

Tam Preschool Newsletter: May 2022

Celebrating 65 Years!

New Equipment for the Students:

Thank you to everyone for giving to the Enrichment and Equipment Fund. The fund is used to pay for specialists, like Jamaroo, our music and movement team coming every week to enhance the classroom experience for our students. Specialist usually account for 70% of the Equipment and Enrichment fund and typically the other 30% is used for new equipment to replace old or broken toys, as well as to purchase items to enrich the classroom. Due to having fewer specialist this year because of covid restrictions and lack of specialists in the area, we used the funds to buy more equipment from Community Playthings, our favorite preschool equipment company.

The occupational therapy group Ready Set Go comes to our school once a year to look at our classroom equipment and set up to recommend materials to support our students in the classroom. Last year, we purchase new circle time chairs for our first-year class and they have helped keep the children focused during music and reading time. This year, we followed their recommendation to purchase these items (please check out the photos attached):

The Garden/Pre-K Area: We purchase new bike trailers for the tricycles to work large motor muscles in the older classes. Children are able to ride in the trailers as back passengers or drivers can load it with blocks or other toys around the bike track. Children are also enjoying the new mud kitchen cook top and sink area next to the sandbox. We bought new kitchen toys, so kids can use water, sand, leaves, and tanbark to create their recipes. There are also two slightly lower outdoor tables and benches for the kids to use in the yard.

The Creek Room and Aftercare Area: We bought new sleeping mats for the nap room. They are more comfortable for the kids and easier to store. We purchased lower equipment to fit the children better, so we have new tables and chairs in the art/lunch area, as well as in the yard. Ready Set Go also recommended buying something to help children step up and down, as well as balance, so we got a climbing and balancing set for the playground. We have new benches, storage boxes, mud kitchen toys and water table equipment for the class.

Photo Day Information:

Warm Sun Photography has already contacted families with a link to check out your child's photos. If you have not received a link please let me know and I can send it to you. A code is needed to view the photos for each individual child.

End of Year Activities:

Spring Conferences are almost done, teachers are now finishing the end of year books for each student (a wonderful keepsake for the children) and preparing for our end of year celebrations. Each class will have a family event to celebrate the year, please look for information coming soon by the class teachers.

Tam Teacher Update:

This year, **Teacher Michelle Sottile (Michie)** is celebrating her 40th anniversary teaching at Tam Preschool!! Michelle started teaching at Tam as a young girl out of college. She would ride her bike down the hill to school from her mother's house. She has been a group teacher, lead teacher, camp director, as well as afternoon and break giver. She has had many jobs at Tam over the years and she is still going strong. Thank you Michie!!

This is **Teacher Sheila and Anne's** last year at Tam. They are both retiring after many years at our school. Both their children attended Tam Preschool, so they started at our school as parents and volunteers, Anne was even on our parent Board for a few years. They loved our Tam community so much they got their Early Childhood Education and started teaching. They both started as substitutes and have been teaching permanently for 19 years or so. We are sad to see them go, but I'm sure they will be coming to visit from time to time. Thank you for choosing Tam Preschool!!

Teacher Lindsey is moving to the East Coast. Her family lives in England and she is moving to be closer to them, but still staying in the USA with her husband and dog. Lindsey has been teaching at Tam for 19 years. She started teaching in the afternoon, moved to be a group teacher with the youngest class, when I became director she took over my job leading the Pre-K group, and has recently been supporting me as assistant director. I will be back supporting the Pre-k class as Lindsey moves. We wish her the best in her new home and job, as she hopes to continue to care for others. Thank you for being a part of Tam!!

Tam Summer Camp 2022:

Camp will be open from June 13 to August 12, and closed 4th of July week. Children must be age eligible to attend, they must be 2.5 to 5.11 years old. Spots are limited, so please sign up early. We have a few spots in all sessions, but they are filling up fast. For camp registration please fill out a registration card, available in all classrooms, and hand it to the classroom teachers or email it to Abby at: creek@Tamalpaispreschool.org

Updated Travel Policy:

Many families will be traveling next week for spring break. Please let us know of your travel plans and dates, inside and outside of the US. Travel within the US: children/teachers may return to school but will wear a mask outside regardless of family choice and will test on the 4th day. Travel outside the US: quarantine at home and return to school on the 5th day with a negative test on the 4th. Let us know if you need a test kit. Wishing everyone a wonderful spring break!

Billing:

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

To look up and print tax information in Curacubby, please look in the 'ledger' or 'statement' tabs. If you have any trouble, please contact Rose directly.

Invoices are sent through Curacubby on 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.

If you have questions regarding childcare charges, you can view daily attendance sign in/out times in Curacubby. Students entering school from 8:00 to 9:00 am are charged for morning care, and those getting picked up at 2:00 or 4:00 pm will be charged for their corresponding aftercare hours.

Health Reminders:

*Please 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 to 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 likely spread illness in the class, but your child will not enjoy their day at school feeling sick and with a mask on all morning, plus recovering may take longer without proper rest.

Covid cases are increasing in Marin and in our school area, so please test your child often if possible. We have tests at school if you need one, just ask a teacher at the door. **There is also a cold going around in school, and even though your child may not have covid, they still need to rest at home and feel healthy enough to be at school, as well as not be contagious to the rest of the class.** Children are also suffering from allergies, which can lead to sinus infection or respiratory issues if not treated properly. Check with your pediatrician for more information.

***We now follow a 48-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 48 hours before he or she is able to return to school.** This guideline helps ensure everyone is healthy at school and exposure of any illness, not just covid, is kept at a minimum. Expect more restrictions if there is exposure to COVID-19, as we will follow the Health Department guidelines. Thank you for helping to keep our school community healthy and helping us remain open.

Dates to Remember:

May 30: Memorial Day (No School)

June 6 and 7: Last Days of School

*End of year family events, date information to come for each class, please check with class teachers.

June 13 to August 12: Tam Camp Available

*Closed 4th of July week