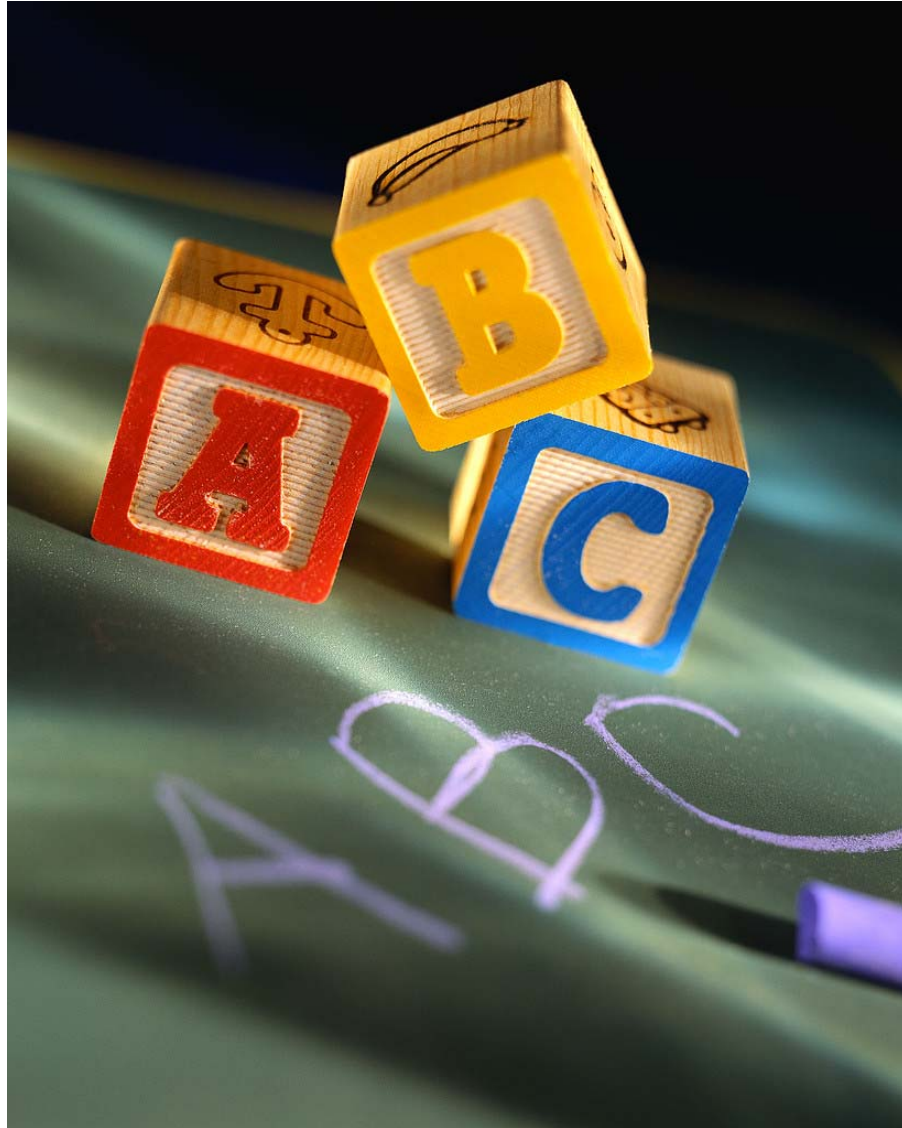


As You and Your Child Start Kindergarten



A Handbook for District 623
Kindergarten Families

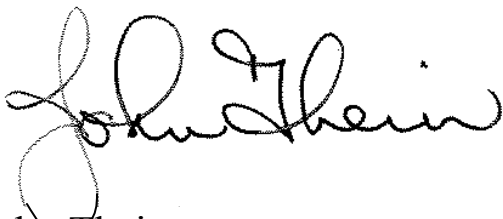
Welcome to Kindergarten

The first day of kindergarten is one of the most important days in your child's life. It is the beginning of a new adventure unlike any other your child will ever experience. Taking a picture by the front door, holding your child's hand while waiting for the bus, wondering what their teacher will be like, hoping your child will know someone in their room, and knowing your little boy or girl is growing up are all part of the "kindergarten" experience.

