

Tam Preschool Newsletter: October 2025

Part of the Mill Valley community since 1956!

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, sizes, and colors are welcome. Thank you!

Halloween Party & Fundraiser: Saturday, October 25, 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, science materials, shades, cooling system, etc. During the event, we have fun sign up parties, like our in-school Movie Night hosted by teachers, and parent parties hosted by volunteers. Please come support our school!

Black Cat Day: Friday, 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:

***Halloween Dance Class with Caitlin Bechelli from Happy Feet – Thursday, October 30.** Caitlin, a former parent from our school, will teach us fun Halloween dances from her dance studio:

<https://happyfeetmillvalley.com>

***Diego, our Capoeira Coach: Wednesday 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29**

Please make sure children wear sneakers and comfortable clothes for running on coach days. Also, children should not wear dresses on coach days as we do activities on the ground, and we are seeing kids step on their dress skirts causing them to trip over when doing the activities.

***Jamaroo, our Music and Movement Teacher: Monday 10/13, 10/20, and 10/27.**

Please come on time, as Jamaroo starts at 9:00 am in the Creek Room. Teacher Michie has been playing the violin and other instruments with our Tam students.

***Dentist visit, Dr. Gila, a Pediatric Dentist: – Thursday, November 13 (Date change from social calendar).** Dr. Gila will teach us how to keep our teeth healthy during the holiday season. She will bring Aspen, her gentle dog, who will show us how to brush teeth. (<https://www.drdorostkar.com>).

***Thank you for contributing to the Enrichment and Equipment Fund and our Halloween Fundraiser. Those funds help pay for our special school activities and new equipment. Your contribution is essential to our program. Thank you so much for your support!**

This past month, we purchased the following:

- A cozy corner reading space for the kids in the Garden Room.
- Wooden animal figures and discover shapes for the Garden Room.
- 20 mats for rest/nap Rooms.
- 24 nap bag covers to prevent lice among the nap sacks.
- Two flat stage surface for the Creek Room playgrounds to allow the children to build with blocks outside.
- An outdoor counter with storage for the kids to use in the Garden/Ocean playhouse.
- A table, chairs, and a new rug for the Garden Room playhouse.
- A new bubble machine for the Creek Room.
- Items for the Outdoor Science Lab to create a workstation with children, including goggles, gloves, measuring tapes, sanding blocks, brushes, sponges, towels, etc.

Morning Care: There is no need to have a morning care reservation, you can drop off your child at school early, between 8:00 to 9:00 am, any day. **However, anyone dropping off before 9:00 am will be charged for the Morning Care block, \$12 an hour.**

Aftercare: Reservations are required in the afternoon, and our afternoon program is full for the year. 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, especially at 5:00 pm, we may need to revoke their afternoon reservation, as it disrupts the program.

Communication and Information: This year, we are switching all administration and classroom communication to Brightwheel Message. Download the Brightwheel app on your phone and turn on notifications to get information quickly.

We are working to making communication easier, faster, and more effective. You will be able to choose who to message, so you can make sure you are reaching the correct person. Please keep in mind that we will reply during weekday business hours.

***Message to Administrator = Marcela (Director) and Rose (COO and Financial Administrator)**

Information includes a monthly newsletter and billing information, as well as emergency reach out or closure information. You can contact us with questions or concerns, or to schedule a time to meet.

***Message to Staff = Class Lead Teachers + Marcela and Rose**

Garden Room Lead: Michelle M (Mimi) and Michelle S (Michie)

Ocean Room and Aftercare Lead: Monica

Creek Room and Aftercare Lead: Leslie

Information includes weekly activity curriculum updates and photos (once a week), individual messages about your child (including booboos, sick child updates, or early pick up). You can also contact the class Lead to let her know if your child will be absent, there are delays during pick-up or drop-off, someone else is picking up your child, or if you need to schedule a time to meet.

***Parent Directory:** We have enabled the Parent Directory in Brightwheel. Families are able to access the directory from both the web and the mobile app from the **"Parent Directory tab"**. This will allow families to

connect for playdates and birthdays. Please keep the information private for our school and update your information on the app to make sure it stays up to date. Here is some information about how to use the Parent Directory, as well as [how to opt-out of sharing contact information](https://help.mybrightwheel.com/en/articles/8129695-view-your-program-parent-directory). Let me know if you have any questions. <https://help.mybrightwheel.com/en/articles/8129695-view-your-program-parent-directory>

Billing: For billing questions, please message “Administrator” on Brightwheel and Rose will reply. The October bill will include October tuition and September’s aftercare hours. Aftercare hours are billed the following month, so parents are charged for the extended hours they used the month before.

*Tam Preschool is a nonprofit, so donations are tax deductible. We also accept corporate matching.

Health Reminder:

*Please keep your child home if not feeling well. 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 recovery may take longer without proper rest.

*As part of State requirements, 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 have an emergency plan, that includes people in the emergency list who can come pick up a sick child within a short time. Children who are sent home with a symptom must check with the director to make sure the illness is not contagious. The health department has a list of contagious illness we are required to report.

*We follow a 24-hour health policy: If your child is home sick, or was sent home due to illness, your child needs to be symptom-free and/or on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before he or she can return to school. This guideline helps ensure everyone is healthy at school and exposure is kept at a minimum. Thank you for helping to keep our school community healthy!

*If your child suffers from allergies, please inform the teacher. Even with allergies, children may not be at school with severely runny nose or cough, as it can bring discomfort to the child. When allergies are acting up and are not under control, children are just not well enough to participate in school activities.

*Students must be lice and nit free to attend our preschool. Lice and nits are not a health risk, but they are highly contagious, especially in preschool where we play close to each other. Lice and nits are hard to get rid of at schools, as well as at home, so we do our best to prevent spreading it. Thank you for your diligence and support as we try to prevent more cases.

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>. **We plan to close when the AQI is around 150.** Families will receive a Brightwheel message in the morning, before school starts, when the air is expected to be high. We wait until the morning to decide on closures 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.

Dates to Remember:

- ***Monday, 10/6:** Tam Teacher In-Service Day (NO SCHOOL)
- ***Saturday, 10/25, from 4:00 to 6:00pm:** Halloween Party & Fundraiser
- ***Thursday, 10/30:** Halloween Dance Class with Caitlin Bechelli from Happy Feet
- ***Friday, 10/31:** Black Cat Day
- ***Thursday, 11/13:** Dentist visit, Dr. Gila, a Pediatric Dentist
- ***Tuesday, 11/11:** Veterans Day (NO SCHOOL)
- ***11/24 to 11/28:** Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)
- ***Friday, 12/19, at 11:30am:** Holiday Show (Family Event)
- ***12/22 to 1/2:** Holiday Break (No School)
- ***Monday, 1/5:** Tam Teacher In-Service Day (NO SCHOOL)
- ***Friday, 1/23:** Music and Storytelling with Cascada de Flores