

August 2009

Dear Families,

I hope your summer is relaxing and wonderful. We are gearing up for a new school year here and enjoying the excitement that brings! Enclosed is some information and calendar dates you may find helpful as you plan for the fall.

#### NAMES OF CLASSES

We refer to each classroom here by a particular name that we think denotes that plane of development. It also avoids names like the “little kids” class or “the teacher’s name, class”. We strive to be one community and believe this helps do just that!

**TRAILBLAZERS** – are in the first classroom, closest to the parking lot. (This classroom is also our before and after school care room). Satia Widmann is the head teacher in here and she is supported by Shea-Lynn Clark. This is a new class of 15, 2 ½ to 3 ½ year old children, some who come ½ day, and some who come full day. **THEIR FIRST DAYS, AUGUST 26 AND 27 ARE BY APPOINTMENT!** Satia will be calling each family to set up a time to come in and get used to the classroom, teachers and the school. **ALL TRAILBLAZERS will come for their first day together on FRIDAY, AUGUST 28. REGULAR ARRIVAL TIME 8:30-8:45. Half-day departure children leave between 11:45 and 12. FULL-DAY CHILDREN WILL LEAVE AT 1:00 ON FRIDAY.** Regular arrival and departure times begin on Monday, August 31, 2009. Arrival 8:30 to 8:45 and departure 11:45 to 12 ½ day and 2:15 to 2:30 full day, except on Fridays everyone leaves one hour early or 1:15 to 1:30.

**STARGAZERS** – are in the room with the adjoining patio that faces the yard. Nancy Dwyer and Susie Lickness are the head teachers in here and are supported by Ashley Seltun and Laurie Ray. This is a class of 30, 3 to 6 year old children, some ½ day and some full day. **THE FIRST DAYS FOR ANY NEW CHILDREN TO THIS CLASS ARE WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY-AUGUST 26, 27 and 28.** Regular arrival time, 8:30 to 8:45, half-day children depart between 11:45 and 12. **FULL-DAY CHILDREN WILL DEPART AT 1:00 THESE THREE DAYS!** All children return to school on Monday, August 31 with regular arrival and departure times. Regular departure time is 2:15 to 2:30 except every Friday-departure time is one hour earlier or 1:15 to 1:30.

**EXPLORERS-** are in the room furthest from Higuera Street and have a sunroom attached. Judilyn Duba and Martine Imboden are the head teachers in here and Becca Juner is the support teacher. This is class of 23, 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children. **FIRST DAYS FOR THE NEW CHILDREN IN THIS CLASS ARE ALSO WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 27 AND 28.** Regular arrival time 8:15 to 8:30 and 1:00 **DEPARTURE TIME FOR THESE THREE DAYS.** All children return on Monday, August 31, 2009 with regular arrival and departure times – 8:15 to 8:30 and 2:45 to 3PM. Friday departure time is one hour earlier or 1:45 to 2PM.

**PHILOSOPHERS** – are in the room adjoining the library. This is a group of 26, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade children. Colleen Nushi is the head teacher and Cathy Cobarr and Suzanne Gorter are the support teachers. **THE FIRST DAYS FOR ALL CHILDREN NEW TO THIS CLASS ARE WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26,27 AND 28.** Regular arrival time 8:15 to 8:30 and 1:00 **DEPARTURE TIME FOR EVERYONE!** All children in this class will start back together on **MONDAY, August 31, 2009.** Regular arrival and departure times 8:15 to 8:30 and 2:45 to 3PM, except on Fridays-departure time is one-hour earlier-1: 45 to 2PM.