Roseville Area Schools knows how important the first day of kindergarten is for every student and the caring adults in their lives. To help make the first day and all the remaining school experiences successful, please review the information in this booklet with your child. Included is information about Roseville Area Schools and services the school district offers such as busing, immunizations, curriculum, and parent/teacher conferences.

I welcome you and your child to the Roseville School Community. I want to assure you that Roseville Area Schools' commitment to your child will not end on the first day of kindergarten, but will continue for their entire school career. We look forward to many wonderful years of learning and growing together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Thein
Superintendent

Our Purpose:

Quality Teaching and Learning for All

Our Vision:

The Roseville Area School District will be a learning community characterized by...

- Engaged motivated and high achieving lifelong learners;
- A nurturing and challenging environment for each student and staff member;
- Clear goals, high expectations and measurable results;
- Professionals who apply current best educational practices in instruction, curriculum and assessment; and
- Meaningful involvement and interactive communication among students, families, staff and the community.

Our Community Values:

Respect for self and others: Appreciating the unique qualities of others and oneself; accepting and affirming individual differences and cultural diversity; and displaying courtesy and appreciation for others.

Compassion: Caring about others; displaying kindness and concern for others; empathizing with others' feelings; and helping others through actions.

Responsibility: Understanding and accepting the impact and consequence of personal actions and decisions; striving to fulfill the obligations to the common good of society.

Honesty/Integrity: Practicing truthfulness and sincerity in relationships and actions; shaping a clear set of beliefs and ethics which direct thoughts and actions.

Commitment: Believing in one's personal capacity to make a difference; investing the hard work needed to realize goals; seeking ways to consistently improve; and persisting through setbacks.

Valuing Families: Respecting one's own and others' families; affirming the need for healthy families; and supporting families in their needs.

Sense of Community: Accepting the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of belonging to the community; striving to include all members of the community in the process of community life.

Helpful Facts About District 623

Instructional Program

Schools in District 623 reflect a concern for each child. We are continually developing and evaluating programs in an effort to provide the finest in educational opportunities. The 14 goals established by the School Board and program goals for each subject area provide a basis for curriculum in the schools.

Elementary Program

Children begin their school experience in the friendly atmosphere of one of the District's elementary schools. Teachers and other trained staff provide personalized instruction to serve the needs, interests, and abilities of each student. The instructional program for kindergarten through grade six emphasizes the basic subjects of reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as spelling, science, and social studies. Specialists in music, art, and physical education help to further enrich the basic curriculum.

Conferences/Reporting to Parents

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held in early fall and winter. Reporting to parents occurs once every trimester.

Kindergarten Registration

To enroll in kindergarten a child must be five years of age on or before September 1. Children can be registered at Kindergarten Round-Up or by calling your local elementary school.

Early or Delayed Entrance

Children born after the entrance date of September 1 may be considered for early admission to kindergarten at the request of a parent or guardian. Please contact Chrissy Rehnberg at 651-635-1622 for information.

Children may be voluntarily withheld a year if their parents feel that their child is not yet ready to attend kindergarten.

At the time of Kindergarten registration parents may choose between a regular half day Kindergarten program or an extended full day fee based program. These options will be presented at Kindergarten round-up or you may call the building's main office for further information.

Transportation

Kindergarten student transportation information will be available at Kindergarten Orientation in late August. If your child will not be using bus transportation to or from school, or will be transported to or from an address other than the home address, please notify the District Transportation Office at 651-635-1638.

Most students will also receive a bus notification card in the mail. School bus routes are designed using these general considerations: safety, efficiency, bus routes used in previous years, and the age of the student.

Emergency Closings

Inclement weather may result in closing schools, delayed opening or early dismissal. School closings will be announced over WCCO radio station (830 AM). Close contact is maintained with the bus company, highway department, and weather bureau.

Closing decisions are made as early as possible and always prior to the start of bus routes. On a questionable day, please listen to the radio rather than calling the District buildings.

District Services

Special Education

The Student Services Department provides a complete range of programs and services for students with special needs. Special education services are available from preschool through high school for eligible students who have disabilities. Eligibility procedures include screening and educational/psychological assessment to determine the type and amount of help needed.

