



John Knox Cooperative Preschool

November 2019 Newsletter

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

www.jkcp.org

Director's Message

Fall is full swing now- I love the leaves on the ground and the coziness of November. At school we are very busy so please look at the calendar and Mrs. Richard's column for all the details.

Thinking of all of the fires and power outages we forget how much we take for granted. In many countries, homes do not have heat and in our own country many have empty refrigerators. That is why the school does two Operation Christmas Child boxes. We talk with the children about giving children a toothbrush and soap which are things we would never ask for from Santa. Each year as I talk with the children about what we should give, we hear their generous hearts say all of their favorite things. Then I tell them it has to fit into this little box. If your family would like to fill a box, just ask Nancy or the church office. There will also be a food drive for the children's emergency council in early December.

We will learn about the first Thanksgiving and we will have our own little feast at school. Before our feast, we will write what we are thankful for and trace our hands on the table runners. A tradition in my family is to write what we are thankful for on our Thanksgiving table runner each year. It is fun to look back over the years- many fun memories are listed along with the names of family friends and pets. So much to be thankful for- being together.

Hugs, Leslie

President's Message

The holiday season is almost upon us. This is such a festive time of year. Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Halloween and that you all are enjoying the cooler weather. Now is the time to give thanks to family and friends. We have much to look forward to this month.

In November, we have our Christmas Parent Craft Workshop. Each year parents make a SURPRISE gift for their child. These gifts are handed out from Santa's bag on the last day of school before winter break. We tell the children that the gift is something you, the parent, made for them. This year, we will be decorating capes and masks. All the

supplies will be provided, but you are welcome to bring in something to personalize your craft. This is your chance to be creative. It is also a social event for parents with snacks and Christmas music adding to the fun. One workshop session will take place in the evening and there will also be three additional workshop sessions - one designated session for each of the three classes. Next to the paperwork box in the classroom, for creative inspiration, there is a binder with information and pictures of capes and masks from previous years. Remember it's a surprise, shhh.

Also, in November, in lieu of going to the store, you can do your holiday shopping by taking advantage of our See's Candy sales from Nov 4th - Nov 20th. An order form will be sent home with the children. In addition, we will have a fundraiser on November 14th with Games Unlimited, which is a wonderful little toy store that has been such a great supporter of JKCP for years - and they gift wrap for free!

Carney & Company will photograph our children once again. Every experience I have had with this company has been a positive one. The photographers really know how to work with the children and capture these fleeting moments so skillfully.

Thanksgiving in the classroom will be another event for our children to look forward to - the snack tables will be assembled to form one long table so the children can share a meaningful meal together.

Finally, I would like to thank each one of you for making our Fall Festival so splendid. Thank you to the members of the board for the countless hours you have devoted to this cause. A special thank you to Angela Margraf, Kristin Kennard, Jackie Carr, Chrissy Rivas and Pratiksha Shinde for the extra time you all gave to the Festival. Thank you to the teachers for your hard work and making this such a memorable experience. Thank you to all the parents who worked a shift at the Festival. The Silent Auction was a big hit. Thank you to those who donated or purchased items. Your collective efforts are greatly appreciated and really made this event successful!!!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Heidi Wallace

JKCP Parent Board President

Assistant Director's Message

Fall is here, and with the leaves starting to change color it's a perfect time for our first fieldtrip to Sunol Regional Park. We will also be celebrating Thanksgiving with a feast in each class, and talking about what we are all thankful for.

Upcoming events and holidays:

- Monday Nov 4th - School Pictures for **4am & Pre-K**

- Tuesday Nov 5th - School Pictures for **3am**
- Thursday Nov 7th - Sunol Regional Park Field Trip - **Pre-K Class**
- Friday Nov 8th - Sunol Regional Park Field Trip - **4am Class**
- Monday Nov 11th - Veterans Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- Thursday Nov 14th - **Games Unlimited** shopping fundraiser, all day! (teachers present 6-8 pm)
- Wednesday Nov 20th - Thanksgiving Feast for **4am**
- Thursday Nov 21st - Thanksgiving Feasts for **3am & Pre-K**
- Monday Nov 25th – 29th - Thanksgiving Break - **NO SCHOOL**

Christmas Workshops: Wednesday Nov 20th & Thursday Nov 21st – Wednesday, held during 4am class, Pre-K class, and in the evening (6-9pm). Thursday, held during the 3am class. Parents may choose the most convenient time option. More details to follow.

Show & Tell: The 4am & Pre-K classes are having fun talking about their items that begin with the letter of the week. Below is the Show & Tell schedule for November:

Nov 6th – “J”

Nov 13th - Free Show & Tell

Nov 20th - No Show & Tell

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Alice Richards, Asst. Director



Parenting Corner

Strategic Parenting versus Helicopter Parenting

Today there are so many resources for parents and so much you can read about online.

It can be overwhelming and distract you from relying on your instincts. Reading and asking others (including teachers) for advice is always good but please remember your children are not a piece of clay that you can mold. They are little people, no two are exactly alike and one is not better than another. They are each little miracles, that can be exhausting and inspiring all at the same time.

