

Strawberry Preschool Newsletter: September 2023

Celebrating 66 years in Mill Valley

Welcome to Strawberry Preschool for the 2023-24 school year! We are looking forward to supporting your children and your family. Let the fun begin!!

Parent Communication and Information:

Each class head teacher has a school email address. Please cc the director on important matters when emailing their teacher.

Sea Otters: Head Teacher Jackie pkseaotter@strawberrypreschool.org

Monkeys: Head Teacher LuAnn pkmonkey@strawberrypreschool.org

Coral Reef: Head Teacher April Coralreef.strawberry@gmail.com

Bumblebees: Head Teacher Michelle bumblebees@strawberrypreschool.org

Director: director@strawberrypreschool.org

*If you have general school questions, concerns, or want to check in on your child, contact Lisa by email or call the main school line at 415-388-4437.

Car line:

Thank you for your patience as everyone gets used to carline. Please remember to pull forward to buckle your child in. This helps the line move much faster.

Sign in and out:

Please remember to sign your child in and out using the QR code. Please let me know if you are having issues with your pin #.

Open House:

Open house will be held September 12th from 6:00-7:00. This is for parents only. This is a great time to meet the staff and see the school. Please come with any questions you may have.

Donations:

We are in need of old bath towels and newspaper! They are used for cleaning up large, messy art projects 😊

Fall Conferences:

Conferences are an opportunity to talk individually with your child's classroom Lead Teacher. Conferences last about 20 minutes and we have conferences in the Fall and the Spring. The Fall conference focuses on providing us with insight about your child to help us set individual goals for the year, as well as to give families an update about their child's school life. Each class will be scheduling conferences soon for the end of September or early October. _

What to bring to school and things to keep in mind:

1. Bring a nutritious lunch (**nut-free and items not processed with nuts**). The school will provide snacks. If your child needs special food due to allergies or sensitivities, please tell a teacher to help support your child's needs.
2. A small zip-lock bag with extra clothes to keep in their cubby. Please mark the bag with your child's name.
3. Children have toilet reminders several times a day as part of our "potty parties" at school. Teachers will help all children with their toileting needs. Children need to wear pants that are easy to pull down for toilet use. Let us know if your child is still using diapers or pull-ups and bring some to school for your child.
4. Please apply sunblock every morning, and bring a hat with your child's name on it to school.
5. Children need to wear comfortable running shoes (No flip-flops, crocks, or shoes that may be too big and slip off). Keep in mind we have sand and tanbark in the playground and they can get into sandals or shoes without a strong sole.
6. The clothes children wear to school should be meant to get messy, easy to pull up or down in the bathroom (leggings or sweatpants are best), and comfortable to use in the playground for climbing and running.
7. Let a teacher know if your child needs a special medication to be administered at school on a regular basis or in an emergency. There are forms needed for medication, so please contact us to get one.
8. **Label ALL of your child's belongings** (clothing items, lunch box, water bottles, food containers, backpack, nap bags, hats, etc.)
9. **Double check your list of approved people who are allowed to pick up your child from school, listed in the *Emergency Form*. Make sure to let us know if someone else is picking up your child on a particular day (you can let teachers know at the door during morning drop off or email the day before).** We check ID for anyone new picking up. Make sure the person picking-up or dropping-off knows how to use the digital attendance system and has the code needed to sign your child in and out of school (you create the pick-up code in Curacubby).
10. Toys from home should not come to school, as they get broken, lost, and create sharing conflicts in the classroom. If your child needs a transitional object to help him/her at school, please check with a teacher.
11. If your child is staying in aftercare, please bring a nap/rest-time kit like this one from Amazon or a labeled bag with a crib sheet and blanket:
https://www.amazon.com/Baby-Boom-Nap-Mat-Set/dp/B07CDZVX6K/ref=sr_1_13?crd=2P6LYIX09AMXX&keywords=child+sleeping+bag&qid=1688964532&srefix=child+sleeping+bag%2Caps%2C164&sr=8-13

Toilet Training: We are happy to partner with families to fully accomplish toilet training if needed. **Please check in with teachers regarding toilet training goals for your child, or if your child is wearing diapers. Please bring diapers to school and we will provide the wipes.** Teachers will monitor the bathrooms, help pull up garments, or wipe if needed. **Please avoid putting on complicated clothing on your child, sweatpants or clothing with elastic waistbands work best at school.**

Health Reminder:

*We ask that you keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well or you suspect COVID-19 exposure. **If your child looks to be under the weather when he or she wakes up, please give your child a day at home to rest and make sure he/she is well, as symptoms can worsen as the day goes on.** If children come to school sick, not only will they spread germs, but your child will not enjoy their day and recovery may take longer without proper rest.

