my Bachelor of Science in Education. I also received my Master of Education degree from there in December of 2007. My teaching career has allowed me to work with several different grade levels of students! My first year of teaching was at Germantown Elementary, where I enjoyed working with first and fourth graders. The two years following, I taught full-day kindergarten in Dayton Public Schools. This will be my tenth year teaching at Waynesville Elementary, and I am very excited to be teaching our Young 5's program again this year! I moved to Waynesville five years ago. I really love living here with my fiance, Matt! We will be getting married in St. Thomas this school year over spring break! We have 4 dogs: a golden retriever, Rudi; a Labraschnoodle, Magnus; a Lab/German Shepard Mix, Lola; and an English Bulldog, Annabelle. Some of the things that I enjoy, outside of teaching, are swimming, singing, vacationing on the beach (or on a cruise), and chocolate chip cookies!

Young Fives School Supplies—The required supplies for the Young 5's students are:

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|---|---|
| Crayola Twistable Crayons (8-10 pack) | Crayola Washable Markers (10 Count, Classic Colors) |
| Fiskar's Scissors (Pointed Tip, Child's Size) | Glue Sticks (larger size, as the "skinny" ones do not last) |
| 2 fat pencils with erasers | 2 Elmer's Glue bottle |
| 1 box of gallon Ziplock bags | 2 tubs of Clorox wipes |
| 2 rolls of paper towels | 1 pack of small paper plates |
| 1 pack large paper plates | 1 box of tissues |

A backpack, large enough to fit a folder inside*

An oversized shirt to paint in; must be large enough to fit over the child's clothing.*

*The only supplies that need to be labeled with your child's name are the back pack and the paint shirt.

All other supplies will be shared, as needed among the children. Please send in your child's school supplies as soon as possible.

Donations Please!—There are items that we use frequently throughout the school year. These items are listed below. If you would like purchase any of these items in addition to the required school supplies, please feel free to do so.

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Wiggle Eyes | Zip Lock Baggies—All Sizes | Food Coloring | Tissues |
| Batteries | Wet Wipes (Clorox/Lysol/Baby) | Paper Towels | Glitter Glue |
| Large Paper Plates | Small Paper Plates | Dry Erase Markers | Shaving Cream |
| Anti-Bacterial Table Cleaner (spray) | | Plasticware (forks/spoons) | Pretzel Sticks |
| Treasure Chest Items (individually wrapped candies, chips, McDonald's Happy Meal Toys, small toys from the dollar store, pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) | | | |

Stick to the Rules: Here are the classroom rules. These rules were developed based on our new building-wide expectations* for behavior. There are four major expectations for students to follow: Be Ready, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. Under each of these expectations are more specific classroom expectations for your child to follow. Please review these rules with your child on a regular basis:

Ready

1. I am excited about learning.
2. I watch and listen to my teacher.

Respectful

3. I talk with a quiet voice.
4. I am kind to others.

Responsible

5. I use and put away objects correctly.
6. I keep my hands, feet and objects to myself.

Safe

7. I always walk in the classroom.
8. I take care of my area.

*There are specific expectations for each area of the building: hallway, bathroom, playground, etc. that can be found in the *Student Handbook*. Please review these expectations with your child as well.

"Power-Up" For Good Behavior

Classroom Expectations are handled with a "Power Scale" behavior system. On the first day of school, I will have a discussion with the students about how we all make our own decisions/choices about our behavior. Some of our choices are good (like when we follow the rules or help a friend without being asked to do so), and good choices give us power; however, some choices can be poor (like when we break one of the rules), and poor choices decrease our power. Here is how the system is set up: Each day your child will start at "full power" (green). If a child makes a good choice, he or she may be allowed to move to "Super Power" (purple). If they continue to make good choices, there is a possibility that they can move to "Maximum Power" (orange). On the other hand, if a child makes a poor choice he or she will move to "Low Power" (yellow). If the child continues to have difficulty following the rules he or she will move to "No Power" (red). Your child can move up or down on the power scale depending on the choices that they make daily. The goal for your child should be to remain at "full power" or above throughout the day. The consequences for each movement are as follows:

