



September 15, 2022

Dear Families,

When school starts in September, the first song of All-School Sing goes:

*Make new friends  
But keep the old  
One is silver  
And the other gold*

This year, we are making lots of new friends: thirty-four percent of our students are in their first year at CPE1. Because families faced so many changes over the past few years, we also have fewer 'old' friends. Only one-third of our students attended CPE1 the last time we had Sing, in March 2020.

At Monday morning's Sing, the majority of children were singing in the auditorium for the first time. Still, most already knew the words and melodies, because Mingie has been teaching the songs in music class, planning for when we could come back together. It's the same for families. To share come together as a community, we have to be together and share how we work together.

On Thursday at 6:00, we have our first parent association meeting of the year. You already belong to the parent association. This is *your* meeting.

We will have free childcare and pizza for kids who attend CPE1. If you are dropping off a child in childcare, please arrive between 5:45 and 5:55 this evening. Adults have to bring photo identification and proof of vaccination.

Tonight's meeting will discuss how the PA will do its work this year. More importantly, with fewer longtime families who really remember CPE1 traditions and practices, we need newer families to start learning about the school culture. We make new friends. We will hear from the old. Please come this evening to carry our school culture into the years ahead.

## Preparing for All-School Sing

For the first week of All-School Sing, Mingie, our music teacher, shared our CPE1 songbook with families. [You can find that songbook online by clicking here](#), or using this QR code.



“Love Grows” is probably the first song to learn yourself and sing with your child. This is the only song we sing weekly. We sing it at the end of each Sing, and children hum the tune as they exit.

If you come to Sing, you’ll sing “Love Grows” too. Adult schedules can be packed, but I hope everyone can find at least a couple of Mondays this year to sing in community.

## Better Fridays

Last Friday, some kids in our cafeteria asked if they could have seconds on nuggets. Read closely. I didn’t say they wanted more *chicken* nuggets.

Last winter, our city began a menu of vegan Fridays, which mostly meant chickpea salads four Fridays a month. Among kids, this was, well, not popular.

This year, Fridays will feature food kids love. (Kids could choose meat or veggie burgers earlier this week, but they couldn’t tell just by looking which was which.) Our kitchen staff is proud. They love when our kids love the food, and for the first time in months, the kitchen is excited for Fridays. The real test is kids finishing everything on their plates. So far, so much better.

I just enjoyed my sixth first day of school at CPE1. I think it was the smoothest, and probably happiest. Our staff works so much in summer to make classrooms ready for children to grow. That so many children are off to such productive starts speaks to all of that work.

Gabriel