*If your child suffers from allergies, please inform the teacher. **Even with allergies, children may not be at school with severely runny nose or cough, as it can bring discomfort to the child.** When allergies are acting up, and are not under control, children are just not well enough to participate in school activities.

*If a child starts to show illness symptoms at school, a teacher will isolate with the child away from the rest of the group and contact the family for pick up. **Parents must be able to be at the school right away or have someone on their emergency list who can come pick up a sick child within a short time frame.** We will clean and sanitize the areas where the child has been playing. **Children who are sent home with a suspected symptom must check with the director to make sure the illness is not contagious.**

***We now follow a 24-hour health policy.** **If your child is home sick, or was sent home due to illness, your child needs to be symptom-free and/or on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before he or she is able to return to school. Your child must also be fever free, without fever reducing medications for 24 hours.** This guideline helps ensure everyone is healthy at school and exposure is kept at a minimum. Expect more restrictions if there is exposure to COVID-19, as we will follow the Health Department guidelines. We are already getting alerts about covid exposures, so please help us keep everyone safe at school. Thank you for helping to keep our school community healthy!!

Lice cases are back in the area!! Students must be lice and nit free to attend our preschool. Unlike elementary schools who allow children to attend with nits, preschool students work and play in close contact, so they must be both nit and lice free. We will alert families if we have cases in the classroom.

School Closures:

Our goal is to keep everyone safe at school and to remain open to support our school community. We really appreciate you trusting us with your child and family's health. We take that responsibility very seriously. We will close our school when the children and teacher's safety is at risk.

***We have to close on dangerously high smoky days (around 150 AQI), as it is a health risk for our children and teachers.**

Please watch for the AQI in [AirNow.gov](https://www.airnow.gov): <https://www.airnow.gov>. **We plan to close when the AQI is around 150.** Families will receive an email in the morning, before school starts, when the air is expected to be high. We wait until the morning of to make the decision because air quality can change in just a few hours and sometimes it is much better in the mornings. **We are only closing when the air is**

unhealthy for everyone, but please note that 101 to 150 AQI is not healthy for sensitive groups, and that includes children and people with respiratory illnesses. Parents can choose to keep children home anytime they feel like it is best for their child, just let us know your child will not be at school. We have air purifiers for all our classrooms, which will be used daily to help with smoky days and germ exposure. We appreciate your support. We know it is hard to keep your child home if you are working.

Billing: For billing questions, please contact Rose Lofrano, our Chief Operating Officer. Her contact information is 415- 246-4941 and rosetsp1@yahoo.com.

The first invoice will be sent via Curacubby on September 5th. It will include your tuition bill and our annual Supply and Enrichment fee. **As a reminder, tuition is divided into 10 installments:** The first was your deposit previously paid, the remaining 9 payments will be due Sept 2023 through May 2024. **Payments are sent out the 5th of the month and are due on the 25th, a late fee will apply after that.** Please let Rose know if you have any questions or difficulties.

Morning and Aftercare bills are charged the following month after use. For example, September charges will be included in your October bill.

*With your Curacubby account, you can pay bills, look up payment or tax information in the “invoice tab”, update your contact information in the “profile tab”, keep track of your extended hours in the “attendance tab”, as well as turn in forms, look up the contract, or the school calendar in the “forms tab”.

Dates Coming Up:

* **Labor Day (No School):** Monday, September 4

* **Open house Tuesday, September 12, 6:00-7:00pm** Parents only

We are looking forward to a great year together!

Lisa Vaillancourt
Strawberry Preschool Director
415-388-4437
director@strawberrypreschool.org