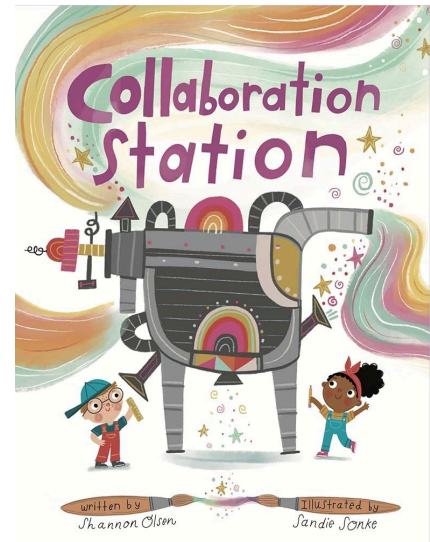


Dear Families:

Our kick off book for the year is called *Collaboration Station*. It is all about working together as a team in the classroom. It helps us to set up our students in the best mindset for collaborative learning- in partners, small groups, and as one big class (and school) family. Each year we choose a story that will represent our values as a school community. This year, *Collaboration Station* does just that and we can't wait to get started! Here is what you need to know:



What will arrival look like?

Students who ride the bus will begin to enter the school at 8:55 a.m.

You will receive your bus pick up and drop off time from the transportation department. Those students who are “walkers” can be dropped off at 8:57 a.m. in the front circle. Third and fourth grade students can be dropped off at the west entrance (by the art and music rooms.) Drop off is for the first three spots only. Second grade students can be dropped off in the main circle. *Parents will not be permitted to exit their car.* If you would like to spend time getting your child ready or assist them with their belongings, please park and walk your child in. For safety reasons, parking will not be permitted in the front circle. The safest way to drop off is to drop and go. We will have staff there to assist you.

What will dismissal look like?

Second grade walkers will dismiss at 3:12 p.m. to allow for social distancing and safe dismissal at our front doors. Third and fourth graders will be dismissed beginning at 3:20 p.m. Third graders will be dismissed from the main lobby doors and fourth graders will be dismissed at the west door by the music rooms. There will be no dismissal changes permitted unless it is for early dismissal. This includes bus changes.

What do I do if I have a child at Sparke and Stokes?

In order to allow for safe dismissal, parents will not be permitted to walk through the bus line. Please let us know if you would like your Stokes students “delivered” to Sparke. They will be escorted by an adult. This is called the sibling line. Please contact me immediately at: aackerman@islandtrees.org to make this request. This has to be daily and cannot be changed each day in order to ensure your child's safety and limit errors. If you are not interested in this procedure, we suggest that you pick up your child at Sparke first.

What supplies should I send my child in with?

We know that your child will have a lot to carry on the first day! Please feel free to send in the supplies little by little as they come to school. Our supply lists are posted on our website: www.islandtrees.org. A full packet of information will come home with your child on the first day of school regarding everything else you “need to know.” *Incoming second and third grade students will have a separate drop off so they can acclimate to the building. Stay tuned for more information!*

Victoria Rosen was one of our school professionals that used to work in our building. She wrote this poem in 20-21 and the words ring true as all are welcome in our neighborhood. See you soon!

A school is like a neighborhood.
The hallways are the streets
The classrooms are the houses
and inside,
large families with parents and children.
Lives being lived.
Lessons being learned.
Hearts and minds growing.
Laughter, sometimes tears.
Memories made.
Smiles shared.
Confidences built.
Friendships found.
Hands held.
Hugs given.
All surrounded by pictures drawn with love and crayons.
Ideas expressed with words & pencils
glued together with hopes and dreams.
Carefully protected,
nurtured,
watched over
by the ones who only get to stay awhile,
but who will love them forever.

