Atwood Elementary School August 28, 1967

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Kindergarten is the first year of your child's school life and also many children's first experience away from home and his family. Atwood Elementary School is pleased to welcome your child to his first school experience.

So that the kindergarten teachers may give each child some individual attention at the beginning of the school year, we have an alternating plan of attendance for the first few days of school. On the first day of school, ten children attend each session; and each day following, five new children are added until all are in attendance. Attached you will find your child's teacher and the date and time he will attend.

In kindergarten your child learns to get along with other children and his teacher. He will learn to work and play in a group and to wait his turn in speaking and when many others want to use the same toy or tool. He will learn to follow simple and reasonable directions, to share common property, and to tell about his experiences before a group.

He will begin to appreciate music and be introduced to self-expression through singing, speaking, drawing, and painting. Kindergarten is simply not a play class because the child is always learning and developing as he engages in dramatic play, hammers on the wood bench, works with a piece of clay, or is playing with the doll house or trucks.

In the hammering or drawing, he is developing the use of arm and hand muscles which he will later use in handwriting. In building houses or stores, within the room, he needs to consider size, proportion, and number, which later may make arithmetic seem more sensible.

"Play" as adults term it is really "work" to the child. He pursues it as seriously as you approach your daily work. It is here that so much depends on you, your attitude toward kindergarten in general, and in the way you look at the many items your child will bring home.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE PARENTS:

- Label everything: apron, hat, coat, boots, mittens, etc.
- 2. Help him in learning to cross the street, walk on the right side of the road, and how to wait for the bus.
- 3. Teach him to tie his shoes, if possible at this time.
- 4. Talk with him about refusing rides with strangers.
- 5. Talk with him about authority and the necessity of obedience.

If the parent and child want to recognize his birthday by serving a cupcake or some other treat, you may contact your child's teacher for arrangements.

If at any time you wish to discuss your child and his school, please feel free to call on me.

Registration for other children attending Atwood Elementary will be held on September 6 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Yours truly.

James Hollingsworth

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Principal