Sometimes as a parent we can see a problem and we steer our children away from it. But then how will they become problem solvers?

Or we guess what our children are about to ask and we either ask for them or answer them. But then how will they learn to ask questions or put their thoughts into their own words?

Or sometimes we want to choose their friends or activities for them. But maybe then they won't learn how to make new friends or develop a passion for an activity that they are attracted to themselves?

Or sometimes we need to let our children fail so they learn how to get back up. They will (maybe) learn more by failing than by succeeding.

Being a strategic parent is hard- because you have to stand back a bit. You might have to let them fail to let them find their own way. It is hard to nurture without smothering- we want to give them the best life possible. But resilience, self-esteem and independence are not gifts we can give them- those are skills they need to build and discover on their own. And those life skills are essential. A good step to take is to not compare your child to another child or statistic. Try to think of your child as an unknown seed that needs your love and support to grow and not as a block of clay that you are responsible for shaping. You don't know exactly which direction they will grow or what they will become. From experience, I know they will amaze you in ways you can't imagine now. Don't limit them with your imagination and as they grow you will see you will grow too.

November Note from Ms. Nancy

Holiday Happenings at John Knox Presbyterian Church!

The Holidays are almost here and we invite the Preschool families to join us in the many family-friendly church events...

~ **"Get in the Spirit" Christmas Tea**, November 16 at 1 p.m. at Dougherty Station Community Center in San Ramon. A limited number of tickets are still available for this fun event, which is also a fundraiser for our Children's Emergency Food Bank. If interested contact Sandi Coll at 925-895-4253

~ **"Deck the Halls" Advent Celebration, December 1, 2-4 p.m. begins in Fellowship Hall**

Get into the Christmas spirit by making handmade kid-friendly ornaments and crafts! We'll have snacks, decorate the church Christmas Tree, sing carols and hear a special story.

~ **Children's Christmas Pageant, during the 9:30 a.m. Church Service on Sunday, December 8.** Practice Music CDs will be available the week of November 4. If you would like to be in the Pageant, we ask that you please have your children

attend the Saturday morning, December 7th 9 a.m. rehearsal and RSVP to Ms. Nancy. More info will be provided along with the music CD.

~ **Family Christmas Caroling around the Neighborhood, Sunday December 22**
from 5:30–7 p.m.

~ **Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 24**

~ **Share the Christmas Spirit.** There are many opportunities to help those in need locally and around the world. **Heifer Living Gift Market** beginning November 24 where you can purchase an animal for a family in need; **Operation Christmas Child** where you can fill a box with toys, school supplies and necessities (boxes are due back November 24); a **Christmas Food Drive** at the beginning of December for the Children's Emergency Food Bank; and more!

Please check out our website www.jkpcdublin.org for more information! If you have any questions, please email me.

Blessings to you all,
Nancy Polcyn jkpcnancyp@sbcglobal.net

Games Unlimited Shopping Fun

We will have a community event at Games Unlimited in Danville on Thursday, November 14th. Come and see all the innovative toys, games and puzzles that this store offers! They have supported John Knox Cooperative Preschool for many years. The teachers will be there to join in the fun from 6–8. When you shop enter your name into a drawing for a \$20 gift card- the drawing will be at 7:30. Also, they wrap for free so you can get a head start on Christmas goodies!

Registration

Just a reminder that siblings need to be on the sibling wait list by December 1, 2019 to have priority enrollment for Fall, 2020. Please email Allison Jensen at jkcpreg@gmail.com if you are unsure if your child is on our waitlist and/or if you have any questions.

Christmas Workshops

Shhhh- it's a surprise. Attention Parents it is your turn to get creative and enjoy craft time. You will be making a gift for your child to receive at the Christmas party. Our parent craft workshop will be in the fellowship hall Wednesday, November 20th during both classes and in the evening from 6–9:00 and on Wednesday Thursday, November 21st during the morning class from 9:00 –11:30. Please sign up for a workshop time when sign-ups are posted. This year we will be

decorating capes and masks for your kids to have fun with! So, be on the lookout for special themes your child will love. We will supply the capes and the masks, some stencils and paint, an iron and an ironing board. If you want more please come prepared during your craft workshop. The craft workshop is mandatory for each family and it is fun for parents to do craft like the children do in class each day. We encourage all parents to stay and do their craft, and not take it home. Parents often inspire each other and share supplies and we will play Christmas music to get you into the Santa Spirit. **Remember, it is a surprise.**

Halloween Cookie Recipe.... Enjoy:

Rolled Butter Cookies

3 cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup butter
¾ cup sugar
1 egg
1 ½ tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. milk

Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Cream butter, gradually adding sugar, creaming well. Stir in egg. Add vanilla and milk. Add dry ingredients gradually. Mix well. Chill. Roll out 1/3 at a time on floured surface 1/8 inch thick. Cut into shapes. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 for 6 minutes. Makes 6 to 7 dozen. Easy to re-roll many times. Can frost when cooled.

