



John Knox Cooperative Preschool

January 2020 Newsletter

School: 925-828-2887 Registration:
925-413-4636



Director's Message

Welcome to 2020- A new decade and a new year; a new beginning; a new slate; 365 new days to make memories (no pressure).

December 2019 was busy and fun. I look back on wonderful moments from the holiday season. I think about how our angelic PreK class sang at the Pleasanton Senior VIP club and how our 4am class caroled to the church office. Our gift exchange is so sweet- children say Merry Christmas to a friend while handing them their gift and seeing the children enjoy the capes you made for them. I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday break. Thanks for those who donated to Operation Christmas Child and the Children's Emergency Food Shed.

We will be having prospective families tour our school over the next month and I am often asked what makes our school special? Our parents and staff have fun being involved in each child's development and learning. Parents learn from staff in the classroom and staff really gets to know families and learn from them too. We encourage all areas of development including large and small motor, social and emotional, executive function and cognitive development. We build each child's self-esteem and get them ready for the next steps in their lives, where they will need to be more independent and confident with a love of learning. *And we put a priority on filling each other's buckets and **being kind**.* We teach the children tolerance and empathy and how to appreciate each other and make friends.

Family and friends visiting to share their jobs, hobbies or culture is another wonderful element of our school. The children have enjoyed new recipes, songs and learning about the professions and hobbies of our parents. So please sign-up to come and share with the children- they are a wonderful audience.

You will see how sweet our Valentine's Day parties are as well. Please remember that your children bring **valentines without candy**- it is the notes or drawings that express friendship that we stress (store-bought or homemade). The children will pass them out so please do not address them to individual friends. Parents will sign up to bring party food.

We will have progress reports with our 4-year-old and Prek classes. It is fun for the staff to share how special each child is, and parents get great info about how to keep children prepared for TK or kindergarten.

Leslie James



President's Message

Happy New Year and welcome back to school!! I hope you all had a wonderful winter break.

Registration for this coming fall is upon us. Returning families will be happy to note a decrease in the registration fee. Please see the information below from our registration chair, Alison Jensen. Our parent board met in December and discussed our budget at length for the 20/21 school year. It was decided that our wonderful teachers should get a cost of living increase. Tuition will be raised for each class (with a nominal activity fee increase).

A comprehensive evaluation of other preschools in the area was completed and it was determined that our tuition was low in comparison. As our operational costs increase, and looking ahead, we want to ensure that our school is financially sound. We do not want to undervalue the worth of JKCP, which can happen if our tuition is significantly lower than the surrounding schools. In comparison to other schools we evaluated, JKCP is still very reasonably priced. If you have any questions or concerns about the tuition increase or the right class for your child, please speak to Mrs. James.

One of the special things about January at JKCP is the start of Community Helpers. If you have a career or an interesting hobby which you would like to share with the children, please see Mrs. James. Children are so eager to learn, and family members are the perfect people to teach them. It is such a special occasion for a child to have a family member "teach" the class. Mrs. James is flexible in terms of scheduling our guest speakers. The presentation usually does not take longer than 10-15 minutes, but the benefit to the children is immeasurable.

Wishing you a wonderful 2020!!

Heidi Wallace

JKCP Parent Board President



Assistant Director's Message

Happy New Year!! We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break with some fun family times and hopefully some relaxation as well. We're excited to see the children again and pick up where we left off before the break. Here's what's happening, beginning in January...

Upcoming events and holidays:

- Monday Jan. 13th – Registration Packet Pick-Up (Room C)
- Friday Jan. 17th – NO SCHOOL (**4am Conferences**)
- Monday Jan. 20th – NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Friday Jan. 24th – **4am Conferences** begin after school (12:00)
- Monday Jan. 27th – NO SCHOOL (**Pre-K Conferences**)



- Wednesday Jan. 29th – NO Pre-K Class (**Pre-K Conferences**)

Letter of the Week for January:

Jan. 8th – “M”
Jan. 15th – “N”
Jan. 22nd – Free Choice Show & Tell
Jan. 29th – 4am: Free Choice / Pre-K: No Show & Tell

Conference Info:

We are preparing for our parent-teacher conferences in the 4am class and the Pre-K class. This is a 15-20 minute time when we will discuss your child’s strengths and kindergarten readiness. Children do not come to these conferences. We have begun scheduling for conferences, please watch for emails with more information.

Registration Pick Up Info:

This month we will begin our registration for this coming fall. We know it seems early, but we are keeping in line with other preschools in our area. You can pick up your packets on Monday, January 13th in Room C. There is a registration fee due at that time, \$60 for families returning consecutively, and \$85 for new families. If you have any questions please contact Alison Jensen at registration@jkcp.org

Valentine’s Day Party Info:

Valentines will be in the stores soon, so we want to let you know about our upcoming Valentine’s Day Parties. We ask that you do not purchase valentines with candy. We want the children to appreciate the cards and not get distracted by any candy enclosed or attached. Also, **please do NOT address the valentines with classmates’ names.**

The 3am parents can sign their child’s name. If you are in the 4am or Pre-K class we encourage you to have your child begin signing their name on their cards soon, a few each day so that they will avoid trying to sign them all at once. This is such good practice for writing names - upper case for first letter and lower case for the remaining letters. You can help your child by writing their name with a yellow marker, or light pencil, for them to trace if needed. If they need more room to write their name, attaching a slip of paper to their card may be a good idea.

