Dear Summergarden Families,

Summer is here and we are so looking forward to meeting all the beautiful eager faces ready for camp. It is such a magical period in the life of a child and we are honored to be a part of that special time. We will enjoy lots of outdoor play, water activities, crafts, songs, stories and games, along with some great summer snacks.

For the first day of camp you will need to bring the items listed on the Camp Supply Checklist. Please keep in mind that children should wear sturdy play clothes’ free of media/commercial motifs. We ask that campers bring only what is listed on the checklist and no additional items (no jewelry, toys, sunglasses, cell phones, watches or purses) . We have included further information on clothing and supplies in this packet.

We have enclosed a campus map to help you find us. Please use the second entrance off of South View road. There will be signs marked “Summergarden”. If you are dropping your child off for morning Extended Care, please follow the “Extended Care” signs which will direct you to the Lower Grades Playground. Pick up from Summergarden and Extended Care will be in the same area as drop off.

Please feel free to contact us at summercamp@austinwaldorf.org if you have any questions. I may be reached by phone 512-217-6440 or e-mail gabe-bridget@austin.rr.com .We are delighted to begin another summer and promise to provide your child with a safe, wholesome, magical camp experience.

Sincerely,

Bridget Lewin

*Then followed that beautiful season...*

 *Summer....*

*Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape*

*Lay as if new created in all the freshness*

*of childhood.*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

**CAMP SUPPLY CHECKLIST:**

 **What to bring to camp the first day:**

*(Please be sure to label EVERYTHING with your child’s name)*

\_\_\_\_Two sets of clothing including shoes and underwear

 \_\_\_\_Swim suit

\_\_\_\_Towel for swimming clearly marked with Name!!!

\_\_\_\_Wide brim hat

\_\_\_\_Two large bath-towels, bath sheets or blankets for our 2’ x 4’ nap mats

\_\_\_\_Small pillow

\_\_\_\_Sunscreen, SPF 45 or higher, please apply before leaving

\_\_\_\_Bug repellent (there are several effective repellents without DEET available) please apply before leaving

\_\_\_\_Swimming Permission Slip

**What to bring to camp everyday:**

\_\_\_\_Lunch (including two cloth napkins and utensils all packed in a small cooler)

*Lunches should be wholesome and nutritious. Please no refined or artificial sweeteners, artificial colors, chocolate or caffeine. The cooler should not be decorated with any media/commercial characters.*

\_\_\_\_Water bottle

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Before care starts at 7:30 on the Lower Grades Playground

9:00 -10:00 Outside free play on the playground

10:00-10:20 Circle time

10:30-11:00 snack and clean up

11:00-12:00 art, activity, games,

12:00-12:15 story time/ Puppet play / Half day pick up

12:15-12:45 Lunch

1:00-2:30 Nap/ quiet rest

2:30-3:30 outside water play

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

We will be ready to receive children as early as 8:50. If you arrive before this time, please drop your child off on the lower grades playground. Half-day pick up time is 12:15 at the cubbies. Full day pick up time is between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. on the Kindergarten playground. Please let us know ahead of time, with a phone call or note, if you need to pick up your child on a particular day earlier than usual. At 3:30 one of the Summergarden teachers walks the children and any belongings that need to go home up to the Lower Grades Playground for Aftercare.

*If your child is to be picked up at dismissal time by a person other than a parent or guardian, please send a signed note, which includes the name of the person picking up your child and their relation to the child.*

**BEFORE AND AFTER CARE**

We are providing a before and after care program with games and indoor/outdoor activities. Snack is provided for those in the aftercare program.

Before care: 7:30-9:00am After care: 3:30-6:00pm
If you need to contact aftercare staff please call 512-767-5707.

**TELEPHONES**

The Summergarden phone number is 512-288-5120. We will be turning the phone down during camp but will check the messages often. You may always contact Alex Abbott, Camp Coordinator, at 512-439-0139 or Bridget Lewin, Summergarden Lead, at 512-217-6440

**BUGS, BITES, & SUN**

**Mosquitoes**- The mosquitoes here seem to be most active in the morning. If your child is bothered by them, please apply a repellent before camp each day.