- (4) **Maximum Spartan Power (orange)**—*Excellent Behavior*: the student will receive a treat from the "orange" bucket for that day.
- (3) **Super Power (purple)**—*Super Behavior*: the student will receive a treat from the purple bucket for the day.
- (2) **Full Power (green)**—*Good Behavior*: the student will receive a treat from the green bucket for the day.
- (1) **Low Power: Warning! Warning! (yellow)**—*Rule Broken (recharge)*: child loses 5 minutes of recess, and will use the 5 minutes to correct whatever was done (For example: drawing on the table=washing off the table, not kind to someone=drawing them a nice picture, and apologizing to them verbally)
- (0) **NO Power: Empty (red)**—*Rule Broken x2 (reflect/recharge)*: the child loses his/her entire recess. The time will be spent reflecting on the poor choice that was made, and what the good choice would have been. The child will also use this time to correct whatever was done (same as with "Low Power").

Your child will track his or her daily behavior, and then record their high/low power for the day onto their daily behavior calendars. If a rule is broken, and they had to move to "Low Power" or "No Power" during the day, I will record the number (see the numbers above) for the rule that was broken onto their behavior calendar. The behavior calendars will be kept in their take-home folders. Please **DO NOT** remove the calendar from the folder. Friday is treasure box day. If the student has remained on "Full Power" or above for four days or more during the week (they can only have been on "Low Power" or "No Power" one time during the week), they will get to visit the treasure chest.



Communication

It is my belief that communication between the parents and the teacher is critical to the success of the students in my classroom. It is my plan to do everything possible to keep you informed of your child's progress. Along with this packet, your child should have received a folder. This is a folder that should come to school each day, and return home each day. If there is something that I need to send home (that I do not need returned to school), I will place it in the "Keep at Home" pocket of the folder. The "Return to School" pocket of the folder, will contain homework, and other important papers that need to be returned to me. On the back of the folder, there will be a communication sheet. If you need to let me know about any changes in transportation, concerns, or questions that you might have, you can write it on the paper. I will check the folders daily, and respond to the comments and questions as needed. Hopefully, the folder will serve as a useful tool in keeping the lines of communication open!

Finally, I would like for you to know that my door is always open! If you would like to talk to me concerning your child, I am in the building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. You can reach me between 8:00—8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., and 3:30—4:00 p.m. Please feel free to stop in, email me, or call me, to discuss any concerns that you might have. The school number is 897—2761, from there you can be transferred to my personal extension. You can also contact me by email at: asingleton@wayne-local.com. I check my e-mail daily and will be sure to get back to you either that same day, or the day after it is received. Again, I want to make sure that the lines of communication stay open. So if you need to get in touch with me, please use one of the means listed above.



Homework

Your child will receive homework in young fives. The homework that your child receives is intended to reflect what your child is learning in school, and will reinforce important skills and concepts. Homework is intended to be meaningful and enjoyable. Homework will be printed onto colored copy paper. Hopefully, this will make it easier to identify. The bulk of the homework will come home in the form of a monthly activities calendar. The calendar will have specific activities for you to complete with your child each day. Upon completing the activities, you will need to initial in the appropriate box (this lets me know that the work was completed). The calendar is to remain behind your child's behavior calendar (in their daily take-home folder) throughout the month. It will be checked daily for your initials. Your child will be held responsible for completing the homework. If the work has not been completed (or If you have not initialed) your child will have to complete the work at school. Your child will receive a sticker for each day that his or her homework has been completed. It is my hope that time spent on homework will serve as a positive time between you and your child. If, at any time, you have questions regarding your child's homework do not hesitate to ask. I would like to take this opportunity, in advance, to thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education.



