



ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEEDED

Do you have a neighbor, friend or family member looking for a great preschool experience? Please help spread the word about our school. With the economic forecast still a bit bleak we have the shortest wait lists in the history of St. Paul's. For many years our reputation in the community has been "you'll NEVER get in there" so it is imperative that we get the word out there that spaces will be available for Fall of 2012. If you can place a personal recommendation on your Facebook page or with your area MOPS groups we would certainly appreciate it. Tours are given twice a month and we would love to have interested families call to reserve an appointment.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Children will be celebrating Valentine's Day with parties in their classrooms on Friday February 10th (M/W/F and Mrs. Christenson's **Afternoon** Pre-K classes) and **Tuesday, February 14th** (T/Th. and **Morning** Pre-K classes). Volunteer sign up sheets for your party have been posted this week on the classroom windows.

Individual teachers have made specific requests for how they prefer to handle individual valentine cards. If you are uncertain on how this is going to be conducted for your child please ask any of your classroom teachers.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

School will be closed on Monday, February 13th **AND** on Monday, February 20th in observance of the President's Birthdays.

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY Monday and Tuesday, February 6th and 7th at 9:15 and 12:15



This year our students noticed that our school does not have an American flag and so after discussing it they decided that we needed one! They planned a number of fundraising activities from bake sales and farmer's markets. Because of your generous support we were able to purchase a flag pole AND a solar light.

A large American flag that flew over our nation's Capitol was presented as a gift to Mr. and Mrs. Wimer in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The Wimers decided that they wanted our school to receive this very special flag.

Children have been hard at work learning the songs; "God Bless America" and "You're a Grand Old Flag." If possible could you allow your child to wear red, white or blue on this day? We have contacted the Register newspaper to cover this event!

We would love to have either a veteran; active duty military person; or boy / girl scout to help install this new flag during any of our ceremony times listed above and demonstrate to the children the correct etiquette and respect we give our American flag. If you can help, please contact school office.

Pre-K Talk

Our annual **Pre-K talk** will be held on **Wednesday, February 8th from 9:15 to 10:00** in the church sanctuary. This is for parents of children who are considering an additional year for their child before starting kindergarten. In order to be eligible for our Pre-K program your child needs to be 5 or before December 4th of 2012. If you plan on attending this meeting and desire childcare for your currently enrolled child, please contact the school office at 832-8201 to reserve a spot. Spaces are limited and we are sorry but we cannot supervise younger siblings due to space and total capacity constraints. If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in placement for your child for the 2012 - 2013 school year please let the office know so we get an idea of total numbers for our planning purposes.

SCHOOL STARTING DATES

As you may be aware the State of California Department of Education has voted to change the school entry age for kindergarten. This will be done in gradual steps:

Beginning in 2012 children must be 5 by November 1st.

Beginning in 2013 children must be 5 by October 1st.

Beginning in 2014 children must be 5 by September 1st.

Many questions have arisen concerning how that might affect your child's enrollment at St. Paul's. Our school board has decided to keep our eligibility at the same cut off date which is December 4th.

For children with fall birthdays it may mean that you will have the possibility of four years of preschool before beginning kindergarten. We have made a pledge to be creative in our class offerings and working with you to navigate how you spend your time with us at St. Paul's.

REGISTRATION for FALL 2012

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR ALL GROUPS:

If your child is currently enrolled a registration card will be available at the main gate as well as in the school office one week prior to the actual registration date stated below (*for siblings and returning families simply come to the school office to pick one up*). To simplify this process everyone will fill out the card and attach the tuition check to the form. There is no need for anyone to line up! You just need to be certain to drop off your registration materials to the school office on the correct date any time between 9:00 and 2:30.

On this card you will indicate your preference for either a morning or afternoon session. The office will then process your request based on your family' registration number. You will automatically be assigned to either an A.M. or P.M. session. We will also start a priority wait list for your preferred session. These lists will be posted for you both in our school bulletin board as well as on line one week later. *A detailed flyer accompanies this newsletter*

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Church and School Board Members - Thursday or Friday, February 16th or 17th

Pre-K -Wednesday, February 22nd

Mon/Wed/Fri -Thursday, February 23rd

******* Sibling and Returning Families - Friday, February 24th

Those currently enrolled for the first time in our Parent and Me Program can drop off your cards before or after your class on Tuesday, February 28th or Thursday, March 1st

******* If you know of a returning family who wish to enroll please let them know or have them call the school office (714-832-8201) for more information. Thanks!





STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Each year the parents at St. Paul's Preschool honor the staff by providing a delicious meal. This year's event will be held on Friday, APRIL 27th. Each year the venue and times change so each committee will be presenting their ideas soon. A number of parents have already indicated that they would like to volunteer. If you would like to join this group please contact the school office. At the present time we are looking for two co-chairs to help coordinate the event. If you would like to help please let Joyce know.

ALL STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAY

I am so pleased to announce that our staff is organizing a really special day of in-service training for educators from all over our area. We will be hosting this event on Thursday, March 8th from 9:00 - 2:30. School will be closed this day. Our goal was to have 60 participants and we have already registered 59 teachers. Guests will be touring our playground as well as our beautiful garden. You should be aware that our school is very respected throughout our community.

Staff will be presenting how our school is implementing the Reggio Approach to our curriculum through the use of documentation, room environments and project work. We will also be offering instruction in the "100 Languages" through clay, bead and wire, woodworking, watercolors and collage. We will serve a light salad lunch and dessert and can use your help in providing these dishes. If you would like to help a sign up table will be outside the main gate next week. We are also asking that each M/W/F and PRE-K child bring in one flower from your own yard on Wednesday, March 7th so we can make some welcoming centerpieces for our lunch tables.

We will keep you posted and will also provide you with some photos from the day's event.

GROUNDS AND FACILITY

We have been accepting bids on re-landscaping our back playground grass area. We hope to have the area looking beautiful in no time.

We also continue to work on the possibility of creating an Art Studio for our children. Stay tuned for updates!



BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

Happy Birthday to the newest club members: **MILO MADDEN, PRANTHI SRINIVAS, NOLAN STOTTLEMYER, ANDREW KASSARDJIAN, MATTHEW GREENE, COLE HATCH, SOPHIS TERRY and EMMA STOKES.** We have a big inventory of new books to choose from for a minimal cost. Please help us expand our library. If you have any questions, please ask the school office or check your parent handbook. Thank you!



KID'S ADVENTURE CLUB; SONSHINE CLUB

Forms for the month of March will be in your boxes on Thursday and Friday, February 9th and 10th for K.A.C. and Sonshine Clubs. We need to limit SONSHINE participants to a total of 8 dates to give all of our students a chance at attending. Thank you!

SPRING FLING IS BACK!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our annual school wide picnic date is set for Sunday, MAY 20th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. This is a fun event meant for entire families, friends and neighbors. It is held right here on the church grounds. We hope to have a live band again this year as well as food available to purchase. We will provide a variety of children's activities as well as a silent auction. If you wish to help co-chair this event please contact the school office. We will need various committee workers to help with the planning. A meeting date will be set soon, watch for it in the next newsletter.



CALENDAR DATES FOR FEBRUARY

3 rd and 17 th	School Tour @ 10:00 a.m.
8 th	Pre-K Talk 9:15 - 10:00 in Church Sanctuary
4 th	DAD'S CLUB 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
9 th and 10 th	K.A.CLUB SONSHINE FORMS AVAILABLE IN BOXES
13 th and 20 th	President's Holidays ~ School is closed.
10 th and 14 th	Valentine's Parties
17 th and 21 st	Garden Lessons with Mrs. Wimer
February 16th	REGISTRATION BEGINS

THE IMAGE OF THE CHILD

According to Reggio educators:

- Children are **competent** from birth.
- All children are **strong**, powerful and **capable**!
- All children have preparedness, **potential**, **curiosity** and interest in constructing their learning.
- All children have the ability to engage in social interaction and in negotiating with everything the environment brings to them.
- The child is equipped with the means and tools to **construct his or her own learning** about the world.
- The child is biologically programmed to **explore**, discover and **communicate**.
- Children can build relations and make connections between things and with other children (**collaborators**).
- The child is capable of empathy.
- Children are **authors** and **inventors**.
 - Once this is recognized they are helped to discover the pleasure of inquiry, then their motivation and interest explode.
- The child is made up of a hundred languages, a hundred forms of intelligence, kinds of desire and will.
- Children are great bearers of potential intellectual power.
- Reggio educators have an optimistic way of looking at children focusing on what they do know, what they are researching, rather than what they do not know.
- Lastly our own views on the image of the child becomes a lens through which we view and interpret the child and decide how we will respond as teachers.
 - Each classroom is within itself a community, a place where collaboration, caring and conflict between adults and children go hand in hand.
 - In Reggio Emilia the assumption is that children from their very beginnings are active contributors to the life of a community.