



December Newsletter

John Knox Cooperative Preschool

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Director's Message

I think we are all welcoming Christmas earlier this year. In my neighborhood the beautiful lights were shining in the night before Thanksgiving this year. To me the Christmas spirit of giving, kindness and love is especially heartwarming. So many families in this country are struggling because of COVID or financial setbacks and some are feeling isolated. I so appreciate all of the nurses and doctors and food bank volunteers and essential workers whose kindness and dedication shine through.



All of our Christmas traditions will help carry us through this 2020 year because routines help us through the chaos. This year we will have time to try some new recipes and crafts and treasure "homemade" as we stay closer to home. And our family has really enjoyed facetime and zoom to stay in touch with those we cannot visit in person. We even ate dinner "together" electronically. Let's all focus on what we can do this year (and not dwell on how it is different). Our children live in this moment and we can see the magic of the season through their eyes.

I know parents of preschoolers and parents of older children have expressed their concerns to me about how schools are helping children reach the usual cognitive benchmarks. We will be doing in-person conferences in late January and I will be emailing distant learners some areas of expectation. I want to reassure everyone that the next school year will be a healing year and schools will adjust to where children are and while it may take time, our children will catch up to the expected benchmarks. Socially and emotionally children will have to adjust to being in a larger classroom and all the dynamics that go along with that as well. For now, you can encourage your child's independence by not doing everything for them- do not let them "drive the bus" so to speak. Have them make their own bed, or help you clean up- these little things build their confidence so they will feel more empowered when they go to school. If you are playing games at home do not let them win all the time- they will need practice in losing and then playing the game again. And encourage their imaginations by encouraging them to draw or give them a box to turn into something wonderful.

Happy Holidays –
Leslie James

President's Message



Welcome December! An unprecedented year is nearing its end. I hope a little holiday magic finds its way to you and your family.

As we all shelter in place, I would like to encourage you to keep, or start, as many holiday traditions as possible. This is the perfect time to bake (I so look forward to making my mother's Austrian almond cookies), to do a countdown calendar, or to step up "elf on the shelf" efforts. Staying home can be joyous and festive!

Please keep in mind that the Parent Craft gift should be a surprise. The due date to turn in the finished craft for in-class learners is December 7, while distance learners can keep the craft until it is time to open presents. Please take a picture of your child wearing the craft gift for our Cookbook fundraiser. The photo will be featured in the cookbook, and the fundraiser will be in early 2021.

Details are still being worked out for the holiday parties. For in-class learners there will be a party for each class on the last day before winter break. For distant learners more information is forthcoming.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our school and participating in the Make-it-Plates, Chipotle and Pie fundraisers. We sold 417 pies for a \$6 return for each pie = \$2500!

Please get your See's Candies orders in by 12/4! The candy will be available at the school for pick up on 12/16.

Spirit wear is still available: \$15 for T-shirts and \$25 for zip-up hoodies.

Our deepest gratitude to Mrs. James and the teachers for their tireless effort and dedication; they give so much to our children. Thank you, Stacey Levy, for coordinating the See's Candies fundraiser. Thank you, Rachel Altomare, for coordinating the Parent Craft Workshop and for generously donating the fabric paint. Thank you, Jackie Carr and Shannel Glaspy, for your hard work with the fundraisers. A special thanks to David Leu for sharing cleaning products with the school and showing us how to use them safely and effectively. Finally, thank you Shannel Glaspy, Claudia Suen-Lim, Shelley Berger, Roxy Garcia, Kim Broadwater, Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Judin for handing out the pies (and thank you Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Judin and Nancy Polcyn (Miss Nancy) for setting up and taking down the tables)!!! It was so uplifting for me to see everyone in person.

From my family to yours, wishes for a warm and meaningful holiday season!

Heidi Wallace

JKCP Parent Board President



Assistant Director's Message

December is here and the countdown to Christmas begins! Our Christmas parties for the In-Person students will be on the last day of school before the Christmas break. In the meantime, we'll have fun Christmas projects, class lessons, and festive holiday music and singing for all students. Check what is happening at our school this month...

Upcoming events and holidays:

- Thursday, December 17th – **Christmas Party** for **AM 3's & PM Pre-K+** classes
- Friday, December 18th – **Christmas Party** for **AM Pre-K** class
- Monday, December 21st – Monday, January 4th – **Christmas Break** – NO SCHOOL (school resumes Tues., Dec. 5th)

**Over the years we have found it best that we do not include parents at the class parties. The holiday season can be an emotional time for the children, so we try to keep it as low key as possible. More information will follow about how we are adapting our celebrations this year due to Covid-19.*

Letters of the Week for December

Nov. 30th – "M"

Dec. 9th – "N"

Dec. 14th – "O"

Please look for paperwork and emails in Dec./Jan. regarding 2021-22 registration, descriptions of each class, and tuition information. Parents of current students will select their class for next year, then we call siblings, and then the new families on the waitlist. For any questions, please contact Kristin Tormey at "registration@jkcp.org".

We will be having parent/teacher conferences with the AM Pre-K and PM Pre-K+ In-Person classes beginning in mid-January. More information to follow.

