



FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

John Knox Cooperative Preschool

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

www.jkcp.org



Director's Message



February is the month of friendship and kindness and we will continue our inclusion theme as well. Also we will be enjoying visitors who will be sharing about their jobs or hobbies or traditions or cultures. The children really enjoy our community theme.

We will re-read have "Have you filled a bucket today?" to encourage friendship building in all of our classes. Learning to be a good friend is more than learning to take turns- it is learning to be empathetic and wanting good things for those around you. We will be talking about bullying in age appropriate ways too. Among other things emotional maturity includes social confidence, personal drive (I think I can- or I will try by best) and resilience.

We are also learning to be "the best you can be" is not the same as being better than everyone else. (Maybe we don't need to always compete with those around us) Having a competitive spirit is good in sports and it gives you a drive to do your best. Having a compassionate competitive spirit helps you cheer on your friends and cheer on your team. Teamwork is working together and is a great lifelong lesson.

Looking forward to a great February and Happy Valentine's Day!

Mrs. James



President's Message

This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day in the classroom. It is such a fun time for the children to create and exchange cards to show kindness, caring and concern for others. As the singer/songwriter, James Taylor, expresses so well with the following words: "Shower thee people you love with love".

Parents who have a returning child this fall should have received the registration packet which contains information regarding our Parent Board. Being on the board is a wonderful experience! There are many positions to choose from to fit any schedule. It's a great way to get involved and learn more about the co-op. It's also a great way to build relationships with teachers and other parents. If you have questions about being a board member next year, please ask a teacher or current board member.

Next month, I will be putting together a committee for our graduation ceremonies. Should you be interested in helping, please be on the lookout for more information in late March.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Heidi Wallace

JKCP Parent Board President



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Assistant Director's Message



It's February, and this month we are focusing on sharing, kindness, and love. Check out what's happening at school...

Upcoming events and holidays:

- Wednesday Feb 12th – **Valentine Party** for 4am class
- Thursday Feb 13th – **Valentine Party** for 3am & Pre-K class
- Friday Feb 14th – NO SCHOOL (following DUSD Calendar)
- Monday Feb 17th – NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day
- Sunday Feb 23rd – Preschool Sunday!

Letter of the Week for February:

Feb. 5th – "O"

Feb. 12th – **4am:** No Show & Tell (Party) / **Pre-K:** Free Show & Tell

Feb. 19th – Free Show & Tell

Feb. 26th – "P"



Valentine's Day Party Info:

Valentines are already in the stores so we want to let you know about our Valentine's Day parties. We ask that you do not bring valentines with candy. We want the children to appreciate the cards and not get distracted by any candy enclosed or attached. At our party we will have special food and each child will pass out their valentine cards.

The 3am parents can sign their child's name. If you are in the 4am or PreK class we encourage you to have your child begin signing their names, a few each day, and not have them try to sign them all at once. This is such good practice for writing names (uppercase for first letter and lowercase 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.

****Please do not address the valentines with classmates' names.**

Preschool Sunday:

The children are learning 2 songs this month with Miss Nancy for Preschool Sunday, which is held on **Sunday, Feb. 23rd**. This is an annual event where Coop students join Joy Preschool students at church for singing and fun activities. When the children come to church, they will sit with their families at the beginning of the service and then come up front to sing songs. After singing we invite the children to come to the classroom with Miss Nancy and the Co-op teachers for games and craft, while the service continues. There will be an email coming with more details soon.

Alice Richards – Asst. Director



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Parent's Corner

We just finished conferences in our 4AM morning and PreK class. Many parents were glad to know how well the children were doing at school but shared they don't do the same at home. There are several reasons for that.

One is that home is safe and so that is where children test the limits. Two is sometimes children come home exhausted from keeping it all together and they need to relax somewhere. Also at preschool we promote independence in a warm and nurturing way. You might be surprised at what your child can do if you expect a little bit more. (But of course keep it age appropriate)

So at home try:

- 1) To expect more- For example, your children can clean-up and find their shoes. For young children a clean-up song and a big hug is all the reward they need to be a helper. They love to help. Having them help makes them part of your family "team".
- 2) Try not to do it as a parent Instead have them do it themselves. I know it is quicker to do some things yourself- but resist that impulse and encourage them to do it. They will develop self-esteem and get faster with your patience.
- 3) Don't redo what they have done-even if they did not do it the way you would like. If they pulled the covers up on the bed but there are still wrinkles- live with the wrinkles. As they get older, they will do a better and better job. Don't discourage them, the first step is trying.
- 4) Encourage them to be problem solvers If they get frustrated, empathize with them and talk about how to solve the problem. You can guide their thought process and the more problems they solve the more confidence they will have to tackle things on their own. Plus they will get less emotional about problems in general.
- 5) Assign chores- instead of "What do you want to clean up? Maybe suggest something- So maybe say "If you clean up the food, I will clean up the doll clothes". It helps them break up the big pile to clean up into smaller do-able amounts
- 6) Develop routines- children like to know what is going to happen next. And give them a warning before a transition- in 5 minutes we will be cleaning up.

Of course, there will be times when all of this won't work. Try making tasks a game to make it fun. And give genuine praise- children love to do the right thing.



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Class Snack

3 AM	4 AM	PreK
Evan	Reed	Albert (2)
Mack	Eduard	Nathan
Mehran	Milo	Zoe
Mari	Kevin	Myah
Amelia	Fisher	Tessa
Atley	Bradley	Kaleb
Emma	Meghan Sophia	Isabella
Audrey G	Diay and Jiya	Charlotte
		Emma
		Colin and Roy
		Owen

Thank You, So Much...

Victoria- play aprons
 Declan Alphabet floor puzzle
 Ryans Bang - Alumni- magnetiles
 Nathan Johnson- penguin stickers
 and hand wipes and "I want to be
 a Lion Tamer" book

Upcoming Dates 2020

February 14 th	No School: Following Dublin Unified
February 17 th	No School: President's Day
February 23 rd	Preschool Sunday
April 6 th - 10 th	No School: Spring Break
May 4 th	No School: PREK - Sulphur Creek 4AM
May 5 th	Sulphur Creek in-class visit 3AM
May 11 th	No School: 4AM - Sulphur Creek PreK
May 19 th	Last Day of 3AM class
May 21 st	Graduation 4AM class - AM
May 21 st	Graduation PreK class - PM
May 29 th	Memorial Day
May 31 st	Dublin Unified Schools Out

