

News from Strawberry Preschool: September 2009

Welcome to new and returning parents!

Our first event for the school year is PARENT OPEN HOUSE, which will be held Thursday, October 1st 7:00 to 8:30p.m. This event is for both new and veteran parents to have an opportunity to meet the staff and other parents, as well as to view the Preschool and the Pre-K. We will show a video taken of the children during the first few weeks of school. Many of our wonderful learning materials will also be on display. THIS EVENT IS FOR ADULTS ONLY. Our family Open Houses, with the whole family, will be in May.

The curriculum for the entire year will be found in your child's "Art Folder". Our weekly themes will be announced on a bulletin board outside the front of the school and the projects for the day will be noted on the cover sheet of our Sign-In Board. We welcome any books, records, or display items you might want to loan us to enrich our themes. We are in need of a parent to be our WILDCARE/TERWILLIGER ANIMAL parent. This would entail picking up and returning taxidermy animals available to schools by Wildcare in San Rafael, every two weeks. It might be an opportunity for you and your child to experience more of Marin's wildlife in the process. Please let us know if you are interested.

SCHOOL NOTES:

We will be publishing a roster of families in October for carpool & play date use. If you do not want your name, address, phone number or email included, please let us know.

***When phoning the school... You can bypass our voice message by pushing the # pound key...then leave your message. If you need to get a message to the Pre-School, in an emergency, call the Pre-K number. 381-3111 (The Pre-K phone is in operation from 8:30am to 1:00pm.)*

*GET ACOUANTED with other parents at our informal coffee time during the second week of school. These coffees will be held after drop off time from 9:00 to 10:00. **Tues. Thurs. parents** are invited to attend on **Thurs., Sept. 10th.** **Mon. Wed. Fri. parents** are invited to attend on **Fri., Sept. 11th** from 9:00 to 10:00. The coffees will be in the church Fireside Room. **Follow the signs.***

DAILY MUSIC: Each morning we sing together, listen to music, play rhythm instruments and generally have a variety of musical experiences. Music time lasts about 20 minutes and helps to develop a child's attention span as well as have fun. We begin with old favorites such as nursery rhymes, ABC's, Twinkle Little Star, Eensey Weensey Spider and so many more. Puppets are often used and dramatic acting out of songs is one of our favorite things to do.

*ART EXPERIENCES: We begin with basic skill building such as pasting, cutting, handling paints and brushes, finger-painting, creating with play dough and drawing with felt pens. The children are encouraged to participate but may choose not to. Many of our art experiences are group projects. The children are always busy, but you may not have any "evidence" every day in the way of projects. **We emphasize their processes rather than their products.***

EMERGENCIES: All the staff has had CPR and First Aid Training. We regularly practice safety drills with the children for evacuating the building and dropping and covering for earthquakes. We have food and water stored in case of a major emergency.

****PARKING can get tight, especially at 9am. PLEASE be aware of four spaces designated “CHURCH STAFF ONLY”, as they are NEVER to be used by preschool parents, even for just a minute. USE THE SIDE GATE FOR WALKING IN ONLY AND LEAVE THE SCHOOL FRONT DOOR FOR DRIVE UP ONLY. Never leave unattended children in your car to walk another child in. PLEASE DRIVE VERY SLOWLY THROUGH THE PARKING LOT because of congestion & the occasional child who breaks free of a parent’s hand and may run in front of your car.**

PLEASE BE SURE your child is wearing **SAFE SHOES** for climbing and running. Loose “jellies”, cowboy boots, rain boots, “crocks” and loose sandals can cause your child to trip while running or slip on the climbing equipment. **Tied or buckled, rubber-soled shoes are a must.** If your child insists, just put a safe pair of shoes in a bag with handles to hang on their hook. We will help them change for playing outside.

PLEASE LABEL all removable clothing and belongings and lunch boxes too.

We also ask that:

- **ALL JEWELRY** be left at home as it is a choking hazard when children play actively. It can also be a distraction to the task at hand and very often becomes lost or broken.
- **HANDBOOKS:** Please be sure you receive a copy of our **revised Strawberry Preschool Handbook**. Many of your questions can be answered there. We also explain many of our policies and routines. It is a handy reference item to **KEEP** during your years at Strawberry. **If you are a returning parent please be sure to get a NEW Handbook.**

ADJUSTMENT TO SCHOOL CAN BE DIFFICULT for both you and your child. Always feel free to call us with any concerns or questions you may have. We hope to form a close partnership with you in this first school experience.

LANGUAGE ARTS GROUPS: This year will be the Turtles, the Birds, the Butterflies and the Sea Otters. These groups will meet every day at 11:30 for snack and many varied learning activities.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF THIS YEAR:

Teri Moss, Director & Preschool Teacher (M-F)

Lisa Ricci Assistant Director & Preschool Teacher(MT-ThF)

Rita Bernardi, Preschool Teacher (MWF)

Lynn Bush, Pre-K Teacher (M-F)

Jaime Mazoni, Preschool Teacher (M-F) & Head of Afternoon Enrichment

Christine O’Connor, Preschool Teacher (MWF)

Karen Guasco, Preschool Teacher (MWF)

Kate MacLellan, Preschool Teacher(TTH)

Ellen Whalen Pre School Teacher (TH)

Kristin Gilberti, Preschool Teacher (TWTH)

Felicia Farrell-Martin Preschool Teacher (MTTHF)

Asma Eschen, Pre-K Head Teacher(M-F)

Elisabeth Stromberg-Baker Teacher and all around office administrator (W)

Tassy Harms, Financial Secretary (Call 383-2934 for \$ matters)

We all look forward to a happy, successful school year.

— Teri and Staff