

# Tam Preschool Newsletter: November 2024

## Celebrating 67 Years!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, we want to focus on giving thanks and sharing with people in our home, school, and community. Teachers are planning many activities with the children. They will be sending more information soon and you can catch the action on the Homeroom app.

### Halloween Events:

#### **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 11/6, 11/13, 11/20.** Please make sure children wear sneakers and comfortable clothes for running on coach days.

**\*Jamaroo: Monday 11/4 and 11/18.** Please come on time, as Jamaroo starts at 9:15 am.

**\*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.dr.dorostkar.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 contributing to our fundraiser, as it funds these wonderful school activities. Your contribution is essential to our program, and it benefits your child directly. Thank you so much for your support! More specialists will be scheduled soon.**

### Kindergarten, TK, Pre-K information night: Thursday, December 12, from 7:00 to 8:00pm

Join us for this informative night. Topics included: how to register for elementary school, what to expect at school, and the class assignment process. Also, how you can support your child with the transition into a bigger school, and information about our Pre-K classroom.

Lisa, Director at Strawberry Preschool, will be joining me for the meeting, and this year's special guest speaker is Diana Withers, an elementary school educator and TK parent.

### Using The Teaching Pyramid at our School:

Teacher Michie, Gina, Sara and Marcela are taking a workshop this year, called *The Teaching Pyramid*. It focuses on supporting children with social emotional growth. We are taking the workshop at the Marin County Office of Education, and they provide us with a coach who will video our interactions with the children in the classroom and give us feedback. Teacher Monic and Jacky already took this 7-month long workshop, and the Creek Room teachers will be taking it next year. Thank you to everyone who signed the video form to help us with our teaching coach observations at school.

The purpose of the Teaching Pyramid training series is to provide teachers with practical strategies to use in the classroom to create meaningful learning experiences to support student relationships, social interactions, problem solving, and support positive behaviors.

Our first observation went very well. We received great feedback from our coach. She was pleased to see us using positive descriptive language in the classroom to facilitate play, increase language development, and boost children's self-esteem. Here is some of the strategies we are working on at the moment:

### **Module 1: Promoting Children's Success: Building Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments.**

This module addresses universal strategies for promoting healthy social and emotional development and preventing challenging behavior.

#### Topics included in this module:

- Building positive relationships with children, families, and colleagues
- Designing environments, schedules, and routines
- Establishing expectations
- Implementing activities that promote child engagement
- Modifying and adapting materials and activities to meet the individual needs of all children, including those with disabilities
- Providing encouragement and positive feedback to children

**Billing:** For billing and *Curacubby* questions, please contact Rose Lofrano, our Chief Operating Officer. Her contact information is 415- 246-4941 and [rosetsp1@yahoo.com](mailto:rosetsp1@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 lookout 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!

#### **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. Again, please continue to check your children regularly before and after school and don't forget to check yourself (ask for help or see a professional if needed). Thank you all for your amazing help!

#### **DAILY LICE CHECK**

Examine your child's hair, especially near the scalp for any live lice or eggs. Using a nit comb can be very helpful. If anything is found, below are tips on what to do next!

#### **LICE MITIGATION (on hair)**

Often, lice shampoos (like Nix) alone will not work as many populations of lice have now become resistant to these treatments. Therefore, the best way to treat is to get rid of the live lice and eggs via combing with a nit combs. How do to that? Put hair into sections. Spray a section with detangler, and then use the nit comb to comb through thoroughly - run through the section several times, going at different angles to be sure to get any tough eggs. Wipe off comb on a paper towel between sections – you might be able to see the eggs or live lice on the towel. Go section by section until done! Do this **EVERY DAY** for a week. There are some great YouTube tutorials on combing for lice. Again, you can use detangler spray instead of conditioner (less messy!)

#### **LICE MITIGATION (in home)**

If any lice eggs or live lice are found, wash all bedding on high heat (washer and dryer should both on hottest setting), bag up stuffed animals and other plush items that can't be washed for two weeks, and give the house a good vacuuming. Also important – vacuum the couch or other furniture! Be sure to vacuum in the crevices.

#### **CALLING IN THE PROFESSIONALS**

There are two local spots that will check for lice and delouse if anything is found. Both places have online booking services. See below: *NitPixies* in San Rafael and *Buggy Nix* in Fairfax.

**\*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:** Wednesday 11/6, 11/13, 11/20

**\*Jamaroo Days:** Monday 11/4 and 11/18

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

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

**\*Tam Teacher In-Service Day (NO SCHOOL):** Friday, 11/1

**\*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

**\*Kindergarten, TK, and Pre-K Information Night:** Thursday, December 12, from 7:00 to 8:00pm

**\*Tam Holiday Party:** Friday, 12/20

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