

August 24, 2011

Dear Parents,

## Who is this person you've left your child with?



Let me take a minute to introduce myself. I grew up in Silver Lake, KS and graduated from Washburn University in 1984. I began teaching 4th grade in Overbrook and taught 2.5 years in that grade. Having taught preschool throughout my college years, I asked for the Kindergarten assignment when it became open. This year is my 25th year to teach Kindergarten!!

While teaching in Overbrook, I've completed my Master of Education Degree in Curriculum with an emphasis in Language Arts at Washburn University. I also have an additional certification as a Reading Specialist.

During the summer, I teach at Creative Play Preschool Day Camp in Gage Park for Parks and Rec. of Topeka. And I also volunteered at the new Kansas Children's Discovery Center. I guess you could say, I like to keep busy!!!

I have one sibling, Linda Cunningham, who just happens to be the P.E. teacher in our school.

Ten years ago, I got married to a great guy named Ron. He is employed with Parks and Rec. of Topeka and currently oversees the maintenance of the community centers, shelter houses and numerous other special projects.

I have 3 adult step children and 9 grandchildren. We also have a 9yr. old Sheltie named Shelby.

Well that's enough about me and my family; let's see what you really need to know about Kindergarten!

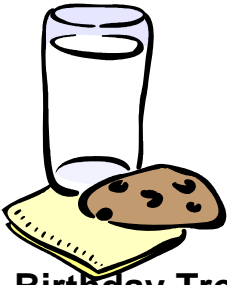
## How Show-N-Tell Works

Your child should bring **something red** on their assigned day next week. The item will be kept hidden in their bag and they will give the class three clues. This might be the color, the use, where it is kept, is it hard, heavy, edible, soft, smooth. . . Show-n-Tell items will be displayed until Friday. I do want to stress the importance of participating in Show-N-Tell. There are many objectives learned through this activity. Included in this packet is a show-n-tell schedule, please try to stick to your child's day but if they forget they are welcome and encouraged to bring it later in the week.



## School Supplies

Hopefully, you had no trouble finding the items listed. Please be sure to write names on crayons, pencils, glue sticks and PE shoes. It's also helpful to have names on jackets and coats.



## Snack Calendar

Each month you will get a calendar with the children's names. Your child is to bring snack for 18 children on their assigned day. Although cookies are always a popular item, please consider fruit (I don't mind cutting apples, bananas etc...), dry cereals, muffins, fruit roll-ups, crackers, cheese, animal crackers, trail mix from various items you have in the cupboard, popcorn, etc. . . You may also send prepackaged goodies in advance if you think you'll forget when your day comes around.

## Birthday Treats

We have snack at 2:45, so that is a great time to celebrate birthdays. I'll try to coordinate snack calendars with birthdays so both are taken care of at the same time. Parents are welcome to come join in the celebration!

### **NOTE:**

**Please send party invitations through the mail** unless your child is inviting **all** the children in the class.



## Communications

Look for a newsletter from me each Friday. If you ever have any questions or concerns **please** give me a call. My home number is 357-1784 (Topeka), or I am usually at school until 4:30. Our school phone system has a voice mail system so you are able to leave me a voice mail, if I am unable to get to the phone. Please note however, if your message pertains to changes in after school plans, please relay that message to Mrs. Lang, as I may not get a chance to check voice mail until after the children have left for the day.

I can also be reached via e-mail, at school: [rcathey@usd434.us](mailto:rcathey@usd434.us)

Communication between parents and the school is vital for the success of your child!

Stop in and visit whenever you'd like, our door is always open.  
(Please sign in at the office when you enter the building.)

I am looking forward to a GREAT YEAR!

Mrs. Rhonda Cathey

P.S. I encourage you to read through the student handbook because it covers many topics of importance that I didn't address in this letter.



All the information contained in this booklet as well as weekly newsletters can be found on my classroom website: [www.usd434.org](http://www.usd434.org)  
Just follow the links to OAC classrooms.