A decorative border of red ladybugs with black spots and antennae surrounds the text. The ladybugs are arranged in a single row at the top, a single row at the bottom, and vertical columns on the left and right sides.

NEWS FROM ROOM 20
September 28, 2013

Dear Parents,

Just a note to update you on our Parent Helper Schedule and to thank you once again for your contributions to our classroom! Attached you will find the schedule as it stands right now. We have had a wonderful showing of support. The parents have been divided into an A and B Groups since so many of you wanted to work every other week. Please note the weeks that you are working for each group. Group A will be in the classroom on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month and Group B will be in the classroom on the 1st and the 3rd weeks of the month and sometimes the 5th week if that is how the month falls out. The **Official 1st Weeks** are noted on the schedule as well. The times we could use some additional help are notated with a _____?_____, and it would be great if they could be filled, **especially in Home Reading**, as it is difficult to get through the whole class if you are the only parent doing Home Reading. It would also be very helpful for the Reading/Writing workshop as I conduct my reading groups at this time and it is important to me to give my readers uninterrupted attention! I have decided to begin the parent help for **Home Reading (8:00-8:55) the week of October 7th** and the parent help for the **Reading/Writing Workshop (9:30-10:55) the following week, on October 14th**. There are several reasons for this. I am still assessing every child on their individual level of reading according to the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment). I will use that to inform my reading group combinations. Also, we are still learning and practicing the routines in the Daily 5, and I want to be very intentional about their ability to do this independently before we



launch into it. Hopefully this will also give you a chance to organize your schedules and break you in gently 😊. The Home Reading program is such an integral part of our reading program and we really do need 2 parents in the mornings so that every child has an opportunity to read before morning recess. As I said, I will be starting the **Home Reading program (8:00-8:55) on Monday, October 7th**. Parents helping at this time will read with each student on an individual basis and that is why I need at least 2 parents every day. Otherwise it is difficult for one parent to get through the entire class. It is also very important to try to find someone to cover your spot if you can't come in so kids don't go without reading that day. Emergencies do happen and if someone gets sick at the last minute and you can't come in, don't worry. It's just that I don't have time to make the calls to cover your shift for you. As I said, I am gearing the **Reading Workshop** for kids to be working *independently* and it will be very important to have a very low noise level at this time that frees me up to have the *focused* reading time with my reading groups and that is so important for their reading success. I will be letting you know what I need from you as you come into the classroom, but mostly it will be to *quietly* manage kids to be on task and help correct student work. It is so much fun and so helpful to have parents in the room helping to guide students in managing the materials and concepts. I am really looking forward to you all being in the classroom! Parents who have participated in the past have commented as to how gratifying it is to work one on one with the kids and observe their growth and development. Your kids are wonderful and it is so much fun to see the tremendous growth that they are already making. I think you will enjoy being in the classroom and experiencing that first hand. Thanks so much again for your support!

We will have our first Art Lit on Friday, October 18th from 9:25-10:55. Art Lit will be happening in our classroom about 5





times this year. It will usually be on Fridays at this time. So far **Laurie Thwaites, Joy Dougherty, Joanna Panter, and Laura Caba** have volunteered to help out with this wonderful PTSA program...thank you! We still need one parent who is willing to teach the lesson and organize the volunteers, so if you would be interested in doing this, please let me know ASAP. If you would like more information, our Art Lit organizer is Ellen Urbani Gass and she can be reached at ellen@ellenurbani.com.

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend Curriculum Night. Your attendance and interest was much appreciated! I hope it gave you an over view of my educational philosophy and how it will be implemented with our special 'family of learners'. For those who were not able to attend, I did send a Curriculum Night packet home with your child, but please feel free to call me any time to share any questions or concerns you may have.

A big "thank you" to Kipi Doran for volunteering to be our 'Room Parent'. If you would like to offer your services in any way, I'm sure she would be happy for the extra help as she will be organizing volunteers to help with all of our classroom , celebrations and other special events.

Another heart felt "thank you" to all the Critter 'cutter outers' and for returning them so promptly! As I said before, the kids love these critters and the critters really help to reinforce those letter sounds. It's fun to make a Critter Book or just hang them up on the wall and make up new words that have that critter's letter in them. I hope you are enjoying talking to your child about them and discovering new words together!