Happy Holidays!

Alice Richards - Asst. Director

Parent's Corner

I took a class on Lead poisoning over the break. It was a reminder to be on the lookout for sources of lead poisoning. Many of us know about lead paint on old buildings and in old pipes. The US banned lead in paint in 1978, so older homes may have lead dust or lead paint. Some soils can contain high levels of lead as well. Another source is old painted toys- so some of those wonderful hand-me-downs may contain lead. Also, old crockery or ceramics can contain lead. Many foreign countries do not have lead restrictions in current ceramics either- so buyer beware. You can purchase lead test kits online to test items in your home.

I have performed lead testing on all our faucets at school and all are safe. Also, our classroom had a roof lead 14 years ago and all of the walls, ceiling and carpeting was replaced so it is like a new classroom. Lead poisoning is dangerous to young children-partly because they put everything in their mouths. Lead accumulates in the body- and can affect your body in various ways. It can affect brain function and the nervous system and delay learning in children. To test for lead poisoning, you can ask your doctor to run a blood test for lead.

For more information on lead poisoning:

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/CCP%20Documents/AB%202370%20Lead%20Bill%20Flyer%20-CCLPO2.pdf>

Fundraising



Hi JKCP Families!

First we want to start by saying THANK YOU for all of your support. Our JKCP family is showing up & we are grateful! Thanks for dining out at Coach's Grille and Chipotle. Thank you to you, your extended family, to your friends and to our alumni for ordering delicious pies! Special thanks to Alice, Leslie, Heidi, Teri, Nancy, Roxy, Claudia, Shely and Kim for their help with distributing pies. We sold 417 pies- amazing!!

For this month's dine out fundraiser we get to enjoy **Dos Coyotes for an entire week: December 7th - 13th!** With all the other items on your holiday to-do list, please take a night off from cooking and/or grab lunch while you are out shopping, and know that while you enjoy your favorite entrée you are supporting our wonderful preschool, too. Win-win! Dos Coyotes has supported us for years and we are grateful that even during this tough year they are stepping up again.

Have a beautiful, joyful, peaceful season celebrating what your family holds dear to your heart whether that culminates in Christmas or a different holiday!

All our best,
Shannel and Jackie

Registration

Registration for continuing students and siblings will be in January. More details to come. Please contact Kristin de Pominville at JKCPreg@gmail.com if you are unsure if a sibling is on the waitlist and/or if you have any questions.

Thank you...

We want to thank families who have donated wipes when they can find them- our wipe supply is holding with a good reserve because of your help. Hopefully we have remembered to thank everyone!

AM

Nora- wipes + wipes
Molly L- box of cleaning supplies and school training on special cleaners

AM PreK

Trishna and Sanaya- wipes
Bryan- wipes

PM PreK

Cian-wipes
Fisher- back up snack
Savi- paper towels
Mehran- wipes

Snack:

AM 3

Nora
Scarlett and Gavin
Vivian
Madelyn
Dylan
Molly L

AM Pre K

Gio
Sydney
William
Tomas
Levi
Sanaya and Trishna
Bryan
Levi
Izzy

PM PreK

Fisher
Cian
Mckinley
Savi
Carley
Ryan
Mehran
Ella
Ryan
Cian
Mckinley
Mehran



A note from Ms. Nancy...

Please "Save the Date" for these afternoon events outdoors at JKPC:

* Sunday, December 6, at 5 p.m.: Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating and Lighting! Please wear your mask, as we gather safely in the front yard of the church and we'll sing a few carols, too! Don't forget to bring an ornament for the outside tree!

* Sunday, December 13, from 3-4 p.m.: "Walk-thru Christmas Nativity". The JKPC Youth will help create the very first Christmas outside - all can follow the star and enjoy the different Christmas scenes. Steve Kritzer will provide music.



* Sunday, December 20, 5 p.m.: Drive-in Christmas "Carol-oke"! Bring your own hot cocoa and wear your Christmas Pajamas if you want! We'll be singing Christmas Carols led by Music Director Dean Christman - coming to you live on a JKPC Radio Station in your car!

* Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 3 p.m. Drive in Family Christmas Eve Service "Birthday Party for Jesus" Join us for this half hour service as we share the very first Christmas in song and story. We'll have a special take home goody bag for all of the kids!

More information will be sent out soon. Please check your email.

Upcoming Dates 2020-2021

Dec 7th - 13th	Restaurant fundraiser: Dos Coyotes
Dec 21 st - Jan 4th	No School: Winter Vacation
January 14th	Restaurant fundraiser: Mountain Mikes
January 18 th	No School: Martin Luther King Day
January TBD	No school: AM PreK and PM PreK conferences
February 11th	Restaurant fundraiser: Panera Bread
February 12 th	No School: Following Dublin Unified schedule
February 15 th	No School: President's Day
April 2nd - 9th	No School: Spring Break
May 18th	Last Day of AM 3 class
May 19th	Graduation AM PreK class - AM
May 19th	Graduation PM PreK+ class - PM

