



February Newsletter

John Knox Cooperative Preschool

925-828-2887 www.jkcp.org

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. Each class will be exchanging Valentines during the class parties, please remember no candy. If possible, allow your children to write their name on each card.



Registration packets for next year are coming out soon. Continuing students will receive a hardcopy, and new students will receive an Email. The forms are also available on our parent portal on the JKCP website. If you have friends with young children, please mention JKCP to them. Word of mouth is our best advertising!

There is information regarding parent 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.

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.

Jenna Zemlok
JKCP Parent Board President



Director's Message

Outdoor school in January and February- who would have thought- only in California. So thankful for the sunny weather. Because we switched to outdoor

February 2022

classes if a classmate has a positive COVID test we are not required to close the class. I will of course notify parents but by being outside we are avoiding ACPH definition of “close contact” which requires quarantine. Preschools have more restrictive protocols than K-12 schools and in January the Omicron variant caused increased community spread.

A wonderful side effect of outdoor school is inclusive social play- everyone joins in the fun.

Instead of focusing on specific toys inside, the children are focusing on friendships. The COVID climate is an ever changing situation so we expect to be back indoors by the middle of February.

Right now we can truly appreciate the message of kindness and friendship that Valentine’s Day brings. 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 my 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.

We would like to have parents volunteer to talk with their child’s class about their job, hobby or family tradition. We have a community helper unit, so children can learn about their community. We usually have you speak for 5 minutes or so at the end of the day. Please look for a sign-up genius soon and find a day that works. For example Eamon’s Dad spoke with the children about Lunar New Year.

We have been so busy with conferences and the public health protocols and changing things up for our outdoor school, Fall Registration has fallen a bit behind. We will be contacting current students first, then doing priority registration and finally new student registration.

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

Mrs. James

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:

- Thursday Feb 10th – **Valentine Party** for AM 3's class
- Monday Feb 14th – **Valentine Party** for AM Pre-K & PM Pre-K classes
- Monday Feb 21st – NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

Letter of the Week for February:

Feb. 7th – “U”

Feb. 14th – “V”

Feb. 21st – “W”

Feb. 28th – “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



Hello! From Ways and Means

Thanks for your on-going support of our fundraising efforts! Our kids have quickly learned that "FUNDRAISER" = "TAKE-OUT" and they love it! Moms & dads love a night off from the kitchen as well! ;) We hope that everyone else is enjoying it like we are! As a reminder, here are the remaining dine outs for the school year..

February 9 - Panda Express (West Dublin Safeway Shopping Center)

March 7-13 - Dos Coyotes, San Ramon

April 13 - Mountain Mike's

May 12 - Casa Orozco

We are excited to share that this March we will host our second annual "Read With Me" Challenge! This will kick off on Wednesday, March 2 which is National Read Across America Day as well as Dr. Seuss's birthday! Similar to a read-a-thon, we will encourage you or other family members 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!

Take care,

Camille Arroyo

Ways & Means Chair

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 you may see some practice writing come home- your child can bring it back for 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 pull 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.
7. To encourage language development in younger children- try not to anticipate their needs- make them ask in fuller sentences with please and thank you.

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.

Staffing information after Mrs Judin's departure-

AM3 class Mrs James, Mrs Richards, Mrs Ferraro, Mrs Balland and Mrs Gagnon

AMPrek class Mrs James, Mrs Ferraro, Mrs Balland and Mrs Gagnon

PMPrek class Mrs James, Mrs Richards and welcome back to Mrs Omo

teachers will substitute in each other classes and plan the calendar and crafts all together

Snack

AM3

Violet
Chloe
Eliot
Brayden
Olivia
Cody
Heston
Reese
Laith
Hazel
Sage

AMPrek

Jackson
Ellie
Teo
Jackson
Paige
Boaz & Samuel
Jimmy
Austin
Ryan
Aarav
Vivian
Dixie
Jackson
Oliver
Sushan

Vivian
Sterling
Aarav

PMPrek

Nolan
Scarlett & Gavin
Trishna & Sanaya
Shatakshi
Nolan
Maverick
Ryder
Hanna
Gavin & Scarlett
Kabir
Molly
Maverick
Sanaya & Trishna

Ryder
Hanna
Liam



Thank you.....

Mack's uncle Erik for replacing our air conditioner/heater units
Reese- for the nuts and bolts manipulatives

Upcoming Dates - 2022

February 9th	Restaurant fundraiser: panda express
February 21st	No School: President's Day
March 7-13th	Restaurant fundraiser: Dos Coyotes
April 1st - 8th	No School: Spring Break
April 13th	Restaurant fundraiser: Mountain Mike's
May 12th	Restaurant fundraiser: Casa Orozco
May 24th	Last Day of AM 3 class
May 25th	Graduation AM PreK class - AM
May 25th	Graduation PM PreK+ class - PM

