



News from Strawberry Preschool



~October 2018~

Strawberry Families,

The school year is off to a great start! Our new children have settled in nicely and our returning children have quickly become comfortable with the rotation system. Please keep in mind that adjustments to school can take some time, and every once in a while, there will be ‘bumps in the road’. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, we are here for you and your child and want to make their Strawberry Preschool experience wonderful, exciting, and productive.

September Recap: The beginning of the school year was all about becoming acclimated to a new school, or a new routine. Our ultimate goal for the month of September was to get the children comfortable and excited about coming to school. We also talked a lot about what it means to be a good friend. We talk about it in terms of Warm Fuzzies (what we can do to our friends that is nice or kind) or Cold Pricklies (what we sometimes do to our friends that makes them sad or hurts their feelings). We will use ‘Warm Fuzzies’ and ‘Cold Pricklies’ throughout the course of the year in terms of how we are making our friends feel.

October Curriculum: *Oceans, Bays & Waterways:* we will be learning all about the many types of animals that call water home. Of course, October wouldn’t be complete without some Halloween fun. Our Halloween events will include art projects, songs, finger plays, and all things pumpkins (carving, observations, and baking the seeds).

Letter of The Week (MWF and 5 Day Children): Last week, we began our Letter of the Week study. Each week a new letter will be introduced. Our goal is for your children to be able to recognize and gain confidence in each letter of the alphabet by being able to write each letter, as well as learn the sound of each letter. Each child will get the opportunity to work on the letter/sound recognition in a variety of ways, throughout the course of the school year. Here are some of the ways we will reinforce the letter/sound recognition: 1) through our morning meeting, where we will introduce the letter, talk about how it looks, and sing a few silly songs, or read a story. 2) At group time, where they will decorate the letter with items that start with that letter, as well as a variety of other projects & activities. 3) In the writing center, where they will have the opportunity to practice writing the letter. Each week, as your child brings home their decorated letter, you can further their learning by hanging it in their room and talking to them about the sound that letter makes, what words start with that letter, etc. Children are naturally

enthusiastic learners, and if you show enthusiasm about what they are learning, or ask interesting questions that sparks conversation, then they will continue to learn and grow at home as well as at school.

Afternoon Enrichment: Don't forget to take a look at all of the fun Enrichment Activities we have planned for the month of October. Some of the fun activities we have planned include:

- Music Monday with Teacher Jen
- The very popular dance party and face painting with Felicia is available on Fridays.

A few Notes and Reminders

The Drive-up Line: This is a great way to drop off/pick up your child. There are many things the teachers have to keep in mind; paying attention to safety, personal articles, art work, messages from/to the parents, not to mention a personal greeting/goodbye for each child. Thank you for your patience with this, it will continue to get faster. **When we bring your child to your car, please make sure to pull away from the car line before getting out of the car to buckle your child in.** This allows us to continue loading the other cars in line in a timely manner. Finally, please remember to keep your child in their car seat while you are waiting for your turn. Allowing them to pop out of the sunroof, help you drive the car, or simply unbuckling them before it's time for them to get out can be dangerous. Thank you!

Some Reminders at Drop-Off and Pick-Up:

- Letting us know of any changes in your child's behavior is helpful; anything from a hard night sleep, to a traveling parent can be written down by the staff and will greatly help us throughout the course of your child's day.
- It's a state licensing law that the parent/guardian/caregiver dropping off or picking up a child be the one to sign them in or out. If you know that someone other than yourself will be picking up your child, please make sure that we know by either telling a teacher or calling/emailing the school. There is also a 'comments' section on the sign-in sheet where you can include the name of the person picking up your child. Also, if it's someone who is picking up for the very first time, we will ask to see some form of a picture ID before releasing your child to them.
- We understand that the 1 o'clock pick-up time is a great opportunity to watch your child while they are on the brown rug enjoying a variety of stories and goofy songs. You are welcome to wait before taking your child, but we ask that you please save any conversations until you get outside, as it can be distracting to the

children and the teacher leading the activities. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Group Parent: Group parents help with a wide variety of things. Helping your child's group teacher with specific projects throughout the course of the school year, planning fun activities outside of school (going to a pumpkin patch, meeting at a park), or planning fun parent only events are just a few examples of what a group parent does. If you are interested in becoming a group parent, please let me know. Thank you very much!

Is Your Child Sick? The beginning of the school year oftentimes brings on the first colds and flus of the season. Once a few children get sick, it can be very difficult to prevent it from spreading to other children as well as teachers. You can help by keeping your child home. Please remember that we have a 24-hour fever free policy before your child can return to school. Also, if your child is on antibiotics for something such as strep throat, they need to be symptom free and on the antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school. Finally, please remind your child to wash their hands each morning when they come to school, as it is our goal to get the children used to washing their hands when they come to school, after using the bathroom, and before eating snack and lunch. Thank you so much in helping us prevent the spread of all of those nasty germs.