We will be to celebrating our first **Super Kid** the week of **October 21st**. I am sending home a Super Kid flyer to fill out



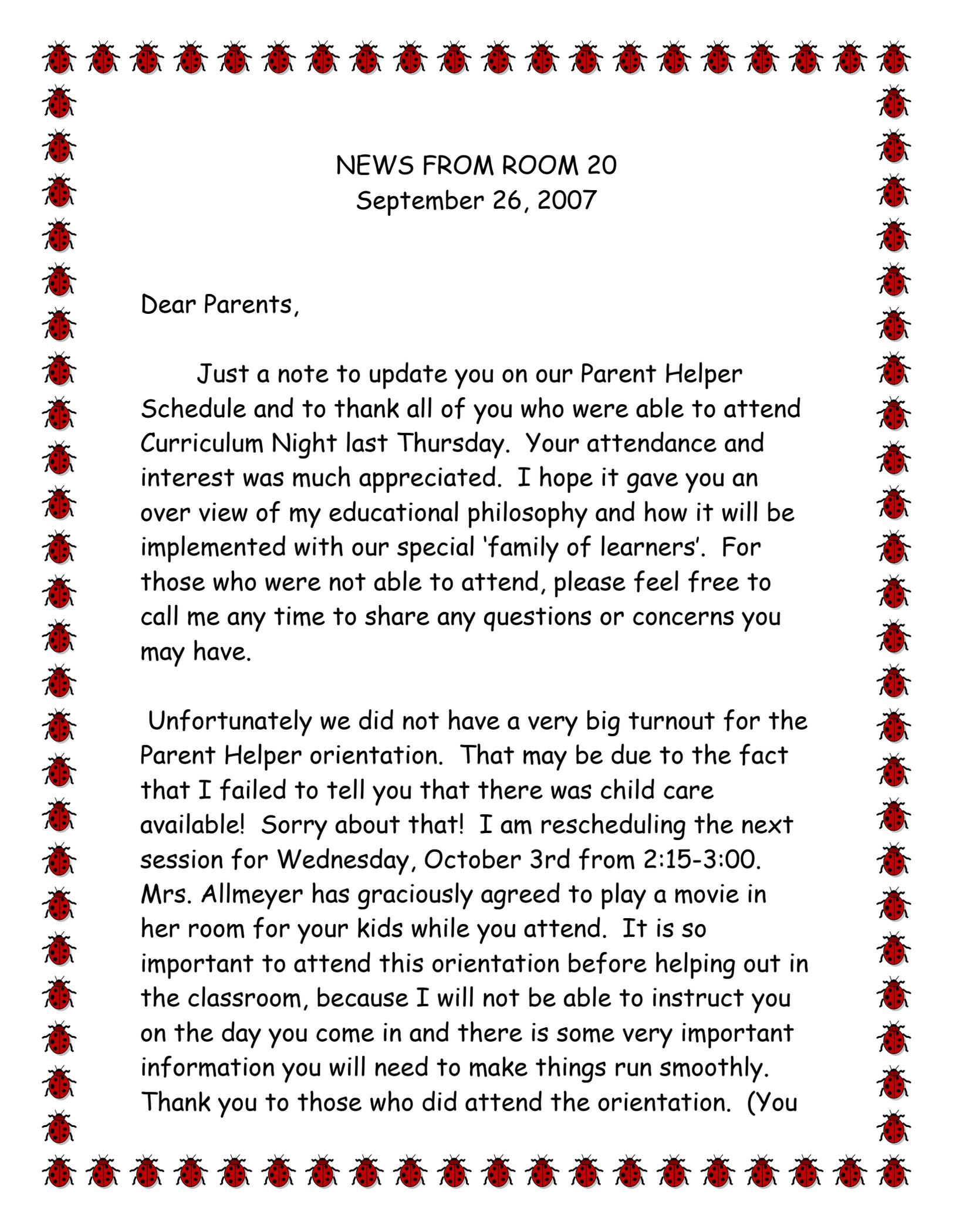


and the flyer explains what you can do to prepare. You child will share information and pictures of themselves and their family so that we can get to know each other a little better and practice speaking in front of the group. A schedule is attached to the flyer that tells you when your child will be sharing their Super Kid. **Please take a moment to mark the date that your child is presenting their Super Kid on your calendars and thank you in advance for remembering to send in the materials *only* on the week that it is your child's turn to be Super Kid.** We will take care to handle the pictures carefully and return them promptly when we are done!