Health Education

Nurses and Health Assistants provide a variety of services for District students. The Health Assistant at each public school provides supervised first aid and medication administration. The school nurse assigned to your child's school can do the following: 1. provide vision, hearing and scoliosis screening, 2. review immunizations, 3. provide classroom inservice, 4. offer classroom instruction, 5. perform health assessments, including health history.

The Health Services Program offers: direct service to students at a building level; district-wide services requiring the combined efforts of the entire nursing staff; preventative health measures; and nursing service to non-public school students.

Early Childhood Screening

According to Minnesota law, all students must attend Early Childhood Screening (preferably around age four) prior to enrollment in a public school. Record of each child's screening date and results must be presented to the school prior to the start of kindergarten. If your child has not been screened you have the option of having your child screened by your personal physician, or Roseville Area Schools will provide screening (free of charge) at Fairview Community Center (651) 604-3515.

The purpose of screening is to identify early health or developmental needs. (It does not determine Kindergarten readiness.)

The screening will take approximately one hour and consist of the following components:

- Developmental Components - motor skills, copying shapes, matching, sentence repetition, speech/language skills.
- Health/Family Component - vision, hearing, height/weight, health history, immunization review and a family information summary.
- Children observe, classify, describe, and record.

Parents can help to prepare their children by:

- encouraging children to ask how and why.
- assisting children in finding answers to their questions.
- calling (651) 604-3515 for information and a screening appointment.

Immunizations

All children enrolled in a Minnesota elementary or secondary school must be completely immunized (or document a legal exemption) against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, polio and chickenpox (the varicella vaccination or documentation of disease). Upon entering school, each student's immunization record is reviewed by building Health Services to determine if their immunization schedule is complete. Immunization information may be submitted to the school by a parent, physician or public clinic.

Have You Completed These Forms?

Please complete the following forms to help staff prepare for your child's entrance into kindergarten.

Kindergarten Enrollment Form/Health Record

This confidential information is necessary for the teacher to complete your child's cumulative record folder.



Preschool Health History & Development

This information will help the teacher know your child better.

Kindergarten Physical Examination

The Kindergarten Physical Examination is strongly recommended, but not required.

Pupil Health Record/Immunization Record

The form is required by state law. It should be completed and signed by a parent, physician, or public clinic.

Census Form

This information is used to update the Roseville Area Schools district census.

Copy of Birth Certificate

This information is used to verify the age of the student.

Early Childhood Screening Card

This card will show proof of the early childhood screening required by law.

Your child will not be officially enrolled until the completed Kindergarten Enrollment form has been received by the school.



Ready, Set, Go...

A child needs to feel independent, worthy, and self-reliant. To develop these qualities, give him or her small tasks and responsibilities in which success can be achieved.

Encourage (but do not pressure) your child to try to accomplish these skills:

- button own coat
- zip own zipper
- tie own shoes
- put on own boots
- put away toys
- hang up clothes
- print first name with uppercase and lowercase letters

Children need to feel loved, wanted and accepted. Your child needs experiences which bolster self-confidence and self-respect. If your child has self-confidence, he or she will be able to move ahead, explore, try new things, and attempt to solve everyday problems. It is important to know that hard problems can be dealt with even though they take a long time to solve. Children who doubt themselves may be frightened to meet the demands of growing up.

Every child is different. All children learn different skills at different times and mature at different rates. Each child grows through his or her own experiences. If your child doesn't develop at the same rate as your neighbor's child or a brother or sister, do not become alarmed. Your child is an individual.

A word of caution; there is a difference between encouragement and pressure. Each child needs to feel successful. Praise his or her efforts and avoid comparing him or her with other children.

Help your child develop an interest and curiosity for learning. Take the time to listen and answer questions. Turn everyday activities into broadening, learning experiences.

Kindergarten

Building on the Basics ~ Curriculum

Kindergarten will stress activities which are important as children proceed through their school years. The kindergarten curriculum lays the basis for the entire elementary curriculum.

Language Arts

Language Arts is listening, speaking, writing, and reading.

Children will:

- have opportunities to listen for directions, listen to stories, and listen to their classmates.
- have opportunities to read their own stories as well as picture books and familiar stories.
- have opportunities to tell personal experiences as well as participate in class discussions.
- print their first name, letters, and numerals.
- develop Phonological Awareness.
- have opportunities to write words, thoughts, and experiences.
- be introduced to the names and sounds of the 26 letters of the alphabet.
- have opportunities to use reading skills, if already reading.

