

Shu Ren International School
Weekly Announcements
October 6, 2009

Important Dates (See below for details):

Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11 - Parent Work Days

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day (Indigenous People's Day), No School

Thursday, October 15 - Shu Ren Picture Day

Monday - Thursday, October 26-29 - Fall Camp

Friday, October 30 - Staff Professional Development Day, No School or Camp

From the School Administration:

1. Shu Ren's Picture day will be on Thursday October 15th. We are pleased to have the professionals at Teddy Bear Portraits by Nationwide Studios take students' portraits this year. A Portrait Permission Form will be left in you child's cubby. **Please fill it out and return it to Ping by Friday October 9th.** Further notice will be given on the date when the portraits are ready to be selected and purchased. For questions and concerns, please contact Ping (ping.xie@shureninternationalschool.com).

2. Sign up for Fall Camp (October 26 – 29):

Fall Camp is an opportunity for children to rest and recharge during a very long school year. We provide childcare during the Camp and you may email Ping to sign up. **The sign-up deadline is Friday, Oct 23.** The sign-up sheet is attached.

3. Please note the following no school days:

- Columbus Day: Monday, October 12.
- Staff Professional Development Day: Friday, October 30.

4. Note from Jie: I wanted to take a moment to explain a couple of changes in the organization of the school that parents have asked about:

Why doesn't the school heat lunch for students anymore?

We offered to heat up students' lunch last year primarily because we had fewer students and we were able to do so without too much difficulty. However it is not a customary practice for a school like ours to provide this service to students. This year with more students in each class, it is impractical to heat lunch for all students (imagine one student's lunch requires one minute, with 20 students, we would need at least 20 minutes to heat up lunches, unless we purchased 4 or 5 more microwave's.)

Why do we put 2 and 3 year olds in the same classroom as the 3-5 year olds?

We originally planned to have two pre-K classes, one for the 2-3 year olds in the Plum Garden and one for the 3-5 year olds in the Bamboo Garden. There are three main reasons why we eventually did not proceed with this plan.

- The number of students in 2-3 years old class was too few. We have only 5-6 students (some are part-time and some were not able to start on time in September due to not being potty trained). To put them in the Plum Garden would force our Kindergarten class to the Pine Garden which has smaller square footage, but would then have more students.
- We would also need to convert the multipurpose room (Peach Garden) into a regular classroom for the Grade 1 and 2 class. The construction costs to make it a good classroom environment with proper lighting, flooring, sound isolation, etc... is quite high and there is little long-term benefit in making that space a permanent classroom. When we use our school site exclusively for pre-K classes in the coming years, we would like to keep it as an open multipurpose space.
- We discussed with our teachers and identified how we could organize a mixed age classroom that benefits all students. We were able to work out the schedule to ensure that the younger and older children have shared and separate activity times.

We made this decision in July before the regular school started and did not communicate this decision to all parents. I would like to apologize for this oversight and I hope that you are all now clear about the reasons

for our decision. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

From the Parents Association:

1. Parent Work Days: On Saturday and Sunday October 10-11, room parents are organizing work days for parents to help spruce up the playground. On Saturday, the school will get a delivery of sand for a new sandbox. On that day, we need volunteers to help load the sand from the sidewalk, where it will be dumped, into the playground. On Sunday, from 9-12, parents will work together to paint and clean up the playground. **Please RSVP to your room parent with the following information:**

- Which, if any, of the following times are you available on Saturday: 10:00-Noon, Noon-2:00pm or 1:00-3:00pm? (If enough parents are available on Saturday, we may move the Sunday work day to Saturday)
- If you have a large tarp, wheelbarrows and/or shovels that you can bring
- Whether you will need childcare while you work on either Saturday or Sunday

2. Photos of School Events: We would like to collect photos throughout the school year of school activities and special events, and we need parents to contribute your photography skills! We have created a group site on Shutterfly where parents can upload photos. Please bring your camera to school events and upload your photos to: <http://shuren.shutterfly.com/> The password for the site is: shuren1333. Please note the date that the photos are taken and other relevant details when you upload them. Shu Ren plans to produce a school yearbook to be available for purchase at the end of the school year and some of these photos will be used for that project. If you have any questions, please contact Jacky (jackycarleton99@gmail.com). Thank you!

3. Halloween Activity: We're thinking of a pumpkin patch field trip during the October Camp week. Room parents will see who's interested and arrange carpools.

4. PA Meetings: Thanks to everyone who came to our first Parents Association meeting last week. **The next PA meetings will be held on November 4 and December 2.**

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