



# February Newsletter

John Knox Cooperative Preschool

925-828-2887 [www.jkcp.org](http://www.jkcp.org)



## Director's Message

Right now we can truly appreciate the message of kindness and friendship that Valentine's Day brings. We put up a new board on our fence with children's hands around a rainbow and heart. We are continuing our inclusion unit as well. We will re-read "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. Along this same theme we will talk about not being "better" than someone else or being a winner and calling others losers. Instead we encourage the children to be the "best you can be". 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.

Sadly (due to COVID protols) we cannot have parents and family members come to the classes to talk about being community helpers. This is a fun unit that we usually do in January and February. But the staff is talking about different community helpers and asking the children what they would like to be when they grow up.

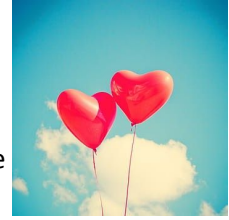
Also our registration is a bit different this year. With COVID our budget has been strained and the parent board wanted to wait until February to set next fall's tuition and fees. So we will be doing registration paperwork but not request fees and tuition deposits until the end of March.

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

Mrs. James

## President's Message

Welcome February!



Valentine's Day will be here soon!! What a good time to teach our children about the reciprocity of love. It is also a fun time for the children to exchange cards to show kindness, caring, and concern for others. For in-person learners each class will be exchanging Valentines. Distance learners will celebrate Valentine's Day during their Teacher Time Zoom. Please drop off Valentines for your child's Zoom group by February 5, February 7 at the latest, so the staff can have them ready for pickup on February 12. No school that day.

Registration packets for next year have been sent. Continuing students should have received a hardcopy, and new students should have received an Email. The forms are also available on our parent portal on the JKCP website. The packets do not have tuition and fee information. The board will vote on what the tuition and fees will be at this month's meeting. Please return the packets by February 19. Keep in mind that health forms, tuition, and fee payments are not needed at this time. If you have friends with young children, please mention JKCP to them. Word of mouth is our best advertising!

Nomination forms for Executive Board positions will be sent the first week of February. There is information regarding other board positions in the registration packet. Many positions are available to fit any schedule. Being on the board is a great way to become involved and learn more about the Co-op. It's also a great way to build relationships with teachers and parents. I have really enjoyed my time on the board, and it feels good to know that we are helping to improve our school. If you have any questions about becoming a board member next year, please ask a teacher or a current board member.

Because of COVID we will not have a Barnes and Noble reading night, but please support our school library by ordering books through Scholastic. We will be celebrating Read Across America and our Ways and Means committee will be holding a reading fundraiser. Please see details in the Fundraising part of the newsletter where you will also find our upcoming restaurant night information.

Thank you to all who participated in the Mountain Mike's and Dos Coyotes fundraisers. Dos Coyotes brought in \$450 (more than initially reported).

Thank you again, Claudia Suen-Lin, for the Holiday Photo Fundraiser. We earned \$525 for the school! Parents were thrilled with the marvelous family photos.

Thank you, Audra Nilssen – AM3, Kassie Fell – AMPrek, and Claudia Suen-Lin – PMPrek+ for volunteering and coordinating the favorite recipe cookbooks.

I would like to say a special thank you to the JKCP staff for being so extraordinarily flexible. I believe we are the only preschool in the valley offering both in-person and distance learning.

As we teach our children, let us remind *ourselves* about the reciprocity of love. Let us be thankful to be a part of such a supportive community. The best way to make it through is TOGETHER! Take care and be safe.

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

Heidi Wallace - JKCP Parent Board President

## 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. 10th – **Valentine Party** for AM Pre-K class
- Thursday Feb. 11th – **Valentine Party** for AM 3's & PM Pre-K class
- Friday Feb. 12th – NO SCHOOL (following DUSD Calendar)
- Monday Feb. 15th – NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

### Letter of the Week for February:

Feb. 1st – "U"

Feb. 8th – "V"

Feb. 16th – "W"

Feb. 22nd – "X & Y"

### 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 some fun treats and each child will pass out their valentine cards.

The AM 3's class parents can sign their child's name. If you are in the AM Pre-K or PM Pre-K 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.**

Alice Richards – Asst. Director



## Fundraising

Thanks for your on-going support of our fundraising efforts! Our kids have quickly learned that "FUNDRAISER" = "Take-Out" and they love it! Ha!! We hope that everyone else is enjoying it like we are!

We sent out a survey to see what restaurants you might enjoy for future Dine-Out nights, and at the top of the list was Inc 82, Casa Orozco, Amakara and Habit! We will reach out to Inc 82, Amakara and Habit. Casa Orozco is already on our schedule (yay!). If you know local restaurant owners and want to connect us with them, please do! Thank you for all of your suggestions.

February 11th: Panera Bread, Dublin

March: Casa Orozco

April 5th: Gianni's, San Ramon

We are excited to share that this March we will host our first "Read With Me" Challenge! Similar to a read-a-thon, we will encourage you to read to your child as often as possible, while gathering pledges from family and friends. Stay tuned for more details and ideas on how to put the FUN into this fundraiser!

Lastly, due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to host our traditional, February fundraiser at Barnes and Noble.

Gratefully,

Jackie & Shannel

Fundraising



## Parent's Corner



We just finished conferences in our PreK classes. Many parents were glad to know how well the children were doing at school. This year because of Covid protocols and staffing we have not been able to do as many writing centers. So we are sending home some of the centers to practice writing. If your child returns the sheets we will give them a sticker.

Now that the year is underway and the children are comfortable we encourage the children to do more themselves. 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.

## Snack

### AM3

Alexander  
Linc  
Gavin and Scarlett  
Maverick  
Brooklyn  
Molly Leu  
Dylan



### AMPrek

Izzy  
Levi  
Valentina  
Sydney  
William  
Tomas  
Bryan  
Sanaya and Trishna  
Trishna and Sanaya  
Gio

### PMPrek

Savi  
Mason  
Cian  
Emma  
Ryan  
Braden and Bryson  
Fisher  
Ryan  
Bryson and Braden  
Fisher  
Carley  
Cian  
Emma

## Thank you.....

Jeannie Ornowski for donating your treasurer services  
Audra Nilssen for coordinating the class cookbook AM3/DAM3  
Kassie Fell for coordinating the class cookbook AMPrek/DAMPrek  
Claudia Suen for coordinating the class cookbook PMPrek/DPMPrek  
Molly M- baby wipes  
William - clorox wipes  
Maverick - clorox wipes and baby wipes  
Nora- glue sticks  
Molly L- wipes

## Upcoming Dates - 2021

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 11th             | Restaurant fundraiser: Panera Bread          |
| February 12 <sup>th</sup> | No School: Following Dublin Unified schedule |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup> | No School: President's Day                   |
| April 2nd - 9th           | No School: Spring Break                      |
| April 5th                 | Restaurant fundraiser: Gianni's San Ramon    |
| May 18th                  | Last Day of AM 3 class                       |
| May 19th                  | Graduation AM PreK class - AM                |
| May 19th                  | Graduation PM PreK+ class - PM               |