

Tam Preschool Newsletter: October 2024

We have many fun activities planned this month, along with our big Halloween Fundraiser, please make sure to mark your calendar and enjoy the festivities with us.

Halloween Events:

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Pumpkins!

We are building our own pumpkin patch at school so kids can weigh, measure, compare, decorate, stack and play with pumpkins. Pumpkins will go in the playground, others in our dramatic play area, some will be used for art and science activities. Please donate pumpkins! All shape, size, and colors are welcome. Thank you!

Halloween Party & Fundraiser: Saturday, October 26, from 4:00 to 6:00pm

Our Board of Directors is hosting this annual family event at the school with food, games, and activities for everyone. Board Members will send information soon. Please make sure to attend this fun family event, as we all get dressed up and have a great time!

Our Halloween Party is an important fundraiser for the school. It helps us fund great programs like Coach Alek, Jamarro, and other Specialist days. We also buy important materials, like garden equipment, sensory toys, shades, cooling system, etc. During the event, we have sign up parties you don't want to miss, like our in-school Movie Night hosted by teachers, and parent parties hosted by volunteers. Please come support our school!

Black Cat Day: Thursday, October 31

We celebrate Halloween by becoming black cats at school. Children and teachers wear black or dark clothing, we decorate cat headbands at school and add face painted whiskers to complete the transformation. There will be games, music, stories, and treats for our students in the class. More info sent by class teachers.

Specialist Days:

***Coach Alek: Wednesday 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30**

Children are enjoying coach days. The older students are using the front lawn near the Garden Room to do soccer drills to work on balance and strength, while the younger students work on core muscle development in the Creek Playground. **Please make sure children wear sneakers and comfortable clothes for running on coach days.**

***Jamaroo: will come on 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, and 10/28 this month.** Our music and movement team will come every Monday to our Creek and Ocean Room. **Please come on time, as Jamaroo starts at 9:15 am.**

***Better with Bunnies:**We had our bunny petting zoo on 10/1 (<https://www.betterwithbunnies.org>).

***Puppet Show:** Whacky Frankenswine Monster Halloween show on 10/31 (<https://puppetarts.com>).

***Dentist visit:** Dr. Gila Pediatric Dentist with brushing service dog, Aspen (<https://www.drdorostkar.com>). On 11/4, the Dentist will present in the Garden and Ocean Room, on 11/6, she will present in the Creek Room.

Thank you to all of you for giving to the Enrichment and Equipment Fund, and our fundraiser, as they fund these wonderful school activities. Your contribution is essential to our program. Thank you so much for your support! More specialists will be scheduled soon.

Billing: For billing and Curacubby questions, please contact Rose Lofrano, our Chief Operating Officer. Her contact information is 415- 246-4941 and rosesp1@yahoo.com.

We are excited to be changing to Brightwheel as our online software management platform beginning November 1 to replace Curacubby. We will start by using their sign in & out kiosk and tuition payment system - be on the look out for more detailed information and instructions mid-October. October will be our last invoicing with Curacubby. We really appreciate everyone's understanding and patience with the recent payment challenges!

Aftercare:

Afternoon reservations are required, and our afternoon program is full. Sorry, no drop-in days are available. **It is extremely important for you to pick up your child on time, at 1:00, 3:00, or 5:00 pm depending on your reservation.** A prompt pick-up helps us keep the program running smoothly, as teachers have limited time to be at the door. **If a child is continuously picked up late, we may need to revoke their afternoon spot, as it disrupts the program.**

Health Reminder:

***Students must be lice and nit free to attend our preschool.** Unlike elementary schools who allow children with nits, preschool students work and play in close contact, so they must be both nit and lice free. We are continuing to send sleep mats home every day to be washed. We hope cases slow down, but until that time, we have to continue with cleaning and precautions.

Nitpixies will come do a school wide check on Friday 10/11 starting at 9:00 am. Teachers will continue to check every day, especially if we see scratching.

Here is what you can do to help at home and things we learned from parents dealing with it at home:

- *Check your child at home before coming to school and bundle hair up every day.
- *Using the dryer on high heat for 20-30 min helps kill lice/nits. So even things that can't be washed (pillows), you can put them in the dryer on high heat. Otherwise, bagging up pillows and stuffed animals works.
- *Vacuuming rugs/carpets every day, instead of spraying.
- *Items like nap pads can just be wiped down with a towel or vacuumed. Gym mat surfaces might just be fine to shake off, as things like leather or anything non-fabric isn't really a concern.
- *Consult with an expert if needed: Doctor or Nitpixies (<https://nitpixies.com>)

Again, lice/nits are not a health concern, but they are a nuisance. If your child was sent home with lice, please comb their hairs every day and come to the office for a re-entry check back to school. Re-infection happens often because lice are hard to get rid of. We appreciate your diligence and your patience as you work at home and pick up your child when needed.

***For any illness, we ask that you keep your child home if he or she is not feeling well.** If your child looks to be under the weather when he or she wakes up, please let rest and make sure he/she is well, as symptoms can worsen as the day goes on. If children come to school sick, not only will they spread germs, but your child will not enjoy their day at school feeling sick and recover may take longer without proper rest.

***If a child starts to show illness symptoms at school, a teacher will isolate with the child away from the rest of the group and contact the family for pick up.** Parents must be able to be at the school right away or have someone on their emergency list who can come pick up a sick child within a short time frame. We will clean and sanitize the areas where the child has been playing. **Children who are sent home with a suspected symptom must check with the director to make sure the illness is not contagious.**

***We follow a 24-hour health policy. If your child is home sick, or was sent home due to illness, he/she needs to be symptom-free and/or on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before he or she is able to return to school.** This guideline helps ensure everyone is healthy at school and exposure is kept at a minimum. Expect more restrictions if there is exposure to COVID-19, as we will follow the Health Department guidelines. Thank you for helping to keep our school community healthy!!

School Closures:

Our goal is to keep everyone safe at school and to remain open to support our school community. We really appreciate you trusting us with your child and family's health. We take that responsibility very seriously. We will close our school when the children and teacher's safety is at risk.

***We have to close on dangerously high smoky days (around 150 AQI), as it is a health risk for our children and teachers.** Please watch for the AQI in AirNow.gov: <https://www.airnow.gov>. Families will receive an email in the morning, before school starts, when the air is expected to be high. We wait until the morning to make the class because air quality can change in just a few hours and sometimes it is much better in the mornings. **We are only closing when the air is unhealthy for everyone, but please note that 101 to 150 AQI is not healthy for sensitive groups, and that includes children and people with respiratory illnesses.** Parents can choose to keep children home anytime they feel like it is best for their child, just let us know your child will not be at school. We have air purifiers for all our classrooms, which will be used to help with smoky days and germ exposure. We appreciate your support. We know it is hard to keep your child home if you are working.

Dates to Remember:

***Coach Alek:** 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, and 10/30

***Jamaroo Days:** 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, and 10/28

***Parent Volunteer Day:** Sunday, October 20

***Halloween Party and Fundraiser:** Saturday, October 26, starting at 4:00 to 6:00pm

***Black Cat Day:** Thursday, October 31

***Puppet Show:** Thursday, 10/31

***Tam Teacher In-Service Day (NO SCHOOL):** Friday, November 1

***Dentist visit:** Monday, 11/4, Garden/Ocean Room, and Wednesday, 11/6, Creek Room

***Veterans Day (NO SCHOOL):** Monday, November 11

***Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL):** November 25 to the 29

***Holiday Break:** December 23 to January 3