At the party we will have special food, and each child will have a turn to pass out their valentine cards around the circle. When the children get home from school they will be so excited to look through their bag of cards!

Alice Richards – Asst. Director



Inside your Registration Packets

We will be handing out registration packets for continuing students with crafts on 1/9 and 1/10. Please bring your \$60 registration fee (check or cash) to Leslie on those days. The board voted to reduce the registration fee for continuing students...

We raised tuition for Fall 2020 to:

3am 2200/year = 220 for 10 months
4am 2550/year = 255 for 10 months
PreK 3000/year = 300 for 10 months

**New student registration packet pick up will be Monday 1/13 in Room C.
New student registration fee is \$85.**

Please consider being part of the parent board: It is a way to get involved in the running of JKCP and is a lot of fun. The Parent board volunteer list is one of the pages in your registration packet.



Also, we appreciate parents offering to help on our **Ways and Means Committee** for the silent auction. As you know many hands make this easier – some of the work is done over the summer and the rest is in September so your maintenance would be done early in the year- if interested please mark this on your maintenance hours sheet.

Please email jkcpreg@gmail.com for any registration questions.



I don't know if any of you have seen the movie about Mr. Rogers or have read the books about him. Between Mr. Rogers and Sesame Street celebrating 50 years, I am feeling a bit nostalgic. Lucky for me I work in a school environment that the creators of Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers would love.

I mentioned in my Director's article, that we put a priority on filling each other's buckets and **being kind**. We teach the children tolerance and empathy and how to appreciate each other and make friends. These are skills that are innate but in our hurried and competitive world can be devalued. These skills are fostered in our play based, imagination building, high adult-to-child ratio classes. Being kind and inclusive does not mean being passive or submissive. It means being yourself and inviting others to be themselves and play along with you. We should also remember we are all still learning as we share our differences with each other.

I bought a book of Lyrics by Fred Rogers that I will use in the classroom from time-to- time. I am still learning too. When I looked in the index for quotes about "kindness", "kindness" was not listed. And then as I read thru the lyrics, I realized that kindness to others and to ourselves is built into all of them.

In coming back to school after the break, there can be bumps in the road. But our "kind" staff will welcome everyone back. We all have been out of our routines over the holiday. So, taking turns with toys may be a challenge when we first return. There can be some separation tears again- but they won't last long. We will be warm and loving and remind the children of the rules- children feel reassured and feel safe when they know the lines (rules) are consistent.

Kind and consistent parenting in the months to come will help children feel reassured at home too. As children grow and master something, they feel more confident. If your child suddenly says "no" or argues with you it can feel like they are challenging your authority. But really it is a sign of them growing up- which we all want our children to do. By being "kind" and calm you regain control and that actually reassures them that you are in charge. It is important to listen to their thoughts for a moment (so they feel valued). Be sure to let them know you heard them but then let them know that they need to do what you ask. We think it is best to keep it simple (don't lose control of the conversation by letting it become a big discussion) but be sure that they feel heard. You can say "I heard you but this time you need to" And if they cry or scream try to give them 2 choices (one that they will not like) and after calming down they will usually go with your choice. Staying calm is key-



And it is always helpful to remember distraction is a wonderful way to divert a child from a confrontation- it gives them a way out.

Snack Thank You

| December | 3AM | 4AM | PreK |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| | Lia | Isabella | Isabella |
| | Cian | Parker | Myah |
| | Gemma | Rachel | Nathan |
| | Audrey G | Kevin | Zoey |
| | Sydney | Diya and Jiya | Colin & Roy |
| | | Eduard | Owen |
| | | Penny | Tessa |
| | | | Kaleb |
| | | | Colin & Roy |
| | | | Myah |
| | | | Sami |
| | | | Addison |
| November | Mehran | Diya and Jiya | Tessa |
| | Hudson | Eduard | Addison |
| | Jordan | Macie | Nathan |
| | Mari | Milo | Vivianna |
| | Nixon | McKinley | Nathan |
| | Evan | Ella | Declan |
| | Nolan | Birdie | Hannah |
| | Sophia | Kevin | Isabella |
| | | Reed | Albert |



Thanks to all who contributed to our holiday parties.

Thanks to families for donating 29 bags of food to the children's emergency food bank and for the 5 bags of donated coats for the coat drive.

Thanks to all who brought items for our fun Christmas Parties.

Thanks to the 28 families who brought food for the Children's Emergency Food Shed.

Thank you...

Brad Malkin
Mari Padden
Emma Leong
Sophia Lin
Mack Cervantes' grandparents
Victoria Ross
Albert
Zoe Lai
Reba Joseph, church member

For...

4 books and toys
back up snacks
plastic table cloths
financial donation
financial donation
play aprons
Kalin wipes
cleaning supplies
clorox wipes

Upcoming Dates - 2020 -

- January 20th No School: Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
- Jan. 17, 27 No School for **4am** due to Conferences
- Jan. 27, 29 No School for **PreK** due to Conferences
- February 14th No School: Following Dublin Unified Schedule
- February 17th No School: President's Day
- April 6th - 10th No School: Spring Break
- May 4th Sulphur Creek 4AM - NO SCHOOL PREK
- May 5th Sulphur Creek in-class visit 3AM
- May 11th Sulphur Creek PreK - NO SCHOOL 4AM
- May 19th Last Day of 3AM class
- May 21st Graduation 4AM class - AM
- May 21st Graduation PreK class - PM
- May 29th Memorial Day
- May 31st Dublin Unified Schools Out