Parents may help in their child's learning by:

- talking with their child, asking thought provoking questions, giving clear directions, and encouraging good listening skills through practice and examples.

- reading books with their child, taking their child to the library, speaking and reading clearly, and assisting their child with the recognition of letters.
- providing materials and opportunities for their child to write.



Mathematics

Mathematics is learning about numbers.

- Children will learn to count, recognize numerals, and begin to develop an understanding of basic math and number concepts.
- Children will be sorting, classifying, patterning, comparing, graphing, tallying, and working with the calendar.

Parents can assist by:

- marking important calendar events, helping children recognize numerals, and practice counting household items.

Science

The science program is FOSS. We have units on Paper, Fabric, and Animals 2 by 2.

- Children gain knowledge and awareness of our environment.
- Children observe, classify, describe, and record.

Parents can:

- encourage children to ask how and why.
- assist children in finding answers to their questions.

Social Studies

Social Studies is a study of people and community.

- Children will be given opportunities to work and play together.
- Children will build understanding and respect for individual and cultural differences and similarities.

Parents can:

- give their children opportunities to visit interesting places, invite friends in to play, and enjoy a strong family commitment.

Health

Health includes the study of safety, growth, relationships, and total wellness.

Parents can:

- praise and encourage children's use of good health and safety habits.
- provide opportunities for children to discuss their feelings and emotions.

Physical Education

Physical Education is body movement and play.

- Children will participate in activities to aid in the development of locomotor skills and eye-hand coordination.

Parents can:

- exercise with their children and encourage them to participate in running, jumping, hopping, and skipping.
- plan visits to playgrounds.

Art and Music

Art and Music continue the development of creativity and self-expression.

- Children will participate in singing, rhythms, creative movement, and playing simple musical instruments.

Parents can:

- encourage children's creativity by praising all phases of development.
- encourage children to teach songs to the family.
- visit museums and attend concerts.





Safe and Healthy Children

Please teach your child...

About traffic lights, police officers, and school safety patrol members.

To use only crosswalks to get safely to the other side of the street.

To use sidewalks wherever possible, and to walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

To avoid strangers; don't talk to or accept rides from them.

To go directly home from school.

To follow safety rules on the school bus.

His or her first and last name, address, phone number, and parents' name.

Give your child a healthy start by assuring they have:

Necessary immunizations.

Periodic health examinations.

Plenty of sleep each night (10-12 hours are recommended for this age group).

A good, healthy diet which includes breakfast.

Neat, clean, comfortable clothes, appropriate to the day's activities.

An early enough start so your child is wide awake when school begins without that "last minute dash." (Remember, punctuality is important, but don't send your child to school too early or there may not be adequate supervision.)

In case of illness...

If your child is injured or becomes ill at school, building Health Services will administer first aid. You will be contacted if your child needs to leave school. If emergency medical care is necessary, 911 will be called, and you will be contacted immediately.

You Can Help

In a school family as large as ours, everybody needs help!

- Become acquainted with the teachers who will be working with your child.
- Keep a school calendar handy; know which days your child will be in or out of school.
- Review school and bus schedules in advance, so that everything will go as smoothly as possible that first day.
- Prepare for your parent/teacher conference. Have questions ready; share with the teacher your child's joys, worries, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Attend PTA and other parent meetings.
- Become a school volunteer.
- Make arrangements with your child's teacher to visit the classroom.
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.
- Keep the teacher informed of child care arrangements and send a note if a change occurs.
- Call the school if your child is absent.
- Send a note if your child will be picked up at school or will go home with another child.
- Children must be "signed out" in the school office when picked up before the end of the day.
- Before purchasing clothing, check to be sure that fasteners are easy for your child to manipulate.
- Each child must have tennis shoes daily for gym. These can be worn to and from school or left in the building.
- Write your child's name on all clothing that will be taken off at school.
- In order to protect your child's clothing, please furnish a painting shirt.
- Please do not send homemade food to be shared with classmates.
- It is traditional but not mandatory for children to bring a birthday treat for their class. Treats do not have to be edible.
- To avoid hurt feelings, please mail birthday party invitations directly to the child's home rather than distributing them in class.
- Provide your child with a waterproof school bag large enough for carrying papers to and from school. Please avoid small backpacks.

