Dear Parents and Students,

As we start our new classroom, it is important to make sure that we all agree how to create a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment conducive to optimal learning. Today, as a community, we created and discussed our classroom agreement.

First, we discussed the difference between a rule and an agreement. A rule is placed upon people; while an agreement is something we all create and accept. The students gave examples of actions that make our classroom a safe and wonderful place to learn. Examples include using listening ears, using an inside voice, and hands are for helping not hurting, etc. After each example, I asked the children if they all agree. If yes, I wrote it down on chart paper. After the classroom agreement was written, the children and teachers signed to attest that we all agreed. Should any issues arise regarding one of the points on our classroom agreement, we will remind the children of the agreement and how important it is for them to stick to it.

We also use a ticket reward system where children are awarded tickets for making appropriate choices. For instance, children will be given tickets for completing tasks, listening to others, following school rules, etc. Students will also lose tickets for not making appropriate choices, such as being aggressive with classmates. At the end of every week, students may participate in “Fun Friday” if they have earned enough tickets.

Students who consistently display appropriate behavior for kindergarten by following classroom agreement may be rewarded with a weekly incentive. For example, if students have no codes entered on their behavior card for the week, he or she may receive a treat or an extra privilege assigned by the teachers.

If a student breaks the agreement during the school day, the following consequences will be given:

* The teacher will give a verbal warning to the student.
* The student may have to give a ticket to a teacher or classmate for poor choices
* If the student continues to receive reminders during class, he or she will have the behavior documented on the behavior card located in the child’s binder. There will be a number written in the block on the calendar which corresponds to a code listed on the card.
* All severe behavior will automatically be handled by administration and a phone call home will be made.

Parents will be asked to review the behavior card each day with their child as part of their nightly responsibilities. The behavior card will be kept in the binder and will be easily accessible to both teachers and parents. Parents, if no code is listed please praise your child for a job well done! At the close of the week, please sign the card and leave it in the binder. Your child will receive a new card each quarter.

I hope this system will keep you aware of your child’s behavioral performance. Our goal is to work together so all students can have a happy and successful year in kindergarten. We look forward to a wonderful year and appreciate your support.

Mrs. Duncan and Ms. Hollingsworth