Appropriate Clothing and Shoes: Being able to run, jump, climb, slide, swing and ride bikes is a huge part of being a child and something we think is very important in the overall development of your child. In order to truly be able to do all of these activities, they need to be wearing correct shoes and clothing. Please remember to not have your child wear Crocs, flip-flops, or boots to school, and although we love jewelry, most children do, we ask that you don't have your child come to school with jewelry on. As beautiful as it is, it can be dangerous, and can easily become lost or broken. Also, with rainy weather right around the corner, we ask that if your child wears rain boots to school, that you have them bring a change of shoes. Rain boots are fun for walking in the rain, and stomping in the puddles, but can be VERY slippery when on the play structure. Thank you for your understanding!

Please Label Everything: Please remember to label everything: clothes, lunch items, rest items, bags and backpacks, etc. Things oftentimes get lost, or put in the wrong place, and it's hard to find their correct home if the item(s) are not labeled. Thank you.

Parking Spaces: We are very lucky to have a lot of parking spaces to choose from. There are, however, several spaces that are reserved for the church. We ask that you please DO NOT use those parking spaces at any time during drop-off or pick-up, even if you will be only a few minutes. Thank you for your understanding.

From the Board of Trustees

Fundraising Opportunities: We would like to share with you some details about a few fundraising opportunities that are happening at Strawberry Preschool:

- **Amazon Smile:** With the holidays coming up, Amazon Smile is a great way to do your holiday shopping while helping Strawberry Preschool. All you need to do is click on the Amazon Smile banner on our website (www.strawberrypreschool.org) and do your shopping. A percentage of what you spend will be donated to our preschool.
- **Photos with Warm Sun Photography:** Strawberry Preschool is partnering with Warm Sun Photography again this year! For only \$49, you will get a 15-minute outdoor mini-session with a professional photographer, which includes one digital image. After the session, you will receive a link to view your photos, select your free digital image, as well as the opportunity to purchase additional images. The photo session will take place on Saturday, October 13th. You should have received an email from the Board of Trustees inviting you to sign-up. If you have any questions, please reach out to Stacey Johnson at stacey.johnson.strawberry@gmail.com

Halloween Party: Mark your calendars for the annual Strawberry Halloween Picnic on Saturday, October 27th from **12:00-2:00 for T-TH & M-W-F families** and from **12:45-3:00 for the 5 Day & Pre-K families**. There will be food, games and a Halloween-themed puppet show at 1:00 pm for the WHOLE school! A donation of \$20 from each family is greatly appreciated to help cover the cost of food. Envelopes can be found in the preschool and on the Pre-K board. Finally, **small and medium sized pumpkins are needed**. Each year, we turn our garden into a pumpkin patch, and will also be decorating them at our Halloween Party. You will be receiving an evite for this event shortly.

In order for our Halloween Party to run smoothly, we are in need of volunteers to help out at the various activities, as well as help with setting and cleaning up. If you are interested in volunteering, next week you will be receiving an email asking you to sign-up. Thank you in advance for your help in making this year's Halloween Party a success!

A Message from our Financial Administrator:

Tuition / Equipment and Enrichment: Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their Equipment and Enrichment fee. This money goes directly into our school to purchase things that may break throughout the course of the year (bikes, toys, outside/inside equipment, and more), as well as helps pay for all of the specialists that visit us.

Just a quick reminder that invoices are sent out on the 5th of each month and will include this month's tuition and last month's childcare. Payments need to be made by the 25th of each month, and a late charge of \$15.00 will be added if received after the 25th. If you have any questions regarding your statements, or any difficulties, you can contact our Chief Operating Officer, Rose Lofrano at (415) 246-4941 or rosetsp1@yahoo.com.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Our first conferences of the year will be starting next in a few weeks. This conference is an opportunity to speak to your child's teacher and ask any questions that you may have. This is also an opportunity to allow your child's teacher to get to know you and your child better. There will be a second conference offered during the springtime. Sign-up sheets are now posted for all of the groups in the preschool above the cubbies. Conferences are for adults only, thank you!

- **Llama Group with Teacher Poorva:** Wednesday, October 17th & Thursday October 18th
- **Jellyfish group with Teacher April:** Friday, October 19th & Wednesday, October 24th
- **Bear Group with Teacher Jen:** Thursday, October 25th & Friday, October 26th
- **Turtle group with Teacher Christine:** Monday, October 29th & Friday, November 2nd
- **Fish Group with Teacher Jaime:** Tuesday, October 16th & Tuesday, October 23rd



We are all so happy with the start of the school year, and look forward to a wonderful year full of achievements, friendships, and growth. We are excited to continue to get to know all of the families here at school.

Remember that we are here for you and are always willing to talk to you as questions and concerns will undoubtedly pop up. Sometimes we are unable to speak due to a variety of reasons, but know that we will always call you back.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Conferences starting on Wednesday, October 17th. Sign-up sheets are now posted in the preschool, above the cubbies
- Warm Sun Photography: Saturday, October 13th
- Halloween Party: Saturday, October 27th from 12:00-2:00 for the T-TH & MWF families and 12:45-3:00 for the 5 Day & Pre-K families. A puppet show will be at 1:00 for the whole school!
- In-Service Day, school closed: Thursday, November, 1st
- Monday, November 12th: School Closed, Veterans Day

- Week of November 19th: School Closed for Thanksgiving Recess

*Here's to a great October,
Lisa Woods and the Strawberry Preschool Staff*