



## BRUSH CREEK NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2018

### **Classroom Notes**

Well, it's hard to believe but a whole month of school is already over. We feel like we're on our way to a good year. We have lots of wonderful families this year and we hope you're getting more comfortable with the nursery school routines. It was great to see so many of you here at our potluck. Thanks for coming out and bringing such a delicious assortment of food. There was lots of laughing and talking and running (where DO those kids get the energy????).

This month we're going to be quite busy. Our Farmer's Market will be up and running soon, and will stay up for a couple weeks. Thank you to Gunner's family for donating hay bales for us, and for everyone who is bringing in gourds, pumpkins, etc. Later in the month we will of course engage in some color appropriate activities (orange and black) as the spooky days draw near. Have a wonderful month of October!

### **How do you handle Halloween?**

It's already begun. "What are YOU going to be for Halloween?" can be heard on the play yard and at lunch. The build up of excitement is happening. This time of year can be very exhilarating for kids, but also overwhelming. Often a child who seemed so excited about the whole idea of trick or treating will balk when the big moment arrives and end up happily passing out candy to other children. The costume you all agonized over may end up in a heap on the floor.

At school, we believe it is best to have a **very low key** approach to this holiday. We all know children thrive best in safe, consistent environments. They need to know what to expect and many don't like things "sprung" on them. Imagine how scary it would be to arrive at school and find your friend with fangs and a mask!! Developmentally, children are just learning the difference between what is real and what is fantasy. Also, some parents simply don't celebrate the holiday. **Because of all this, we will NOT be wearing our costumes to school.** If your child would like to share with us how they looked on Halloween, you can send in a picture of them in costume. Please, no candy treats left in kid's files or cubby.

We will be talking about our fears, about reality vs. make believe. We will do lots of orange and black projects, projects about pumpkins, and projects about spiders!!

### **Fundraising Fee**

On the bill this month you will see a fundraising fee. This was discussed at orientation and on our financial agreements. In lieu of the constant parade of fundraisers (wrapping paper, See's candy, etc) we charge a \$100 annual fundraising fee. This gives you two tickets to our Evening in Paradise fundraiser to be held this year at Wild Oak Saddle Club on April 27 . (Scholarship families do not pay this fee).

We've set your billing according to how you requested to pay the fee (all at once, or in increments). If you have a change, please come to the office.

### **Parking woes**

Now that everyone has been here a few weeks, we're beginning to get our routines down. One issue we still have is the parking. We understand that most of us have busy days ahead and we are coming and going quickly. However, parking on the curve where the boulders sit on the grass is NOT okay nor is the "gully" down the driveway (on the right side). You can park behind the staff cars on the creek side (next to the office) however. Please also remember to sloooooow down as you come through the parking lot. Safety first. We've sent several email blasts about this, but parking in "no parking zones" continues. Please help us out here!

**PHOTO DAYS WILL BE OCTOBER 9 AND 10...** You have already signed permission for this, so we're good to go!

### **Family Dinner Night (Dine and Donate)**

We will be having our first Dine and Donate night on October 10 at Mary's Pizza Shack on Summerfield Rd. We have sent the flyer to you, and when it gets closer we will send again as well as provide some hard copies outside the front door). You must have your flyer when you go to the restaurant! You eat dinner there (or lunch or get take out) and Brush Creek will get back 15% of your dinner cost. It's easy, and fun to see your friends (and teachers) outside of school. Hope you can all make it!

### **Board of Directors Elections**

In the third week in October we will be holding Board elections, and since you are all a part of the Brush Creek voting pool, we will be asking you to cast a ballot. Unlike regular elections, you will simply vote yes to the entire slate of prospective Board members. It is not too late to express interest in serving on our Board as well. WE NEED MORE INTERESTED FOLKS TO SERVE ON OUR BOARD. We have not filled all our positions. See Julie if interested.

### **Employee Recognition Program**

Please check the front bulletin board for our latest profiled staff member. This month it is Karin, our Administrative Assistant. Karin is a very valued employee and we appreciate her very much. Congratulations, Karin!

### **Late Pick Ups**

We realize with the beginning of any school year we are all trying to get used to new routines and schedules. While we appreciate the difficulty of always getting to where we need to go in a timely manner, we are seeing some late pickups of children. Remember, UNLESS YOU ARE USING EARLY/AFTER CARE, the morning sessions are from 9-12 and the afternoon classes are from 1-4. Please DO NOT sign in early, even if you are standing out front and waiting for the door to open. Any early sign-ins could result in early/after care charges! Please respect the pickup times and get into the building a few minutes before class is over. Staff members need their lunch breaks as well as being able to count on going home when their shift is done at the end of the day. Your cooperation is so appreciated.

### **Mom's Brunch!**

On October 27 we will be having our annual Mom's event. More information will be coming, but there will be two shifts, 8:30 or 9:30. Moms and kids will come and eat a delicious meal prepared by the staff and the kids. The kids will have some special surprises to give to Mom, as well. ***Put this date on your calendars.*** Hope you can make it!

### **Eye/Ear Screening**

The Assistance League of Sonoma County will be providing FREE eye and ear screening for our 4 year old classes on October 16 and 17. Most of you have signed a permission slip already, but if you haven't we will be chatting with you. This service is free to our students.



Front class parents have probably been hearing your child recite our monthly poem by Maurice Sendak from his book, "Chicken Soup with Rice." Here is the October poem for you all to enjoy:

**In October I'll be host  
To witches, goblins and a ghost  
I'll serve them chicken soup on toast  
Whoopy once, whoopy twice  
Whoopy chicken soup with rice**