Community Involvement

Volunteers

Volunteers can be found in every corner of the District, involved in all phases of the educational program. Volunteers donate thousands of hours both at the building and District level.

Volunteers assist teachers in the classroom, serve as tutors, chaperones, nurses' office aides, room parents, clerical aids, library aides, computer aides, and help out with school photos and health screenings.

Opportunities for parent and community involvement are also offered through the parent teacher organization and advisory councils.

PTA/PTSA

Active participation in PTA/PTSA offers concerned citizens, parents and teachers an opportunity to educate their children cooperatively.

The Area Council PTA/PTSA and the PTA/PTSA units in each school help maintain two-way communication between the community, parents, students, teachers, and administrators. PTA/PTSA and school working together enhance the quality of education in District 623.

Every resident of the District is cordially invited to join the PTA/PTSA and participate in the educational programs of District 623.



Community Education

The mission of the Roseville Area Community Education Department is to identify needs, link resources, and to facilitate programs and services for people of all ages and abilities. Current offerings are listed in the Community Education brochure which is published quarterly and mailed to all District residents. Copies of the brochure are available in all District school offices or public libraries.

Programs available for students in grades K-8 are highlighted below.

Friendship Connection (school-age child care)

Friendship Connection's primary goal is to create a caring, quality learning environment for your child that compliments the school day. This environment provides both structured and unstructured choices designed to contribute to a student's creative, physical, and social development.

Friendship Connection is a year round program offering care to students in grades K-8 before, during, and after school, with part-time and full-time care available on school release days and in the summer. There is a Friendship Connection program at each of our elementary schools.

Registration for summer and fall takes place in the middle of April. Registrations are accepted on a space available basis. Friendship Connection does offer a pre-kindergarten option during the summer for students enrolled in kindergarten in the fall. Information regarding fees and registration materials are available by contacting the Friendship Connection office at (651) 604-3505 or in the Friendship Connection room at your child's school.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

(a program for parents and their children birth to kindergarten age)

The purposes of ECFE are to strengthen families, to help parents provide for their children's learning and development, and to help young children develop to their fill potential. ECFE is a family education program for parents and their children to attend together. Daytime, evening or weekend classes, home visits, and special events are offered for parents and children together throughout the school year. A Resource Center with parent education books and videos, and children's books and toys is available. ECFE information is provided in the "On Growing Up" newsletter or by calling the ECFE Office at (651) 487-4378.

Summer Discovery

Summer Discovery is an educational and enrichment program offered throughout the month of July. Classes are offered for students going into kindergarten through eighth grade. Brochures are distributed to students at school. If you do not have a child in school and would like to receive a brochure, please call (651) 604-3771. Course topics include art, science, foreign language and more. Brochures are sent home mid-April.

Swim Program

A year round schedule of both recreational and instructional swimming activities is available to all District 623 residents.

Programming for children is available, beginning at six months of age. Schedules and registration information are distributed to each child through the elementary school and are also published in the Community Education brochure. For further information, please call the Swim Program Office at (651) 604-3762.

Youth Enrichment Classes

Many educational and enrichment activities are offered through the Youth Enrichment Program. These activities usually take place after school or on non-school days. They are advertised in Youth Enrichment flyers sent home with the students. For more information, please call (651) 604-3771.

Other Community Education Programs and Services:

Adult Enrichment	Early Childhood Family Education
Early Childhood Screening	Adults with Disabilities
Adult High School	Driver Education
Senior Citizens Program	Facility Usage
Learning Readiness	Roseville Technology Center
Family Learning Program	

For more information, call the Community Education Office
at (651) 604-3500.

