April 20, 2015

Dear KB Families,

Happy Earth Week! According to the Kindergarten curriculum expectations, students in FDK “***will identify ways in which they can care for and show respect for the environment and they will participate in environmentally friendly activities in the classroom and schoolyard” (FDK Curriculum Document. 2010; pg. 121-122)*.**

In honour of Earth Week (April 20-24) and Earth Day (April 22), the KB Kinders will be exploring a variety of activities and adventures to help fulfill these expectations.

**Litterless Lunch** - In order to help the students understand the idea of *reducing and reusing*, we are inviting them to pack their lunch and beverages in “*reusable*” containers that can be resealed, washed, and used again instead of recycled, which consumes energy. It is amazing how much food is tossed each day in our classroom because of containers that cannot be resealed and sent home. We appreciate your assistance in helping your child understand and establish this important and simple habit of reducing waste early in their education career since 180 lunches per year x 13 years of school is a lot of lunch waste to throw away or containers to recycle in one student’s lifetime. It is also a simple and manageable way for one person to have a tremendous impact on helping our environment.

**Beautiful Junk** - In order to help the students understand more about reducing and reusing, we will be spending the week ***up-cycling*** materials that are headed for the recycling plant or landfill. This is where we need your help. Do you have any clean recyclable materials (small plastic containers, boxes, toilet rolls) or items in your house that are no longer needed (see below)?We call this stuff ‘**Beautiful Junk’ or ‘Loose Parts**’. Loose Parts are items and objects that can be used in any and every way that a budding imagination can dream up. They provide limitless opportunities because there is no right or wrong way to use them and they encourage deeper, unscripted play while also promoting environmental responsibility.

**Do you have any “Beautiful Junk” items at home that you would be willing to contribute to our classroom?** **Some ideas:**

Acorns, baby food jars, boxes of all sizes, buttons, bolts, beads, cans, cotton balls, clothespins, CD’s, crates, corks, clear containers, dowelling, driftwood, felt, fabric, funnels, foil plates, film canisters, feathers, juice can lids, Kurig canisters, hooks, hinges, garden hose, lace, lids (shaving cream, spray bottles, squirt bottles), magnets, maps, marker lids, newspaper, netting, nails, paper plates, bottle caps (plastic and metal), plastic bottles, paper towel rolls, paperclips, plumbing parts, pulleys, rocks, rope, ribbons, sandpaper, spools, straws, squeeze bottles, screen wire, scarves, tubing, toilet paper rolls, tape measure, utensils, velvet, washers, wool, wallpaper, wood pieces, yarn, sippers, Ziploc bags.

Thank you so much for helping to foster your child’s connection to Earth and for helping to nurture our students’ creative minds at the same time☺. We look forward to a litter-less lunch week, and a fun week filled with Earth-friendly activities.

☺ The KB Kinder Team