**Butterfly Room News**

September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Butterfly Room! We are very excited about the new school year and are looking forward to meeting all of you. The Butterfly teachers this year are Mrs. Holly Martinez, Miss Bri Arneach, and Ms. Aquino.

Holly Martinez is very excited to start her fifteenth school year at Espree! She graduated from Metro with a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts and is also a certified Early Childhood Education Teacher. She is highly artistic and loves to bring her creativity to the classroom through her lessons and activities. Outside of teaching, she enjoys spending time with her family, going on hikes, and drawing.

Bri Arneach is super excited to start her fourth year of teaching at Espree. She graduated from Colorado Christian University with a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education. She is very bubbly and looking forward to continuing her teaching career here at Espree. She can’t wait to get to know all the students and families. Outside of teaching, she enjoys coaching fastpitch softball, spending time with her family, and spoiling her dogs Nala and Chief.

Ashley Aquino will be starting her sixth year teaching here at Espree. She taught in the Bumblebee Room for 3 years, worked with Elementary this summer and is excited to be back in the Butterfly Room for a third year! This will be her thirteenth year of teaching ages 2 ½ through private kindergarten. She received her bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies & Liberal Arts with an emphasis in math and a reading minor. She then graduated from the teacher licensure program at Metropolitan State College of Denver. Since her son Connor was born in November 2018, she spends most of her time outside of school with him and her husband of 19 years, Chris. She enjoys being outside exploring, dancing, and cooking. She is excited to start this year with this impressionable and energetic group of students!

We will begin the school year with an introductory unit called “Getting Acquainted”. During the month, the children will learn and share information about themselves, their families, and the world around them. We will also learn about our community and friendship. We will talk weekly about what it means to be part of a family, how to create and develop new friendships, and what makes up our community. We have many fun and exciting lessons and activities planned for your kids. To begin the school year, our classroom theme will have the children starring as superheroes who wear masks. Lesson plans detailing the specific objectives and activities your child will be participating in will be posted weekly next to the door of the Butterfly Room. Please follow the schools Facebook page so you can see the lessons and activities that we will be doing in the classroom.

We recognize that many children might experience some separation anxiety during the first few weeks of school. This is quite common when children experience transitions such as new teachers, a new classroom, and a new schedule. We would like to offer assistance to you and your child in any way that we can. We do suggest short, reassuring good-byes. We promise to take good care of your child and most often they will feel better after a short time.

We would like to ask that your children do not bring toys or food from home including: candy, dolls, animals, silly bands, naptime companions, blankets, or pillows. The school will provide mats and blankets for naptime. In the past we have had numerous problems with things getting broken, disappearing, or just creating friction among the children and we would like to avoid it this year if possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

We would also like to remind you to please send your children to school with a labeled water bottle every day. We recognize that sometimes accidents happen, so we ask that each child always keeps a full change of clothes in their cubby. Please send their change of clothes in a bag labelled with their name. The weather is still nice and warm but can change quickly. Please send your child in the appropriate clothing and shoes to play outside each day.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year with your children in the Butterfly classroom where they will play, learn, and grow! Feel free to reach out to any of us with and questions or concerns throughout the school year!

**Special Date to Mark on Your Calendar:**

**Monday, September 12th - Broncos’ Day**: Wear your Broncos’ gear or orange and blue to cheer on the team for their Monday night season opener!

Sincerely,

Miss. Arneach, Mrs. Martinez, and Mrs. Aquino