

BRUSH CREEK NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2018



WELCOME

We want to welcome everyone to our school and into the Brush Creek family. We hope your experience here is a wonderful and very positive one. We've had a busy summer and we're ready to get the year underway. Welcome, welcome!

If you missed orientation, you will find a packet in your child's file that will bring you up to speed. Please read through everything and ask us if you have questions. We realize many of you work, and you will be relying on written information or emails. We do our best to keep everyone informed. You are always welcome to call us at 539-1612 or email us at bcns@brushcreeknurseryschool.org.

CLASSROOM NOTES

September is a hectic month for all of us as we start learning your names and who goes with whom. We are ready for our new beginning. Our month will be filled with activities of getting acquainted or reacquainted. We'll talk about new friendships and sharing. We'll do lots of name activities so we can get to know each other and we'll concentrate on learning new routines and rules.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

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|-----------------------|--|
| *August 30/31 | First "official" days of school |
| *September 3 | Closed for Labor Day |
| *September 25, 6:30pm | Join us here at school to find out more about the Board of Directors |
| *September 26, 5:30pm | Potluck dinner here at school |

SEE SAW BOOK CLUB

Every month you will get a copy of the See Saw, Early Childhood, or Firefly book order (sometimes different ones) attached to your newsletter. If you wish to place an order, select your books and attach a CHECK made out to the specific book club or SCHOLASTIC (not Brush Creek). Place in the tuition mailbox before the due date. Each month the due date will be around midmonth. Your books will be placed in your child's cubby about two weeks later. Brush Creek also gets free books based on the amount purchased by parents. You can also do online ordering. Go to: www.scholastic.com/bookclubs
The class activation code is: GMXFV

GOING TO SCHOOL/SEPARATION

If your child has some difficulty separating from you, don't get disheartened!! This is very common. Bringing a small piece of home may help your child. A small stuffed animal tucked inside a backpack might help your child feel more secure. Even if they don't play with it, they will have comfort knowing it is close by. If your child stays for lunch a sticker, a little picture or a note written on their napkin can remind your child that you are thinking of him or her. On the way to school, share anything about the upcoming day that will comfort your child. Discuss friends or activities that may be happening. Convey a positive attitude about your child's school. It spills over!! Show enthusiasm for the things your child brings home and genuine interest in the stories they tell.

If you have questions or concerns, discuss them with your child's teachers before they become problems. Please try to do this when your child is not present. We are here to help!!

WELCOME POTLUCK

We will be holding our welcome potluck on September 26 here at school. It's a great opportunity for us to all get to know one another. The potluck will begin at 5:30. Please watch for a sign up to be posted in the front of school. Mark your calendar because you won't want to miss this fun evening.

BILLING/OFFICE NEWS

Bills are included in this packet and your first tuition payment is now due. This bill represents ONE WEEK OF AUGUST TUITION AND EARLY/AFTER CARE AS WELL AS SEPTEMBER. This initial payment must be paid by September 10th (unless you see us in the office). On October 1 we go back to the single month payment. Thank you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For new Brush Creek families, we'd like to tell you a little about our Board of Directors. Brush Creek is a private, non-profit corporation, governed by a Board of 7-14 members. The Board makes policy decisions, oversees finances, puts on all fundraising, and helps our school run smoothly. We will soon be looking for some new board members: elections will be held in October. If you were thinking about joining the Board last year but didn't, here is your opportunity. We will be having a meeting soon to let you know more about the commitment and the positions we are trying to fill. Joining the Board can be very rewarding! Check it out.



Julie MacDonald: Program Director
Ally Madrid: Teacher
Vicki Briggs: Teacher
Gena Kilgore: Teacher

Karin Manning: Admin Assistant
Nancy Libby: Teacher
Janice Carpenter: Teacher
Heather Miller: Teacher

NO NUT ZONE/LUNCH SUGGESTIONS

Unfortunately, it seems that more and more children are suffering nut allergies. We are a nut free zone. This means we won't serve peanut butter or any nut products to our children at snacktime. Please keep this in mind when you are bringing a snack from home to share with the class.

