



NEWSLETTER

www.Onceuponatimeverona.com

November 2020

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held the weeks of December 7th-11th and the 14th-18th for Goodnight Moon, Giving Tree, Pea Pods, Lily Pad, and Meadow. Please sign up through an email that will be sent to you by your child's teacher sometime mid November. All conferences will be held via zoom. This is a great opportunity to talk with your child(ren)'s teachers about their progress, goals for the year, the curriculum, and more.

Inclement Weather Policy

The following provides guidance on the OUAT inclement weather policy:

- Once Upon a Time follows the Verona Area School District (VASD) public school closings for inclement weather due to snow days, ice and other conditions that affect travel and road conditions. ➤ OUAT **does not follow** public school **morning delays** (i.e., the 2-hour delays). ➤ OUAT **does not follow** public school closures due to **cold weather only**. In the case of severe cold weather (i.e., a wind chill **warning which is -35 degrees or more**), OUAT will follow the Verona Area School District and will be closed.
- In the case of a wind chill warning which will expire by 10:00 a.m. the next morning, OUAT **may** open later in the morning (i.e., 10:00 a.m.). This will give things a chance to warm up a little. Parents will be notified of this the morning of the event via email and on the OUAT voice mail.
- There is no Verona Pre-K (4K) classes when VASD is closed or delayed.
- If Verona Schools are not in session (i.e., winter break), OUAT will make the decision on snow/ice closures and will notify all parents and staff by 6:30 a.m. (email to parents, notice on OUAT voicemail, the OUAT Facebook page, or the Procure Connect app).
- If it is necessary for the Center to close mid-day, parents will be notified via email (and by phone, or via our Procure Connect App) and asked to pick up their child(ren) immediately. In this situation, adequate staff must remain to maintain classroom ratios until all children have been picked up.

How parents will be notified:

- Please watch the television stations for notification of school district closures. If Verona schools are closed due to snow or other travel hazards, OUAT will be closed. In the case of such a closure, OUAT administration will put a notice: on the OUAT voicemail, on the OUAT Facebook page and will also email all parents and staff before 6:30 a.m.
- In the case of a potential OUAT cold weather closure or late start, OUAT administration will put a notice: on the OUAT voicemail, on the OUAT Facebook page and will also email all parents and staff before 6:30 a.m.

Social/Emotional Minute

Listen actively and empathetically

It may sound simple, but the most powerful child guidance tool we have as teachers—and as parents—is active, empathetic listening. A young child experiencing strong emotions needs our attention and our empathy. So, here's how to be an active, empathetic listener with young children. First, notice when children are experiencing strong emotions, such as frustration, anger, excitement, sadness, and elation. Move close to the child. Move your body to his or her level. Make eye contact and offer a gentle touch, as appropriate, to let the child know that you're listening. Repeat back what you hear the child telling you through words and actions in language that she can really understand. Now here's the really important part—reflect the same tone that they are expressing. This lets a child with limited language know that you understand what they are feeling. Your tone and facial expressions are so important in this step, particularly for children whose language skills are still developing. It's your tone of voice and your facial expressions that communicate your understanding of their feelings. It may feel strange or a little uncomfortable the first time you do it, but as soon as it works for you, you won't care what you look or sound like. The child is hearing you and knows that you genuinely understand what they are feeling. When the child calms a bit and seems ready, you can name and explain the feelings. Use words to describe feelings accurately. Once you get the hang of it, this strategy is so easy to use and will be one of the most powerful tools in your tool box.

Staff Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ~ ~

- Heather Marshall (Meadow Classroom) – Wednesday, November 4th

Happy Anniversary to ~ ~

- Kim Stroede (Goodnight Moon Classroom) – 6 years on November 13

November & December Closing Dates

In an effort to give families as much notice as possible, upcoming center closings are:

Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27	OUAT Closed
Thursday, December 24	OUAT Closed
Friday, December 25	OUAT Closed
Thursday, December 31	OUAT Closed at 3:00 pm
Friday, January 1, 2021	OUAT Closed