Dearest Parents,

We are so excited to begin children's classes again this year, starting this Tuesday, September 1 from 4-5:30 p.m. in our home in Del Sur (ADDRESS).  I have attached the list of virtues that we will definitely be covering this year.  We will also add in some other virtues as well, such as friendliness, peacefulness, responsibility, etc. to carry us through to the end of June!  The lessons will begin with prayer, and we will have 2 prayer sharers each class share a prayer (one learned at home, class, or just straight from the heart with their own words!) so if there is a special prayer that is from your tradition that you would like to teach your children, they are welcome to share it when it is their turn. Each lesson will also include songs, a story, a quote, cooperative games, and arts and crafts related to the virtue being learned.

While the children's class material uses a Bahai curriculum that includes quotes and prayers from the Bahai Writings, as well as stories of Abdu'l-Baha to demonstrate the virtue, it is also done in a way that is very inclusive of people of all religious backgrounds.  The children attending the class are from a variety of faith backgrounds (Buddhist, Christian, Bahai, Hindu, and others) and all are included, respected and welcome. The purpose of these classes is to nurture spirituality in these precious children and help them develop strong moral character- something that is a goal of people of all faith backgrounds.  We welcome you to sit in on any of the classes whenever your schedule permits, and would be happy to have your help in lesson planning, arts and crafts, leading cooperative games, etc. if you are so inclined!  It really does take a village!

As we have a wide age range (5-9 year olds), we will be having the younger children learn a shorter quotation and the older ones a longer quotation.  We will also have time for deeper discussion with the older children about the application of that particular virtue.  Each week, the children will be bringing home a folder.  Inside will have the lessons and quotes that are covered that month, along with any work that they have not finished in class (mainly arts and crafts) that need to be finished during the week and then returned in the folder the following week.  They will keep their finished work in an album that they will take home at the end of the school year in June.  This way they will have a beautiful collection of quotes and art from the year!  Please ensure that they bring their folder each week, that they have completed the art work if it was not done in class, and that they have practiced the quote related to the virtue.  I want to emphasize memorization more this year, as it will be a service to the children to be able to call to mind the beautiful words to guide their behavior whenever situations present themselves where they could use the inner reminding. <3

I have also attached forms which need to be brought on Tuesday for the start of class.  The field trip permission form does not need to be filled out unless a field trip is planned, but I will need the Bahai children's class registration form and the medical release form.  Only adults whose names appear on these forms will be able to pick up the children from class.  Thank you for your understanding.

We will begin at the Old Stoneyfield Park across from our house for the first 15 minutes of class (4-4:15) for snack and play.  This is an important time for the children to be able to create friendships and bond, so please arrive by 4.  At 4:15 we will walk the children across the street to our home for the beginning of the lesson.  If you are able to stay from 4-4:15 to help look after the children at the park, it is appreciated!  Also, I will have a snack sign up sheet for the months of September and October.  Please be sure to sign up for at least one week every couple of months.  We really appreciate your help with this.  Also, if there are any food allergies, please let me know right away so that we can be sure to have a healthy and safe snack available to your little ones!

This is going to be a wonderful year and we look so forward to seeing you all this Tuesday at 4!

With much love,

Julie Iraninejad

(PHONE)