



News from Strawberry Preschool



~August/September 2016~

Welcome new and returning families! All of us here at Strawberry are excited to meet all of our new families as well as continue to get to know all of our returning families. We are looking forward to an amazing school year!

Our theme for the month is “Welcome to Strawberry Preschool”: We are going to spend the first few weeks introducing and learning about our group names; Frogs, Ladybugs, Owls, and Sea Turtles. We will be learning about these animals through play, literature, art and science. We will then be moving into “Warm Fuzzies and Cold Pricklies,” a Strawberry Preschool favorite. This wonderful story teaches children about what it means to be a good friend, what we might say or do that hurts our friends’ feelings, and what we can do and or say to make them feel better.

Some Important Parent Information

- Please remember that Strawberry Preschool is a **nut-free school**. Make sure to read ingredients carefully because even though things appear to be nut free, they may still contain traces of nuts. Many popular children’s bars, such as Z Bars and other granola bars state that they may contain nuts. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this.
- Monthly newsletters will be emailed out to the families of Strawberry Preschool. These newsletters talk about upcoming themes, special parties/celebrations, opportunities for you to volunteer and important upcoming dates. Please make sure to read them carefully.
- Our themes, daily projects/activities, and snack will be posted on our sign-in/out cover sheets for you to review while dropping off and picking up your child.
- Please remember to check your child’s art folder at the front of the school (next to the front door), as it may contain a finished project, pictures, accident reports, or notes from your child’s teacher.
- If you have any questions, or would like to speak to someone, please call the office number at (415) 388-4437. If we are unable to pick up the phone, or talk, we will make sure to call you back. You may also email us at strawberrypreschool@gmail.com.
- Please note that it is a state law that every child that is dropped-off and picked-up needs to be signed in/out by the person dropping off and picking up the child. Please make sure to put the time and sign your name in the correct spot. If someone other than yourself will be picking up your child, it’s important that they be listed on your child’s emergency card, or you can let us know with a written note, phone message, or by writing their full name in the “comments section” of the sign in/out sheet. Please know that if we don’t

recognize or know the person picking up, we will ask to see a picture ID before releasing your child to that person.

- Please make sure to wait until 9:00 am before bringing your child to school, unless you plan on using the morning care option from 8:00-9:00. Also, please make sure to wait until 1:00 to pick-up your child, as it can be distracting to the children who are finishing up their day if parents enter the school before 1:00.
- Please make sure that your child comes to school with a lunch. We will provide one mid-morning snack, and a late afternoon snack for those children that will be staying for enrichment. You may also send your child to school with a change of clothes, just in case. We do have extra clothing at school if needed. If your child does borrow clothes from the school, we ask that you please wash them and return them to Strawberry. Thank you!
- The bikes are open to the children everyday, unless it's raining. If you would like, your child may use their own helmet from home. You are welcome to bring one to keep in your child's cubby while they are at school. **Please make sure to label them.** Also, you will need to bring them home each day, as we do not have enough space at school to keep them.

What to Wear to School: One of the most enjoyable parts of school is running, jumping, climbing, and swinging outside with friends. In order to be able to do that safely, we ask that your child comes to school with safe shoes. Crocs, flip-flops, boots, and jellies are a few examples of the types of shoes that can cause your child to easily trip while running, or slip on the climbing equipment. Necklaces can be beautiful, and are fun to wear, but we ask that your child leave their jewelry at home. Not only can it break or get lost at school, it can also be dangerous while playing. We understand that it can be difficult to get out of the house in the morning. If your child only wants to wear those cute new flip flops, or super pretty jellies, please make sure that you bring an extra pair of shoes to school, we are more than happy to help them to change shoes when they get to school. Thank you!

Label, Label, Label: Please make sure that you label everything (lunches/lunch containers, water bottles, jackets, rest items, etc.) Oftentimes things become lost or get misplaced; it's much easier to return them to you if there is a label on it. Also, please make sure to check the lost and found often, as any unclaimed items get donated every few months.

Parent Handbook: We will be handing out our parent handbooks this week. Please make sure you get one as it answers many of your questions as well as gives you necessary information regarding our policies, expectations, billing, etc. If you are a returning parent, please make sure to get a new handbook.

Parking: Parking can be challenging, especially at 9:00am. Please be aware of the four spaces designated for "Church Staff Only", as they may not be used by the preschool, even for just a few minutes. When walking your child in and out of the school, please use the side gate, the

front door is used for Drive-up only. When driving through the parking lot, make sure to take it slow because of congestion and the occasional child who breaks free of a parent's hand and may run in front of a car.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Using the Drive-Up: This is a great alternative to walking your child either into or out of the school. T-TH, M-W-F, and 5 day families are welcome to use the drive-up at any of the following times: 9:00-9:15 for drop-off, 1:00-1:15 for pick-up, and 2:00-2:15 for pick-up. Pre-K families are welcome to use the drive-up option from 2:00-2:15 for pick-up. **We are no longer doing the drive-up option for the 4:00 pick-up. If you will be picking up your child at 4:00, you will now need to walk in. Thank you for your understanding.** Please allow for some extra time at the beginning of the year, as this is new for many of our families, and may take some time at the beginning.