#### TUITION

Annual tuition can be paid in 3 different ways-either in one lump, due July 1<sup>st</sup>, in 2 equal payments due August 15 and January 15 or in 10 monthly payments. 2009-2010 tuition is \$7,000.00 for full day and \$6,000.00 for half-day. If tuition is paid in one lump or in 2 equal payments there is a \$250.00 discount – so \$6,750 total for one-time or \$3,375.00 in 2 payments. Monthly tuition has a \$250.00 deposit and then monthly payments of \$675.00. These payments are due August 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 through May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. August 15 payments can be mailed directly to the school at 4200 South Higuera Street, 93401

#### EXPLOPER AND PHIOSOPHER MATERIAL FEES

These 2 classes participate in many field trips, activities, and trips for the Philosophers and use personal materials such as workbooks, recorders, binders and paper, etc. There is a once a year material fee for each class. **THE FEE FOR THE EXPLORERS IS \$175.00 AND FOR THE PHILOSOPHERS \$275.00.** These fees are due on August 15, 2009.

#### EXTENDED CARE NEEDS

Our school provides extended care for our families. Please see the attached sheet to sign up and send it back to us by August 15. Let us know the most care you may need as we have limited space of 24 children. As the first month of school goes by we can amend the roster as you discover your soccer, music, work, etc. schedules. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEND THIS BACK IF YOU ONLY WILL BE USING OCCASIONAL CARE!** Our new extended care teachers, Morgan Spivey and Natalie Stocks will be at school on the first days just to meet your children and become familiar faces! **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE STARTS ON MONDAY, August 31, 2009.**

#### UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS!!!

#### GARDEN WORKDAY!

We will have a garden clean up day on Sunday, August 16 from 1 to 3PM to prepare the yards for school. Please e-mail Carolyn Eicher at eicherzink@mac.com if you can come and help out. We would love to have you there!

#### COME SEE OUR EXPLORER AND PHILOSOPHER CLASSES MASK ART PROJECTS AND LEND A HELPING HAND TO THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE SLO LIBRARY!

Join other M.C.S. families on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 to see our 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades fabulous paper mache art masks! We will have a small reception in the S.L.O. City Library community room from 4:00 to 5:30PM. Come and have some refreshments, see the amazing masks created this last Spring under our art teacher, Chloe White's direction, and enjoy each other's company! Everyone is invited! As you may know, our local library is suffering under ongoing and current budget cuts. We, as a school, can show our support by contributing a child's book to the library. The library has given us a wish list of their books and The Novel Experience (our locally owned, independent bookstore) has ordered 30 of these books for us to purchase that night if we wish. If you choose, you can purchase a book that night and dedicate it to the library, in your family's name. This will be great fun and a great way to thank the library for displaying our artwork! Please come and feel free to bring your family and friends! Thank you Chloe and Carolyn Eicher for setting this up!

#### KICK OFF POTLUCK

Our kick off potluck will be on Thursday, September 3, 2009. Please join us at Santa Rosa Park near the largest seating area and BRING A DISH TO SHARE THAT SERVES AT LEAST 10, YOUR OWN PLACE SETTINGS AND DRINKS! We will once again provide the famous Madonna Inn cakes for dessert! We do have school on Friday, but thought many families might be traveling out of town for the Labor Day weekend so changed the day from a Friday to a Thursday. NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY!

#### PARENT NIGHTS

We have a beginning of the year parent night scheduled for each class. This night is especially important for any new families to a particular class. We meet the teachers, discuss the schedules of our days and answer any questions you may have. Please make every effort to attend to get this important information and to meet new families!

TRAILBLAZER AND STARGAZER PARENT NIGHT –Tues. Sept.8 6 to7: 30

EXPLORER AND PHILOSOPHER PARENT NIGHT – Wed. Sept. 9 6 to 7:30

Refreshments, door prizes, tour the school, etc. etc!

PLEASE NOTE, BECAUSE THIS IS A LECTURE TYPE EVENT IT IS FOR ADULTS AND BABES IN ARMS ONLY!!

I am so excited to begin a new school year. As change and unease continue in our world it feels great to have this community, familiarity and continuity. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us with any questions kernzoo@aol.com. A full school calendar will be handed out the first full week of school. Can't wait-see you then! Here we go-our 27<sup>th</sup> year!