**Sun**- We ask that parents apply a liberal amount of sunscreen (sun protection factor 45 or higher) to your child before the camp day begins. Also be sure that your camper is dressed for sun protection- hat with brim.

**WATER ACTIVITES**

M-F there will be water play in the afternoon. Our playground has a small wading pool, which will be supervised at all times. Each Friday we walk to a neighborhood pool where there is a life guard on duty, if your child does not know how to swim or is still a very tentative swimmer, please send a coast guard approved lifejacket. Enclosed you will find a swimming permission slip that needs to be filled out and turned in on your child’s first day of camp. Please provide water shoes for the water times on the playground! Please make sure your child can get his watershoes on and off easily.

**BATHROOM HABITS**

Every child enrolled is expected to be self-sufficient in toilet use. Boys are encouraged to raise the toilet seat.

**NAP**

While no one can be “required” to sleep, we do create an environment that is conducive to sleep. The curtains are drawn and a nap candle is lit. The children will have their “bedroom” (a nap mat with their bedding and a cloth draped trestle on either side to discourage visiting with neighbors), where they lie quietly while listening to 10 - 20 minutes of story and by then many of them are asleep. For those who are not, foot or back rubs will often help settle them. Many children who do not normally nap will find themselves falling asleep because of all the outdoor play and the calm nap environment.

**RAINY DAYS**

On rainy days we will play inside but we do love to go puddle jumping and for walks in the rain (if it is not thundering). Rain boots and a rain jacket that come to camp on rainy days would be great. If it is raining at the end of the day, pick up will be at the classrooms. On rainy days Beforecare and Aftercare will be in the gym or in the 2nd grade classroom.

**CHANGES IN SCHEDULE**

We will have a basket with paper and pens hanging in the Cubby Porch for any messages to the staff. It’s temptingly easy to tell us things when you see us but because our attention is on the children, it’s also easy for us to forget. The note from you really helps.

**CLOTHING/SHOES**

*(The following is a modified excerpt from the AWS Kindergarten Handbook)*

The clothes your child wears to camp need to be sturdy, practical, play clothes. There is a tendency for small children’s clothing to be strongly influenced by fashion and the media. It’s our hope that the children can come to school free of any imposed images through their clothing. Natural fiber clothing is recommended as it allows for better air flow. Make-up, face paint, rub-on tattoos, nail polish, and perfume are also not appropriate for the camp.

All the children need sturdy play shoes. Canvas shoes or tennis shoes are ideal and if sandals are worn we ask that they have closed toes and ankle straps. On rainy days, rain boots are recommended. Though cowboy boots may be somewhat indigenous to this area, they do not allow free movement for play, i.e. to climb trees, etc. The same goes for dress leather or plastic slip on shoes, aqua socks, and clogs. The children take their shoes off at the door and wear socks inside. We ask that the children wear socks every day. Please send water shoes that your child can put on and take off easily.

If a situation arises where an article of clothing your child wishes to wear is not included on either the acceptable or unacceptable lists, please confer with the teacher first. The list of items not acceptable for wear in the Kindergarten includes:

- flip-flops

- t-shirts with prominent advertising (small manufacturer’s labels are acceptable), writing, pictures of musical groups or cartoon-like characters - sports jerseys

- revealing clothing - Lycra, dancewear, bare midriffs

- cut-off or torn clothing of any kind

- electro-magnetic wiring (e.g. lights and/or sounds) or mechanical devices on any clothing, including shoes.

**SUMMERGARDEN SWIMMING PERMISSION SLIP FOR FRIDAY’S SWIM AT THE ‘BIG POOL’**

1. My child\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/may not\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go (Child’s name, first and last) (Please check one)

Swimming.

If your are granting permission for your child to go swimming then please answer:

2. My child may\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ may not\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go swimming without a life vest.

 (Please check one)

If you checked that your child may not go swimming with out a life vest then please make sure to send your child with a coast guard certified life vest. NO WATERWINGS.

Further instructions:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian signature)