



September Newsletter

John Knox Cooperative Preschool

925-828-2887 www.jkcp.org

Welcome to John Knox Cooperative Preschool!

We are all excited to welcome your family to the 2020-2021 school year at John Knox Co-op Preschool. Each month you'll receive the JKCP newsletter via email. Newsletters will have school information and upcoming dates. The next newsletter will be in October. If you have questions or suggestions about our newsletter, please contact Alison Jensen, JKCP board secretary, at jensenfamily21@gmail.com or (925) 202-0773.

Director's message



It was fun meeting so many of you at our small playground meet-and-greets in mid-August. Children have missed playgrounds so much during shelter-in-place. I really want to thank my staff for going the extra mile to offer both in-person classes and distance learning as well. As things evolved last spring and this summer our staff has been flexible and inventive to provide a program that supports our community. So, whether you are in-person or distance learners, you are part of our Co-op family and we want to welcome you to a new school year. Our President Heidi Wallace Stevens will introduce the teachers to you in her comments. I want to take a moment to thank Heidi and our parent board for helping us navigate decisions to keep us going through these different times. I am on weekly calls with Alameda County, Licensing and Directors of the Valley to keep current on best practices to keep our staff and children safe.

You will see firsthand how our curriculum integrates play, learning, academics and social and emotional development and makes us such a wonderful school. We like to say, "everything you need to know you learn in preschool". Currently we cannot have parents in our classroom. If that changes, we also understand that many of you have to help your older children online. We do appreciate in-person parents signing-up to clean after class for 10 minutes through the sign-up genius. The bulk of maintenance this year will be craft prep and we will be asking both in-person and distance learning parents to help with that.

Our Fall Festival will be postponed to the Spring and when we get closer, we will know what that will look like. We will also be postponing our class pictures to the Spring.

Each month we will email out a newsletter with info. This and other information will be posted on the current parent webpage at JKCP.org. To access the page go to the website and click on the current parents tab and the login is "jkcp_parent". The password is "happysun" and sometimes you have to enter the password twice.

We will be selling our spirit wear tee shirts and hoodies later this month so be on the lookout for email information.

Also you all have access to a private Facebook page that will have stories, science and craft instructions. Mrs Richards will be allowing only current students access to the private Facebook page. To request to become a member of this private facebook group, please click this link...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3203729143045063>

We are so glad you are with us and have planned a fun year- whether it is in-person or at a distance. Please feel free to email me with any questions. Hugs

Leslie James
Director



President's Message

September is here! As this unprecedented time continues to unfold, we are all adjusting to a new normal. I would like to applaud and thank our director, assistant director, teachers and parent board members for all the tireless work they have done over the summer in preparation for a safe and fun year. Whether your child comes to campus or does distance learning, JKCP is committed to your child's growth and wellbeing.

This will be my family's fourth year at JKCP. We were introduced to this remarkable preschool by my husband's sister, a teacher, whose two children are alumni. Our older daughter, Sunny, attended John Knox for two years and our younger daughter, Penny, is now in her third year. This is such a special place. We have enjoyed our time here greatly and it is bittersweet to know this will be our last year.

In addition to being the director, Leslie James also teaches in the classroom. Her kindness and warmth are felt by children and parents alike. Mrs. James' years of experience, deep understanding of children and her commitment to them, make her an invaluable leader at JKCP. We have an amazing group of teachers. Alice Richards is our assistant director and is entering her fourteenth year teaching at JKCP. Her daughter is an alumna of the school. Mrs. Richards is an incredible listener and provides emotional support and reassurance for everyone. Teri Judin is beginning her ninth year. She knows how to engage the children, who so enjoy playing with her! Her sons attended JKCP. Rebecca Ferraro, whose son is a JKCP alumnus as well, is starting her third year and is taking care of the distance learning. The children love her, and she has this new program off to a terrific start. Stacy Omo was the assistant director and a teacher here for many years. She has been part of the JKCP family since 1999, when her oldest son began preschool. We are so happy that she has returned and is part of our teaching staff once again. John Knox Cooperative Preschool is such an amazing place for our children to learn and grow and is a supportive and caring community for parents. I feel truly fortunate to be a member of the JKCP family.

To those families that are new to JKCP – WELCOME!

To those families that are returning – WELCOME BACK!

Heidi Wallace

JKCP Parent Board President

Assistant Director's Message

Welcome JKCP families!

Our new school year has begun, and it's been so nice to see all of the children and families! Whether this is your child's first school experience or you are a returning family, we know this will be an exciting and very important year for your child. Being part of a co-op can prove to be an extremely rewarding experience for your children and you alike. Our program is creative, challenging, and fun. Even with all of the new restrictions and protocols in place this year due to Covid-19, the children seem so happy to be enriched, learning, and playing. They are such a great example for us!



Letter of the Week:

Last week we sent home our "Letter of the Week" handout for our AM & PM Pre-K classes. It includes an information sheet, calendar, a diagram to show proper writing of each letter, and our Letter A sheet (& B as well for Distant Learners). It can be so fun finding the letters & their sounds with your child each week!

Aug. & Sept.

