

# Prekindergarten News

Rochester City  
School District



*Message from the Executive  
Director, Dr. Robin Hooper*

We have devoted this issue of our newsletter to social emotional development for prekindergarten students. The NYS Foundation for the Prekindergarten Common Core Standards address social emotional skill development and these skills are taught in our prekindergarten classrooms. Students are taught to identify emotions through photographs and discussion. They are taught problem-solving skills throughout the day when teachers and classroom staff use the High Scope Preschool Intervention strategies. Students are guided through HighScope's conflict resolution process when they are upset. Teachers model sentences for children describing feelings. All of these efforts are focused on supporting children in developing a healthy sense of self-esteem and in relationships with others. Parents can support their children's social emotional development by discussing feelings with their children and appropriate behavior expectations including how to solve conflicts and be a good friend.

Please plan to attend our Transition to Kindergarten Family Event on May 2nd from 10 AM—2:00 PM. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your child to participate in fun learning activities while interacting with other preschoolers. You and your child will leave the event with a bag of learning tools to use at home!



## Social Emotional Learning In Preschool

“Many of the abilities involved in learning reading, mathematics and other subjects are elements of social and emotional development, namely listening, task persistence, and flexible problem solving. The best way to help young children grow into curious, confident, and able learners is to provide them with warm, emotionally secure, and positive social experiences.”

-R. Shore



### Our Share Care Bears

Chrisann Collins, #17 School

Last year I had 3 stuffed animals placed in the book corner in my classroom. I noticed the children loved to “read” to the stuffed animals and eventually some children used them to feel better when they were sad or not feeling well and even when working during Small Group Time. Observing this reminded me of how I carried a stuffed animal everywhere I went as a child and the comfort it brought to me. My memories sparked an idea, and PreK Share Care Bears were started. In his opening address to Rochester City School District employees Dr. Vargas encouraged us to “love the children like our own.” I decided to share my personal bears. Each of these bears has a unique story and my students love them. The children are allowed to take a bear off the shelf ANY-TIME they need to. The most popular time to reach for a Share Care Bear is during rest. The children have found comfort as they hug their selected bear and fall asleep.



## Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Children may express a variety of feelings after being informed that a transition to kindergarten will happen soon. Some children will voice their worries clearly, but most will express their uncertainty indirectly, through changes in behavior. In order to support your child, here are a few suggestions to try:

- ◆ Discuss the upcoming changes when your child is rested and not distracted by other activities.
- ◆ Listen carefully to whatever questions or comments the child makes upon hearing about the transition.
- ◆ Acknowledge your child's feelings by using simple comments like, "You sound upset about the change. It can be scary to do new things sometimes." Tell a story about a time when you were afraid of trying something new and what you did that helped.
- ◆ Express confidence in your child's ability to make the transition. You can use phrases like, "You can put on your own shoes now, you can write the first letter of your name, you have learned how to make new friends" as just a few examples of the kinds of things you know they have had success with.
- ◆ Ask your child's teacher when they are planning to make a visit to a kindergarten class and accompany them if possible.
- ◆ Attend the **Transition to Kindergarten** event on **May 2** at School #33 to gain more information and receive fun materials that your child can use throughout the summer. (See back page for more information).



## Rochester City School District

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Every child is a work of art.  
Create a masterpiece.

### Our Vision

Prekindergarten Programs empower young children to successfully contribute to their families, school, community and environment.

### Our Mission

Prekindergarten Programs provide opportunities for young children to participate in challenging, stimulating programs, designed to support their language, cognitive, and social development while being sensitive to their strengths and needs.

Visit our website at  
[www.rcsdk12.org/PreK](http://www.rcsdk12.org/PreK)

## Transition to Kindergarten Family Event



**Saturday, May 2, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.**  
**# 33 School and Ryan Center**  
**500 Webster Avenue**

### UPK Children and their Families are Invited to this Special Event

- Hands-on learning activities
- Mini-workshops for parents
- Free learning materials to take home (as seen in picture)
- Registration for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten

*Correction: December Newsletter photo of 2,000 books should have been credited to School #52.*