Community Volunteers *Needed*

In January and February we appreciate parents volunteering to talk about their family traditions or jobs at the end of class. Our goal is to teach the children more about the world around them. So please consider volunteering to share with the children. Whether gardening is your hobby, or reading a favorite story or about your job or about your families traditions or culture. Your experiences will enrich our classes.

Classroom Wish List

Baby Wipes

Snack Thank You

Thanks to all who have brought snacks so far this year and for remembering no nut products. Just a reminder, as we tell the children, it is just a snack (not a meal) and please try to be on the healthy side. There are so many choices. Cheese, fruit, cereal bars, veggies, muffins, go-gurt etc. For the 3 year old class, please bring it in bulk (not in separate bags when possible) and the staff will hand it out. For 4am and Pre-K, your child will be handing it out so please do bring it in separate bags. We do understand that birthdays call for special treats so of course on your child's birthday bring the snack of their choice.

4am	3 am	Pre-K
Kevin	Emma	Charlotte
Rachel	Hudson	Albert
Parker	Audrey S	Declan
McKinley	Audrey Ginn	Hannah
Macie	Carley	Andrea
Emma	Nixon	Kaleb
Brad	Mack	Myah
Victoria	Tomas	Tessa
Fisher		Isaac (2)
Daxton		Addison
Penny		Myah (2)
		Samik
		Emma
		Vivanna

Thank you to all who brought Halloween treats and all who helped with set-up and clean-up.

Thank you to **Zoe for swifter wet jet pads, **Albert** for wipes, **Declan** for fine tip sharpies, and **Emma L** for back up snacks.**

Fall Festival — Thank You All, So Much! —

The Preschool is so thankful for the fun Fall Festival - for the board and staff who worked so hard and for all the families who came including current students and alumni. Thanks so very much to all the families who donated via the giving tree and donations. I am thankful for our staff of patient, loving teachers who support your children's learning and growth here at JKCP.

Thank you so much to the families who brought drinks and other supplies in the week prior to Fall Festival - you are appreciated.

Family Donors	Business Donors
JKCP Teachers	Amici's
Altomare Family	Armstrong Garden
Arriola Family	Arbonne
Arroyo Family	Bar Method
Baral Family	Bay Area Discovery Museum

Brynjulson Family	Bay Club
Cervantes Family	Berkeley Rep Theatre
Devey Family	Bill's Café
Fregulia Family	Blackbear Diner
Gupta Family	Blackhawk Auto Museum
Hennefer Family	Black Oak Casino
Hong Family	Cal Shakes
Kalin Family	Campo Di Bocce
Klouda Family	Chabot Space & Science Center
Lai Family	Charles R Vineyards
Leong Family	Chatbooks
Malkin Family	Childrens Creativity Museum
Marcial Family	Children's Discovery Museum
McGrew Family	Children's Fairyland
Serena Family	Children's Musical Theater San Jose
Tenney Family	Club Sport
Tormey Family	Curiodyssey
Xueqin Tao Family	Delatorre's
Zemlock Family	Drake's Brewing Company
Kaeja Dominguez	Dublin Iceland
Sheila Madrieres	Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl
Stacy Amerino	East Bay Sports - Livermore
	Edge Gymnastics
	Fairytale Town
	Fine Art Museums of SF
	Frankie, Johnny and Luigi's
	Habitot
	Happy Fish Swim School
	Happy Hollow

Harvey's Lake Tahoe
Hiller Aviation Museum
Kazio Gymnastics
Kinderdance of the Tri Valley
Learning Express
Limitless Escape Games
Lindsay Wildlife Experience
Livermore Wine Trolley
Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ
Marin Shakespeare Company
Marin Theatre Company
Marine Mammal Center
Martial Arts of America
McKahn Family Cellars
My Gym
Oakland East Bay Symphony
Oakland Zoo
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Pete's Brass Rail
Piatti's
Santa Barbara Zoo
SF 49ers
Sky High Sports
The Tech Museum
Tiffany's Dance
Total Wine & More
Trione Vineyards and Winery
Tutu School of Pleasanton
Walt Disney Family Museum

Upcoming Dates

2019-2020

November 4 th	Picture Day for 4AM & PreK
November 5 th	Picture Day for 3AM
November 7 th	Sunol Regional Park field trip for Pre-K
November 8 th	Sunol Regional Park field trip for 4a
November 11 th	No School: Veteran's Day
November 20 th	Parent Craft Workshop 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
November 21 st	Parent Craft Workshop 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
November 25 th -29 th	No School: Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 20 th -Jan. 3 rd	No School: Christmas Vacation
January 20 th	No School: Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. TBD	No School: 4am & PreK Conferences
February 14 th	No School: Following Dublin Unified Schedule
February 17 th	No School: President's Day
April 6 th - 10 th	No School: Spring Break
May 19 th	Last Day of 3AM class
May 21 st	Graduation 4AM class - AM
May 21 st	Graduation PreK class - PM