I will enjoy meeting with all of you for conferences, and discussing with you what the most important goals (academic and social) are for your child this year. I have already seen such tremendous growth in all of them! That's all for now, and have a great weekend!

Susan McNeil



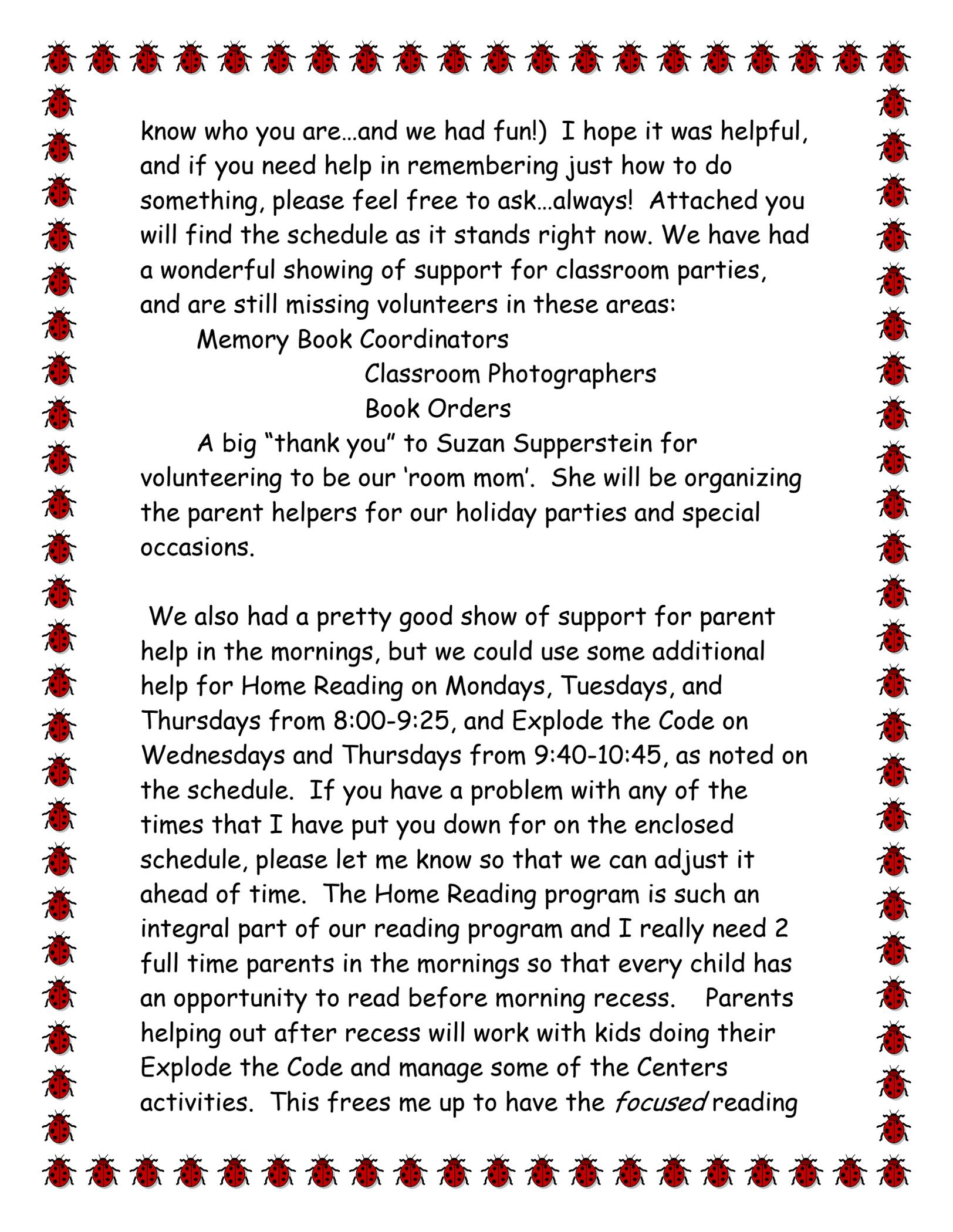


NEWS FROM ROOM 20
September 26, 2007

Dear Parents,

Just a note to update you on our Parent Helper Schedule and to thank all of you who were able to attend Curriculum Night last Thursday. Your attendance and interest was much appreciated. I hope it gave you an over view of my educational philosophy and how it will be implemented with our special 'family of learners'. For those who were not able to attend, please feel free to call me any time to share any questions or concerns you may have.

Unfortunately we did not have a very big turnout for the Parent Helper orientation. That may be due to the fact that I failed to tell you that there was child care available! Sorry about that! I am rescheduling the next session for Wednesday, October 3rd from 2:15-3:00. Mrs. Allmeyer has graciously agreed to play a movie in her room for your kids while you attend. It is so important to attend this orientation before helping out in the classroom, because I will not be able to instruct you on the day you come in and there is some very important information you will need to make things run smoothly. Thank you to those who did attend the orientation. (You



know who you are...and we had fun!) I hope it was helpful, and if you need help in remembering just how to do something, please feel free to ask...always! Attached you will find the schedule as it stands right now. We have had a wonderful showing of support for classroom parties, and are still missing volunteers in these areas:

Memory Book Coordinators

Classroom Photographers

Book Orders

A big "thank you" to Suzan Supperstein for volunteering to be our 'room mom'. She will be organizing the parent helpers for our holiday parties and special occasions.

We also had a pretty good show of support for parent help in the mornings, but we could use some additional help for Home Reading on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00-9:25, and Explode the Code on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:40-10:45, as noted on the schedule. If you have a problem with any of the times that I have put you down for on the enclosed schedule, please let me know so that we can adjust it ahead of time. The Home Reading program is such an integral part of our reading program and I really need 2 full time parents in the mornings so that every child has an opportunity to read before morning recess. Parents helping out after recess will work with kids doing their Explode the Code and manage some of the Centers activities. This frees me up to have the *focused* reading



