Dear Families,

Our class will be spending a lot of time together this year and becoming a team that can work together in a productive, fun ay will be crucial. The “muscles” and skills required of a strong team member need to be developed and strengthened. To do this, we will participate in an active step-by-step approach (outlined below) that empowers students to take ownership of, and be responsible for, their own behavior while building the skills necessary to establish a sense of self-control, accountability, and team building in our classroom. The activities are theater-based and will also support our use of the arts throughout the year. Please feel free to arrange a time during the first semester to visit our classroom and see the strategies in action. You are welcome to jump in and participate!

**Actor’s Toolbox:** Students use their bodies to show that they agree to use and control the five “tools” in the Actor’s Toolbox: body, voice, imagination, concentration, and cooperation. We sign a contract each morning to remind us that we are in control of all of our tools!

**Cooperation Challenge:** This fast-paced activity challenges students to form various groups in a matter of seconds. Cooperation is key. Is it “stronger” to step in or out? You don’t know until the last second!

**Concentration Circle:** Students build their capacity to focus and concentrate in this game that has five levels of difficulty.

**One-Minute Challenges:** Students work in small groups to physically demonstrate a word or concept. They only have one minute. This requires the use of all the skills they have been building.

Thank you for your support!