

GUMP Report

September 19, 2021

GUMP started school September 9. We currently have 46 children enrolled with 3 starting in October. Our licensing capacity is 55. We have lost a few or they may start at a later date due to parents COVID concerns. We have a lot of new families this year and many siblings.

We have two new employees, Erin Sacks and Katie Kron. Last year we did not have a permanent assistant in the Busy Bees. I filled in that position with two other substitutes. Erin was one of the substitutes last year. Erin Todd has had 3 children attend GUMP. She and Ellen Sacks work really well together. Katie Kron was hired as the assistant in the Fabulous Frogs. She comes to us from Outside the Lines. Thank you Melanie.

Earlier in the spring and summer we had planned to reopen with less COVID restrictions than last year; however the Delta variant caused me to rethink that decision. We are not offering breakfast or lunch bunch again this year because licensing strongly encourages not mixing classrooms at this time. We are continuing with car drop off and pick up for the three older classes. The youngest class, the Busy Bees, classroom door is close to the back entrance so we are allowing them to drop them off at the classroom door. They must drop and leave while maintaining social distancing. They are our smallest class. Masks are mandatory for parents /guardians on the property and as recommended by licensing we ask that the three and four year old children wear masks as well. Some parents are also sending two year olds in masks. We are not taking temperatures in the morning and we are not collecting health forms each Monday. The thermometer readings were not always accurate (readings were extremely low) and they ate batteries. We are asking parents to self-screen their children before arriving at school. Our parents did a great job of that last year and are being very cautious again so far to date. We are not holding any special events during school as of now such as Trick or Trunk. We will reevaluate as time goes on. We were very blessed to not have to close any of the classrooms last school year due to COVID.

We are hosting the GUMP Consignment Sale this year. I had a group of parents that really wanted to have the sale and have been planning the event. They are very aware of our COVID rules and are requiring masks to shop or volunteer. The sale is downstairs, away from the classrooms. The volunteer sale is the evening of Thursday, October 14. Staff will man the sale and volunteers that have put in their mandatory volunteer hours may shop. The sale itself is Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

The playground is in need of some work. The house that is outside needs a new roof. The shingles are literally falling off. There is also a piece of wood under the shingles that has become wet after it rains. This needs to be fixed before mold starts to grow. We would also like to get rid of the wooden sandbox that is outside. It is too deep and ants and spiders continually

live in there. The representative from Getem exterminators recommended in the past we get rid of it because it creates a haven for bugs. The wood structure is also a safety hazard. I would like to pull up the wood and fill in the hole and seed. The sandbox has been an issue for staff for years. Last year we never opened it because of COVID and sharing toys. This year we have not opened it because it is in bad shape underneath the lid. The lid is also too heavy for staff to be lifting on and off. We have purchased a smaller, not deep plastic sandbox with a lid that is easily lifted by staff. We are waiting to put it in the space of the old one. I am willing to get my family to come help pull up the wooden sandbox one weekend as soon as the weather cools down.

Licensing is supposed to be making their rounds and inspecting childcare centers. We are current on all regulations and staff paperwork is in order.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Robertson.