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October 1, 2018

Dear Families,

What a start to the school year! Our children have now been together in their classes for almost two months and it is so much fun to talk with the teachers and learn how the children are finding out about each other and their classroom responsibilities. Many of the children now remind the teachers when they forget something or change the routines up. Hey, it's nice to have help! Please feel free to stop in and play someday to see the classrooms in action – you are bound to have fun and even get a bit messy!

Speaking of playing and getting messy, our parent play night is November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Please join us. We promise an evening of fun and play, but, more importantly brief discussions of why we teach the way we do at Outer Limits. Often pressure is placed on you, on us and on young children to “be ready for kindergarten”. Some refer to kindergarten readiness as knowing the alphabet, writing your name, counting to as high as you can go....that kind of stuff; but, do you know that researchers in early childhood define kindergarten readiness a bit differently? At this point you are expecting us to tell you what kindergarten readiness is.....and, we're not going to today. Come to the Play Night on the 14<sup>th</sup> to learn all about preparing children for kindergarten, but, **more importantly, to succeed in life.**

### **Picture Day!**

Lifetouch will take school pictures October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They will take pictures in the morning on the following schedule. Mountain Lions will not do pictures.

Monday, October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cottontail, Owl, Gecko, Roadrunner
Tuesday, October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Quail, Javelina, Coyote

We will begin pictures around 8 AM and hopefully finish each day before lunch. You will not commit to purchasing anything until you see the pictures. We do, however, need you to fill out the attached form and return it to the office as soon as possible. While taking your child's picture will not cost you anything, it is not mandatory. Let us know if you prefer your child's picture is not taken.

The deadline to register in November's election is October 9<sup>th</sup>. *Do you need to register?* It is quick and easy and we can help you. Ask us anytime and we will help you register – it takes less than five minutes. We encourage you to participate in November's election.

Please review the following special dates and hours for the upcoming season.

Tuesday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Join us for a Thanksgiving Lunch
Thursday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open 6:30 to 5:00. No Dinner. Please RSVP.
Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Open 6:30 to 5:00. No Dinner. Please RSVP.
Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Closed for Christmas
Monday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Open 6:30 to 5:00. No Dinner. Please RSVP.
Tuesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Closed for New Year's Day

We typically only ask you to RSVP for the Friday after Thanksgiving, however, this year we are also asking you to RSVP for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. **We are open. We want your children to attend.** We simply ask for your RSVP because we know we won't have a huge crowd and we want to provide time off to our teachers based on your attendance expectations.

The Mountain Lion classroom (school age children) will be open all day October 5-12 during their Fall Break. Please bring your children – we have great activities planned. Hey Mountain Lion Families! Remember that while you are welcome to pick up and drop off your children in the back classroom, you must come to the office to sign the attendance book.

We have a parking spot reserved in the front for drivers with a permit to park in a handicapped spot. Please park elsewhere if you do not have a permit to do so. Please also remember to park facing North or South to use the least amount of space possible.

Will your child turn 5 before September 1, 2019? If so, it is time to investigate where he or she will attend Kindergarten. Please ask us if you need help with this process as it can be both intimidating and challenging to find the right program for your child. Many schools begin taking open enrollment applications in November so it is important to figure this out soon.

Lastly, we imagine you are excited for Halloween and celebrating with your family. Please save your celebrations for home and leave your candy, treats and costumes at home. We ask this for a couple reasons – including the idea that having a class full of sugared up children in costumes with their parents nowhere in sight is not an ideal situation! We also have families who, due to their own traditions and beliefs, would stay home if we celebrate Halloween. Thank you for understanding and cooperating.

We're looking forward to a great October!

Take care,

*Blanca, Minnie & Bill*