And Most of All

Help your child feel wanted and loved

Encourage self-reliance

Teach your child to listen attentively and follow directions

Talk to your child

Answer questions

Teach an awareness of things

Help your child develop self-expression

Read to your child regularly

Provide a background of varied experiences

Take advantage of daily learning situations

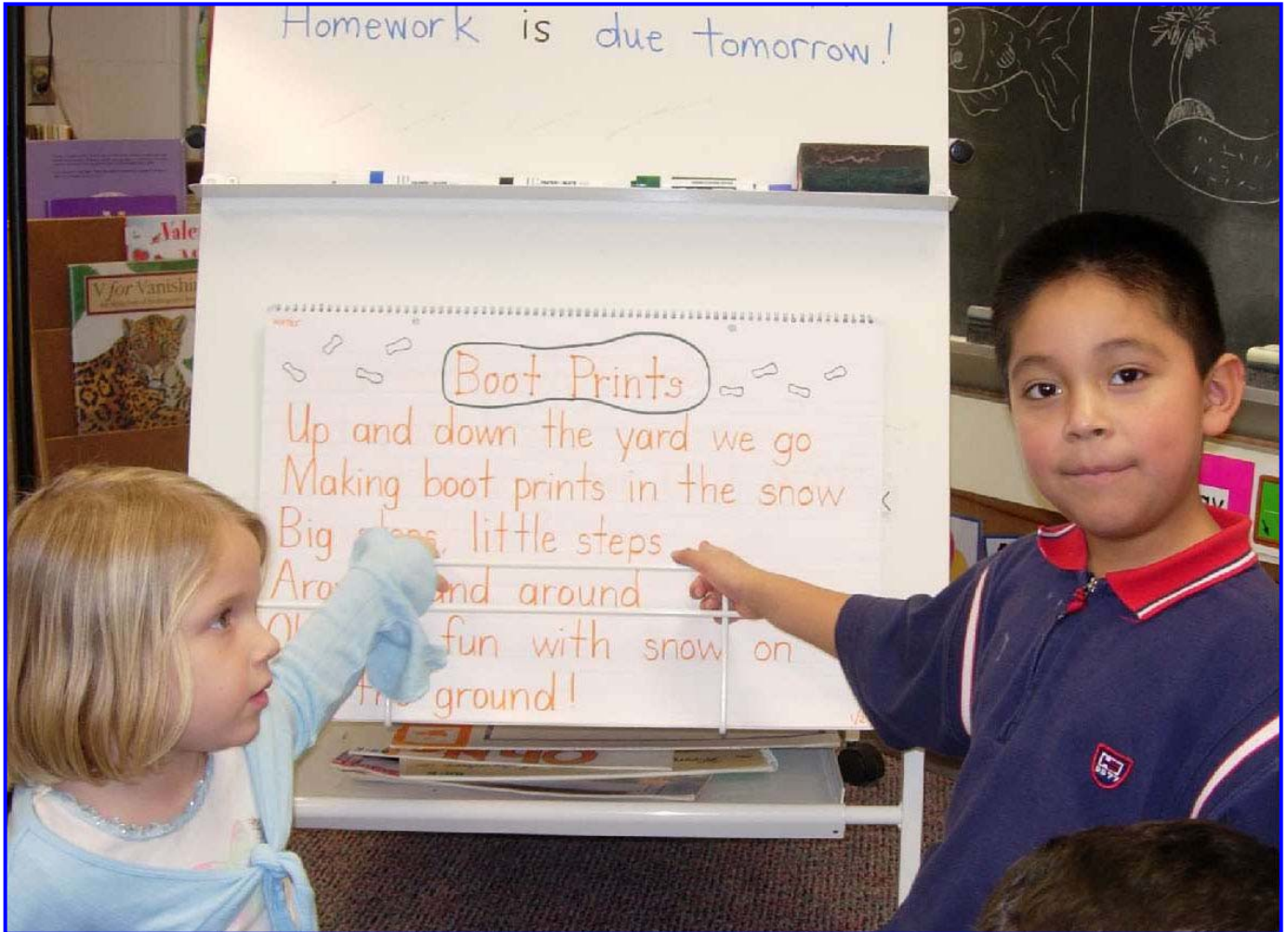


How do you feel about school? Your attitudes and responses do much to influence how your child feels about school.

Help your child look forward to school experiences. Discuss together the day's events, friendships, and feelings. Be positive and reassuring, and know that we care too.

**For more information regarding Kindergarten, please call
Chrissy Rehnberg at (651) 635-1622.**

*A child's life is like a piece of paper
on which every passerby leaves a mark.
~Ancient Chinese Proverb*



As You and Your Child Start Kindergarten
Written and published by Roseville Area Schools