As the end of the school year quickly approaches, Seward Elementary will be wrapping up another great class of Pre-K families and students!  The children have been doing an excellent job of keeping me on my toes this year and I have seen a tremendous amount of growth. We are all very excited to see how they progress in kindergarten next year. However, if you’re still wondering what the program is all about and if your child qualifies, here is some general information.

**What is the Title I program?**

The Title I program is a government funded program that is made available through federal grants to improve the academic achievement of students in schools of high poverty. Seward Elementary qualifies as a high poverty school, which is determined through the free and reduced lunch enrollments.

**Does my child qualify for the Pre-K program?**

The Pre-K program is available to **ALL CHILDREN** who will be 4 by September 1. Eligibility for the program is NOT related to a family’s income, it is based on student need. We use a developmental screening to help determine kindergarten readiness skills: social and emotional growth, reading readiness, and motor skill development.

**What is the Pre-K program all about and why should my child attend?**

The Pre-K program offers a small group setting of 10 children per class to teach students the skills that will help prepare them for academic achievement later in their school experience. Using a variety of activities and materials the program focuses on fine motor skills, gross motor skills, self-help skills, social skills, transitioning, attending to tasks and being persistent when faced with challenges. Students will also be exposed to academic skills, but this is not the focus of our program. There are 2 classes for 2.5 hours a day, 5 days a week. The program provides consistency, structure and safety while learning through play and having fun!

**Family Involvement**

KPBSD and Title I place great importance on family involvement in the education process. Families play an important role in influencing a child’s confidence and motivation to become a successful learner. When a student sees that education is important to the adults in their life, it becomes important to them as well. The reward for becoming more involved in a child’s education is a more successful, safe and self-confident student. Although family involvement is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged in our program.  There are many opportunities for families to volunteer and participate in the Pre-K program both in the classroom and at home.

With all this information in mind, if you have or know a child who will be turning 4 by September 1, please stop by the elementary school or go on-line to the school website and fill out an application. Screenings will be held for next year’s program on Thursday, April 30 from 9:00am-2:45pm.  To schedule a time for your child, please complete an application and drop it by the elementary school.  If you have any questions, please call the elementary school at 224-3356.

Alexis Kaferstein

Title 1 Pre-K Teacher

Seward Elementary