



Dear Families,

Welcome to a new and exciting school year!

This year, we are implementing a new character education and social-emotional learning (SEL) program that teaches children positive habits to lead happy and successful lives. This new program uses *Kimochis... Toys with Feelings Inside*®.

Kimochi means “feelings” in Japanese, and the Curriculum is based on research that tells us that a strong social-emotional learning foundation is essential to academic and life success. Research also shows that teaching social-emotional skills in school increases academic test scores by 11%!

In our school/classroom, we will be using the Kimochis® characters, feelings, and lessons from the *Kimochis® Feel Guide: Teacher’s Edition* to teach character education along with our regular academic curriculum. We refer to these important life skills as the “fourth R”—not just reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also relationships.

The lessons in the Kimochis® SEL Curriculum teach real-life skills, such as communication, self-management, decision-making, problem-solving, resilience, and responsibility. These are the skills that help us all become successful in life and in school. When children learn to communicate their feelings effectively, they build confidence, self-esteem, and strong relationships.

Once a week, you will receive a letter (School-to-Home Connection) that outlines what your child was taught and how you can reinforce and extend the learning at home.

Ask your children about what they learned in their Kimochis® lessons when they come home from school. Talk to them about their feelings and plan family time to practice communication skills and expressing emotions appropriately.

I am very EXCITED and HOPEFUL about building a strong school-to-home connection.

I also hope Kimochis® will be a great new addition to your family and bring fun and fantastic feelings into your home!

Celebrating your child’s success,