Brush Creek strives to serve healthy snacks and it's our hope that your children are having healthy lunches as well. Although staff sits with the children at lunch, we do not "police" the lunches: what you pack can be eaten by the kids in the order they choose. Just an FYI.

OPENINGS

We have openings in our TTH afternoon (1-4) 3's class as well as our MWF afternoon (also 1-4pm) 4's class. If you have friends who may be looking for a spot for their child, please have them call the school.

Remember to sign in daily with the time you drop off or pick up. Use your full signature, please!

Have a great month!

EARLY/AFTER CARE

We are still accepting early/after care contracts. Our lunch hours are pretty busy this year, but there is still room available all the way up until 4:30 as well as early morning care. Remember, contract users get a \$2.00 break per hour, and you don't have to wait for availability of space. The rates this year are \$7.50 per hour for contract users and \$9.50 per hour for non-contract (drop in). Extra blank contracts are located at the signup board inside the front door.

If you are requesting a contract change, you can do so only ONCE a month. Just turn your adjusted form in by the 25th of the month before you wish for the change to take place.

E-SCRIP

In your packet we have included information about the escrip program. Basically you will sign up online, then when you shop at certain establishments, (or restaurants) the school is given a certain percentage back for what you spent.

We also ask you to sign up at Oliver's Market if you shop there, as they give a nice rebate back to schools. This "passive" fundraising really adds up for us. Thanks for helping!

DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN

Karin and I (Julie) make an effort to be at the front door to greet and say goodbye as often as we are able. It's a great time to ask a quick question or give us feedback. Aside from that, our office door is always open to you to come on in for a chat. Also, the phone answering machine is turned on when we aren't here and/or you can send us an email. Please don't let your questions go unanswered!

WAYS TO PRAISE

It's important to acknowledge our kids for positive behavior. Even during discipline we can talk about the positive things we see them doing, as we work on the behaviors we're trying to improve in them....try these!

Ways to Praise it.....

I like it when you
What a wonderful idea to
It's neat that you remembered to
Thank you for
How sweet of you to
You should be proud of yourself for
I'm proud of you for
You are so smart to
I'm so happy with you for
It's nice that you are
I love you

Desired behaviors....

share the blocks
draw a picture for Grandma
put your cars away
asking politely
invite me to your tea party
letting your sister have a turn
continuing to try
fix it all by yourself
doing what I asked you to do
sitting at the table with me
always!!!

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING BRUSH
CREEK NURSERY SCHOOL!!**

FUN WAYS TO REINFORCE LEARNING AT HOME

While at school your kids will be exposed not only to social play and exploration, but we will also be working on skills essential for their readiness for the eventual step to kindergarten. Many parents ask us what can be done at home to help skill building. Here are a few suggestions:

*When on a walk, look for items to sort, categorize and compare...for example, "let's find as many red things as we can" or "Is that mailbox taller or shorter than you? What about that fence?"

*Have your child set the table...with one plate, one cup, one napkin, etc. for each person.

*play the mirror game. Stand or sit in front of each other, and have your child mimic each movement you make.

*Have your child pair up the socks, fresh out of the dryer.

*Putting away groceries? Let your child count out the apples as they go in the crisper drawer!



PROFILED STAFF MEMBER

Every month a different staff member will be highlighted in the front bulletin board case and the newsletter. We do this, so you can get to know a little more about us, away from our jobs at Brush Creek.

The first highlighted staff member is our Director, Julie MacDonald. Julie came to Brush Creek in her second semester of SRJC and forty years later, is still here!

Julie is a 5th generation native Sonoma County resident. She is married (Kel) and their household consists of 2 cats and 4 chickens. Julie is committed to Brush Creek and to the community at large. She serves on the Advisory Board to the Child Development Department at SRJC as well as a member of the Mentor Teacher/Director committee, finding quality ECE professionals to mentor new people in the field.

For a little more information, check out the bulletin board in front of the school.

Returning families....please get your Financial agreement forms in for this year (an annual form). Thank you!!