



July 31, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Welcome to the beginning of an exciting adventure – the start of your child’s elementary school education. We at the **Albany Children’s Center** are pleased to be a part of the Transitional Kindergarten program for **Albany Unified School District** and look forward to getting to know you, your child and work together with you to best support your child’s development.

Albany Children’s Center is pleased to have you and your child here for “transitional kindergarten,” which is open to children turning 5 years old between September 1 and December 2. This program was designed to be a bridge between preschool and kindergarten that will give your child whose birthday falls late in the year an opportunity to learn important academic and social skills in a hands-on way that supports their development.

This is important because California’s kindergarten standards and curriculum have changed over the years, and many of the skills children were once taught in first grade are now expected in kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten is a wonderful option that will allow your child the gift of time to develop at their own pace and continue building the social, emotional and academic skills that will help them succeed in elementary school.

Using a unique, specialized curriculum based on the kindergarten standards and California preschool frameworks, transitional kindergarten teachers will help children develop social skills through activities that build confidence and communication. They will expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting and patterns. The social, emotional and academic skills children learn in transitional kindergarten will help them to succeed in kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom and confidently navigate the school day routine. Providing transitional kindergarten to our youngest kindergarteners will help kids get the best start possible, with curriculum that is designed just for them.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about transitional kindergarten I would be happy to talk with you more about our program. Please feel free to call me, **Susan Stevenson at Albany Children’s Center** for more information **559-6592** or email me at at sstevenson@ausdk12.org .

See you August 27,

Susan Stevenson