



Preschool Update
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It is hard to believe that one month of school has slipped past us, yet when we look back, so much has already happened. Frequently, those first few weeks present us with students who enter timidly and quietly. Just a few short weeks in, those same students are greeting us excitedly with stories of weekend adventures, conversations at home, or conflicts with their siblings. Their eagerness to connect socially and emotionally with those around them is a gift unlike any other. Last month, I mentioned that I would be exploring the preschool day with you in my first few *eSpartans* and this month, I am excited to share about our Morning Meeting time.

As Free Choice closes out each morning, preschoolers transition into community building time with their teachers and classmates through Circle Time in K3 and Morning Meeting in K4 and Pre-first. While it is not uncommon for academic skills to be incorporated into this time, this time focuses on social and emotional learning through activities that bring laughter and shared empathy through conversations and sharing.

There is a lot about this age group that makes it different than all the rest, but one of the most admirable personality traits is the clear honesty that comes with their communication. They are largely uninhibited by feelings of acceptance, judgment, or worry and are equally eager to share their experiences with the world.

One of the most important aspects of an early childhood classroom is the relationships fostered between the students as peers and between the students and their teachers. Studies have shown that when children have positive and nurturing interactions with their teachers and peers, they are more likely to have stronger literacy, math, and school achievement skills as they age. We are lucky to be part of a program that acknowledges the importance of relationships and allows us to prioritize and dedicate time to ensure that positive and productive relationships are developed and nurtured throughout the year.

