



Preschool Update
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As students returned to warm up the Harrison Center space this week, faculty and staff were happy to hear stories of the children's time spent at home. Starting 2021 off with over 100 pint-sized reminders of just how child-focused their life experiences are in spite of tumultuous worldly events around them was a very grounding way to step into the new year. Blissfully focused on their holiday experiences, we learned of big wishes that came true and a few adorable disappointments, like the lack of magical powers when they awoke on Christmas morning.



While Monday morning reintroduced routines that went unpracticed over the break, students arrived full of energy and life. As I walked through the Harrison Center Monday morning, there was a gaggle of small children giggling and racing off to class loudly declaring in unison for the world, "We are going back to school today!" This moment brought a huge smile to my face and served as an affirmation of what we learned together last spring: children need the social-emotional aspects of the schooling experience just as much as the academic.



Many of you may have noticed that our Preschool/Lower School counselor Morgan Jones has returned from her maternity leave. Just as you would expect, she has reentered with a pep in her step and a passion for working with our children. She has been in and out of each classroom several times and has enjoyed reconnecting and supporting our students through classroom guidance, casual play experiences, and carline.



While our students typically live somewhere in between the magical imagination of a preschooler and the real world that slowly pushes in on them, there are times when students and/or families may need extra support. If there is ever a way that our team can help support your student as they learn to navigate the intricacies of being one of many, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher, Mrs. Jones (mjones@athensacademy.org), or me (cburwell@athensacademy.org).

Our goal is to remain open for in-person instruction as long as we can do so safely. Thank you for your help and support as we work together to attain it.