

## **Hats Off to the 2009 - 2010 School Year!**

We are off to a great school year. We are busy, but that is a good thing. We opened with nearly 40 + new children to Flower Valley. Most of our new students are from out of town, a few from private schools and a few from other Montgomery County Schools. We are delighted, however, it is for that reason we had to open up another first grade class and now have a four-five combination class. I can proudly say to parents that all is well at Flower Valley and our students are smiling daily.

### **HATS**

Several children brought in hats and we will have a parade on Friday and a little play on Grandparents Day. Our purpose is to help children understand the different "hats" people wear...sometimes in one day. The bottom line is to keep us all understanding and appreciating our diversity.

### **PAPERS THAT HAVE COME HOME FOR SIGNATURE**

You have received several papers for signature. Please get them signed and returned to us immediately. The "flu mist" papers and your contact information paper are a MUST. We are also requesting that you provide us with accurate phone numbers. **We must always be able to contact you.**

### **TIMELY PICK UP AND DROP OFF OF STUDENTS**

Today is day three of school and we already have students late and not being picked up on time. Unfortunately, we do not have "babysitting" available to parents at this school. Children must be picked up on time. After hours at Flower Valley is staff time for next day preparation and it does not include baby sitting with children. Children must also arrive on time. Attendance and tardiness is reported to the State of Maryland. Children that attend Flower Valley on transfers will be noted when tardiness occurs. I will request that transfers be rescinded if tardiness happens. Instruction in the very beginning of the day impacts a student's entire day. Five minutes everyday amounts

to 25 minutes a week. Please help us by getting your children to school on time and picking them up on time.

### **DROPPING OFF ITEMS TO STUDENTS**

If you need to get an item to your child (lunch, instrument, homework, etc.) you MUST leave it to the front office. DO NOT take it to the classroom. This greatly interrupts classroom instruction and also violates our safety and security measures that we adhere to. So please leave the forgotten items with the office staff.

### **GRANDPARENTS DAY**

Grandparents Day is next Friday, September 11, 2009. Please extend the invitation to all Grandparents. We have an exciting morning for them. The program will be from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We look forward to this special day every year.

### **FAMILY PICNIC**

The Annual Family Picnic at Flower Valley is from 5 until 8 o'clock on Friday evening September 11, 2009. I am sure you will hear more from the Flower Valley PTA. This is a "heads up" so you can get your picnic dinner ready. We hope to see all of you on Friday evening.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Flower Valley "Back to School Night" is September 15 and 16, 2009. You will receive more information later, however, September 15th is for K - 2 and September 16th for grades 3 - 5. Both nights will begin at 6:00 p.m. and there will be time with the administration and one hour in each classroom with the teacher.