time with my Guided Reading Groups that is so important for their reading success. Another important bit of information is that we will not be starting the Parent Helper Schedule until the week of October 15th. I'm reserving the week of October 8th for focusing on conferences, setting up the Home Reading Program, formulating the reading groups, and getting centers set up. We had a good showing of volunteers for the Art Lit Program. It is so much fun and so helpful to have parents in the room helping to guide students in managing the wonderful materials and concepts that are a part of this program!

I am really looking forward to you all being in the classroom. Parents who have participated in the past have commented as to how gratifying it is to work one on one with the kids and observe their growth and development. Your kids are wonderful and it is so much fun to see the tremendous growth that they are already making. I think you will enjoy being in the classroom and experiencing that first hand.

Another heart felt "thank you" to all the Critter 'cutter outers' and for returning them so promptly! As I said before, the kids love these critters and the critters really help to reinforce those letter sounds. It's fun to make a Critter Book or just hang them up on the wall and make up new words that have that critter's letter in them. I hope you are enjoying talking to your child about





them and discovering new words together! Please make sure to reinforce any corrections that I have made on the "ice cream" paper by having your child make the necessary corrections. The more they master forming their letters with proper placement on the line at this time in the year, the more it will really free them up to do some terrific writing later on.

We're jumping into Bridges Math with both feet! We sure have been learning a lot about insects and pretty soon our ladybug problems will be going up on the wall. Come in and take a look and see how many ladybug problems you can figure out.

We will be celebrating our 1st Super Kid next week. I am sending home a little worksheet for you to fill out with your child as well as a list of dates that tell what week your child will be Super Kid. I will also have a star shaped pocket chart which holds photographs that are special to your child. Please make sure to send the photos in a special envelope and/or plastic zip lock bag. Thank you for remembering to send in the materials only on the week that it is your child's turn to be Super Kid. We will take care to handle the pictures carefully and return them promptly when we are done.

That's all for now and I will look forward to seeing you all next week during conferences!





Susan McNeil