Parent Volunteers

If your schedule permits, I would love to have you volunteer* in the classroom on a regular basis. If you are interested in helping out in the classroom, please fill out the attached Parent Volunteer sheet, and return it to me as soon as possible, as I will be trying to put together volunteer schedule by the end of September. If not, I hope you can join us for field trips or for one of our special days in our classroom.

****All parent volunteers are required to be fingerprinted; younger siblings are not permitted to accompany a parent volunteer into the classroom or onto field trips.***



Transportation Tags

You are being provided with a transportation tag for your child. The tag includes your child's name, address, and type of transportation home (if they are riding a bus, their bus number will also be provided on the tag). Please make sure that you pin your child's transportation tag on each day before they leave for school. Your child needs to wear his or her transportation tag for the first two weeks of school (if it is lost, or ruined you will be provided with a new tag). **This is very important!** If there are any changes in your child's transportation routine, please send a letter to me stating how your child's transportation will be different. Thank you very much for your cooperation.



Snack Time

We will be having a short snack time each day after recess. Please send a healthy snack to school with your child everyday but Friday. Fridays will be our special snack day and snack will be provided for your child on this day.



Birthday Celebrations

We LOVE to celebrate birthday's in our classroom! We especially love those birthday treats! If you would like to send in treats for your child's birthday, please feel free to do so. However, please be sure that there are enough treats so that each child in our class can have one if he or she chooses. Please send enough treats for 15 students (and one teacher).

Since a majority of the children in our classroom have summer birthdays, we will be have a special day for each of the summer months to be celebrated toward the end of the school year.

I would also like to ask that you do not send in cupcakes for your child's birthday treat. The children only eat the icing off the top of cupcake, and waste the rest. Additionally, the mess made by the cupcakes takes away valuable instructional time from the class. Some suggested birthday treats include: cookies, individual ice cream cups, fruit snacks, rice crispy treats, or popsicles. The children really enjoy these treats, and there is no waste!



The Star Student

As a part of our morning routine, I will randomly select a star student for the day. This is a very important role in our classroom. The star student is the line-leader for the day, and also helps the teacher with a variety of tasks. During the second part of the year, the star student will lead our calendar time. The child who is selected will be presented with an award, and will be given a "Star Student" badge to proudly display all day long. This is a special honor in our classroom, so CONGRATULATE your child when you see their special award and badge come home.

P A R E N T

V O L U N T E E R S

N E E D E D !

Dear Parent,

It is helpful for me to gather information about my students' parents for upcoming projects and events. I value your interests and expertise, and I encourage you to share talents with us. Please complete the form below and return it to school as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your cooperation. I really appreciate it!

Ms. Singleton

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

I would be interested in helping by:

- ___ sending in foods or special treats
- ___ helping in the classroom*
- ___ making projects at home
- ___ going on fieldtrips*
- ___ helping with parties/special monthly events*
- ___ Supplying materials
- ___ Making phone calls

*Denotes an activity where fingerprints are required to be on file. Classroom volunteers **MUST BE** fingerprinted, and **MAY NOT** bring younger siblings to the classroom with them when helping.

Days and times available for help in the classroom: M T W R F
8:30-10:00 10:30-11:30 or 12:30-2:00 2:30-3:30

I enjoy the following hobbies: _____

Other Interests: _____

My profession is: _____

My New Friends

Dear _____,

School is about to begin, and I am very excited about having you in our class! We will make many new friends this year as we work and play together.

There are a lot of very special people in our class this year, and I want you to meet all of them! So that we can all get to know a little more about each other, have your parents help you cut out the letters found below. Unscramble them to find the name of one of our very special friends!

Sincerely,
Ms. Singleton

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Parents: Please help your child unscramble these letters to spell his/her name. Glue them onto the attached sheet of paper. Then, add a recent photo of your child to the box below their name. Please assist your child in filling in the answers to the questions below the photo box.

My name is

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Here is a picture of me!

I am _____ years old.

My birthday is on _____, _____.

I have _____ brothers, and _____ sisters.

My pets are _____.

I like to _____.

My favorite color is _____.

I want to be a _____ when I grow up.