Transition into school: We understand that the beginning of the school year can be both exciting and nerve racking for child and parent alike. We are here to make the transition back into school as smooth as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like some tips on how to make this transition as easy as possible, please ask, we are always here to talk with you.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Coffees: This is a great opportunity for new and existing families to join us in the morning after drop-off for coffee and snacks on the following days:

- T/TH families: Thursday, September 1st from 9:00-10:00 in the fireside room of the church
- M/W/F, 5 day, and Pre-K families: Friday, September 2nd from 9:00-10:00 in the fireside room of the church.

Back to School Night: This year it will be held on Thursday, September 8th from 7:00-8:30pm for the **entire school**. Please note that this is a parents' only event (Open House, which is held in the spring is a great family event). This is an opportunity for new and veteran parents to meet our staff, and other parents. Our Board Members will be there to introduce themselves, and tell you a little bit about what they do for our school. We will also spend some time talking about our program and our goals for your children as we move through the school year. More information regarding Open House will be passed out shortly.

A Few Messages From our Board

Each year, our amazing board members work hard to put together many fun events. We appreciate all of their hard work, and hope that you will be able to make the following celebrations:

- Back to School Picnic: The whole school is welcome to come and enjoy coffee and bagels as well as the chance to meet many of our families and children. This year, it will be held on Saturday, August 27th. It will be held at Strawberry Preschool for the following programs and at the following times. An evite went out last week regarding this event. If you did not receive the invitation, please let me know. Looking forward to seeing you there!
 - T/TH Program: from 10:00-11:00 am
 - M/W/F and 5 Day Families: from 10:45-11:45
 - Sea Otter Pre-K Group and Elephant Pre-K Group:11:30-12:30
- Halloween Party: This is a very fun annual Halloween Party which is held at Strawberry Preschool. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to come to school in costume, enjoy fun games, sing and laugh with entertainer, Daffy Dave, and eat some delicious food. If you are interested in helping out, there will be many volunteer opportunities. More information regarding volunteer opportunities as well as the exact date will be coming soon.

Amazon Smile: Now you and anyone you know can shop on Amazon through Strawberry Preschool. Simply go to strawberrypreschool.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click the Amazon Banner. Amazon will share a percentage of your purchases, at no extra cost to you, to Tamalpais-Strawberry Preschool. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Our Enrichment Program

Our Enrichment program is available on the very first day of school. Please remember that the 1:00-4:00 block is open to all of our children, even if they don't attend school on that day. If you are interested in using the enrichment program on a day that is not your child's regularly scheduled day, please call or email first to make sure there is room. You will be receiving your first enrichment calendar on September 1st.

- Morning Enrichment: 8:00-9:00am (\$8.50 for the hour). This is a great opportunity to drop your child off where there are fewer children. Each morning a variety of quite activities are put out for your child to enjoy.
- Outside free play: 1:00-2:00pm (\$10.00 for the hour). After lunch, all of the children have the opportunity to come together and enjoy some outside activities with their friends, including the Pre-K children.
- Afternoon Enrichment: 2:00-4:00pm (\$20.00 for the two hours). As mandated by the state, there is a quiet rest period from 2:00-2:30. After rest, a wide variety of activities, baking projects, movement games, walking field trips to the bay etc. are planned for your children. Each month an enrichment calendar will be emailed to you detailing the many activities we have planned for the month, as well as posted at the school. **Since a 30 minute rest period is part of our afternoon enrichment program, please make sure**

that your child comes to school with a small backpack or bag with a twin fitted sheet, a light blanket and a lovey/stuffy, if needed (remember to label everything).

From our Financial Administrator, Rose Lofrano

Your first tuition payment will be due in October; September was paid with your deposit last spring. Payments are due on the 25th of each month, October through June. A \$15.00 late fee will be charged for all payments received after the 25th. You may send in your payment to our P.O. Box (envelope will accompany your statement) or you may leave it at the school. The Equipment and Enrichment Fee will be mailed out and is due in September (T/TH families \$150, M/W/F families \$200 and 5 day and Pre-K families \$250). This helps cover new equipment for the school and provides extra enrichment activities such as specialists and visitors at the preschool. Billing questions? Please contact Rose at **(415) 246-4941** or you can email her at **rosetsp1@yahoo.com**, Thank you!

Meet Our Amazing Staff:

Lisa W. ~ Director & Preschool Teacher (M-F)

Karen G. ~ Assistant Director & Owl Group Teacher (M/W/F)

Teri M. ~ Teacher (T-TH)

Asma E. ~ Ladybug Group Teacher (M-F)

April M. ~ Sea Turtle Group Teacher (W/W/F)

Christine O. ~ Teacher (M-F)

Jen P. ~ Frog Group Teacher (M-TH)

Poorva P. ~ Pre-K Elephant Group Teacher (M-F)

Jaime M. ~ Preschool Teacher and Frog Support Teacher (T/W/TH)

Jackie K. ~ Pre-K Sea Otter Head Teacher (M-F)

Lisa V. ~ Head of Child Care and Pre-K Sea Otter Co-Teacher (M-F)

Here's to a wonderful school year,

Lisa Woods and the Strawberry Preschool Staff