Aug. 31 st – A

Sept. 7 th – B

Sept. 14 th – C

Sept. 21 st – D

Sept. 28 th – E

Looking forward to a wonderful year,
Alice Richards – Teacher/Asst. Director

From the Teachers



Welcome both new and returning John Knox Coop families!

I'm so excited to start my 9th year teaching at our wonderful preschool. And what a different year this is!! I'm so proud of how wonderful our students have been at adapting to our new ways of being both in and out of the classroom. We have had such a fun and exciting first couple of weeks!

I absolutely love being a part of this amazing school where both teaching and learning is creative and fun. I'm really looking forward to watching your children grow and I'm so excited to be a part of their learning and social development. It's going to be a great year!!

Teri Judin
Teacher

Welcome families! I hope you all enjoyed your summer. I am excited to be a part of your child's educational journey. I can't wait to see them learn and grow. I know we are starting off the year differently and it might not be how we all imagined it. However, we at John Knox Co-Op Preschool are going to work very hard to make sure your child has a great preschool experience. Whether that is in person or from a distance. I am excited to start the adventure with your child and I look forward to a fun, creative and exciting year. See you all soon.

Mrs. Ferraro
Teacher

Hello JKCP families, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Stacy Omo. For 15 years I have had the pleasure to teach here at John Knox. After taking a few years off, I am excited to be returning. The Omo's have attended this school since the 70's starting with my husband's family, our 3 boys and a number of my nieces and nephews. JKCP has been a huge part of my life and I am so looking forward to teaching here once again.

Mrs. Omo
Teacher



Parent's Corner

Most young children are so resilient. Yes, they can have their moments and tantrums, but they live in the present. So, once it's over they are on to the next thing. They adapt to what is, instead of focusing on what is not. Resilience is about finding your strength and adapting and growing and bouncing back. And we all have been adapting a lot recently.

I think as parents we try to protect our children and often have expectations of ourselves that are not realistic in this uncertain world. So here are some suggestions for parents to model resilience to ride out this storm.

Give yourself a break and let go of some of your self-expectations. Being self-critical pulls you down. We are compassionate with others- in these times, remember to be compassionate with yourself. Like our grandparents said, "This too shall pass." Try not to focus on what you did not do- instead focus on all the good things you are doing.

It helps to empathize with family members and help everyone express their emotions. Talking about feelings helps everyone let go of their negative energy. Then you can redirect to a positive activity.

Everyone needs some quiet time in their day- parents and children too. Strengthen your life skills by creating routines. Make sure to get enough sleep and exercise. Family walks are special with children at any age. Spend some time keeping things organized- it will help you see through some of the chaos. I suggest that you don't listen to the news with your children. Try to create a safe haven inside your home.

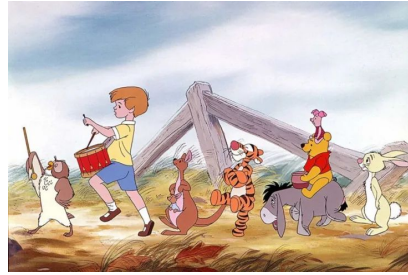
Find the special little moments in each day. Be present and keep in touch with family through facetime or phone calls. Video your child drawing a picture for grandparents and text them the video to stay connected. If you focus on the present joys, hopefully your imagination won't go to those "worst case scenarios"

We will all get through this together- as always, our Co-op Community is here to help- just ask.

Hugs

Spring Festival

The Fall Festival will become the Spring Festival this year!
More information to come.



Class Times

Class Days & Times for in class

AM 3 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am – 11:30 am
AM PreK Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am – 11:30 am
PM PreK+ Monday - Thursday 12:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Distance learning packets can be picked up on Fridays after 2:00pm in the playground yard.

Snack Thank Yous

AM 3	AM PreK	PM PreK+
Nora	Sanaya and Trishna	Emma
Molly	Trishna and Sanaya	Braden and Bryson
Gino	Gio	Fisher
Tommy	Sanaya and Trishna	Cian
	Izzy	Carley
		Mehran
		Ryan

Donations

Donations are greatly appreciated! Items currently needed include:

- Sandwich size ziplock bags
- Clorox wipes
- Alcohol wipes (70% or more)

Communications & Website

Check out the JKCP website at www.jkcp.org . The website has information regarding programs, tuition, registration, curriculum, facilities, staff, parent endorsements, photos of the school, and ways to email the school. You will also receive regular email updates regarding class activities and school business.

To log in to the parent portal, go to our website, click 'current parents' and login. You may be prompted to put it in twice.

username: jkcp_parent

password: happysun

Find us on the internet –

- Like us on [Facebook](#) .
- Check us out on [Yelp](#) .
- Connect with us on [Linked In](#) .

Upcoming Dates

2020-2021

September 7th	No School: Labor Day
Oct 29th & Oct 30th	Halloween parades
November 11 th	No School: Veterans Day
November TBD	Parent Craft workshop (info to come)
November 23 rd – 27 th	No School: Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec21 st - Jan 4th	No School: Winter Vacation
January 18 th	No School: Martin Luther King Day
January TBD	No school: AM PreK and PM PreK conferences
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 3AM class
May 19th	Graduation AM PreK class - AM
May 19th	Graduation PM PreK+ class - PM

