



Saddleback Children's Center



Newsletter
September 2018

Welcome to
Saddleback Children's Center!

We enjoyed having the opportunity to see so many of you during our Meet & Greet days. We look forward to getting to know you all a little more during our Parent Back to School Night on September 26th and even more throughout the entire school year! SCC is a special place and it is the parents and children together with the teachers that make it that way. We take pride in our family atmosphere so we are so thrilled that you are a part of our family this year!

As the new year begins, it is a time to say hello to new and returning faces. We are happy to welcome to our SCC family Miss Marie, Miss Kailey, Miss Michelle and Miss Kristin!

God bless the 2018-19 school year for all our students and their teachers!

-Carla Leveratt, Director &
Meagan Kraszewski, Assistant Director

New at SCC!

School and staff emails:

We will now be transitioning to info@saddlebackchildrenscenter.org as the new general school email.

Carla Leveratt can be contacted using Carla.L@saddlebackchildrenscenter.org and Meagan Kraszewski can be contacted using Meagan.K@saddlebackchildrenscenter.org. Staff will have theirs up and running by Back to School Night!

MyProcure Parent Portal: We are excited to announce that over the summer SCC made a change to a more user-friendly software program for parents and administrators! You will be able to see your child's schedule, see your balance, make an online payment, print a ledger to use for employer reimbursements or tax purposes, and more. Login through myprocure.com.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Back to School Night

Wednesday, September 26th 6:30-7:30

Parents will meet in the Church Sanctuary where Pastor Marty will welcome the new school year and introduce the School Readiness Nurse who will have a short presentation about the upcoming School District Health Screening. Carla Leveratt will be sharing additional information about our program following the presentation. Parents will then gather in their child's classroom. Our teachers will explain the goals they have for your child, their classroom routines, and review activities that are planned for this school year. This is a good time to get to know your child's teacher and ask any questions you might have about the program. We hope to see all of our parents there!

This evening is for parents only!

Preschool Sunday

Sunday, October 7th 10:45 at Community Lutheran Church. Your children have been practicing songs to sing at the beginning of the service. Also, during the service our teachers will be installed and Pastor Marty will bless the school year.

Chapel

Our Preschool holds Chapel on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 10:30. This is a special time of prayer and fellowship for our children. Both Pastor Marty and Josiah, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries, will lead chapel for us. We will start this month by focusing on teaching the children about prayer and how God created the world.

Community Lutheran Church Info

Community Lutheran Church would like to offer you an open invitation to attend their church services. Services are held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:45 beginning September 9th. They are led by Pastor Marty Jacobson. Please call the church office with any questions you may have! 949-858-0307

Important Reminders

1. **Change of Clothes:** We know there are days when painting gets messy, juice/milk gets spilled and accidents happen. Therefore, each child needs to have an extra set of clothes left at school in a large zip-lock bag, labeled with your child's name.

2. **Folders:** Each classroom has a set of folders with your child's name. Be sure to check this folder each day for any information that needs to go home. Additionally, Full Day & 8 Hour students have a folder in the Big Room. Be sure to check that one also!

3. **Snack:** Each child needs to sign up to bring snack in for his/her class two times per month. Snack calendars are located on the parent table outside your child's room. This is a **peanut and tree nut-free school**. Please purchase snacks packaged in a nut free facility.

4. **Sign-In:** Parents/guardians are required by the State of California to sign their child in and out of school each day. Please be sure to use your legal signature.

Comments Page: If there is something the teacher needs to be aware of for that day, please notate this on the comments page. For example, if another person other than yourself that is authorized to sign out your child will be doing so, please notate this on the comments page. Teachers will also utilize this page to communicate with you as needed, so check daily.

Morning Drop-Off

Our campus is not open until 7:00am. Families that arrive early in the morning may not enter the campus until this time. Please respect the time the teachers need to set up for your children to have a fun and safe learning environment. If you arrive at 8:30am, please sign your child in directly to their classroom. This is a transitional period where teachers are picking children up from the Big Room and taking them to their classrooms.

Preschool Drop-off: If your child is enrolled in the preschool morning program please wait until 8:45AM to sign your child into their classroom. Our teachers need plenty of time to prepare for a day full of fun and learning.

5. **Allergies/Medications:** If you have not done so already, please notify your child's teacher on the first day of school if your child is allergic to any foods, so special arrangements can be made. Any child needing medication while at school, must first be registered in the office before medications can be administered.

6. **Sunscreen:** We ask that you apply sunscreen on your child before he/she comes to school.

Parents of Full Day or 8 Hour children: if you want us to reapply sunscreen in the afternoon, please send in sunscreen labeled with your child's name. Also, parents must sign a sunscreen permission slip located in the Big Room.

7. **8 Hour Program:** Children enrolled in the 8 Hour Program must be enrolled from either 7:00AM-3:00PM or 8:00-4:00PM. This is not a flexible 8 hours of your choosing. If you find that you are unable to pick up your child by the designated time, we will ask that you switch to the Full Day Program to allow for the flexibility.

8. **Tuition:** The first tuition payment is due September 1st. Tuition is due the first of each month, September-June, and late after the 10th. Payments received after the 10th will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Upon notification, tuition must be paid within 48 hours of notification or an additional \$25.00 will be charged to your account for a total of \$50.

Payment Methods: You can pay by check or by setting up automated payments by submitting an authorization form to the office. All automatic payments will be charged on the 5th of the month. Finally, you can log into your parent portal account to pay online and check balances through myprocare.com, which is also found at the bottom right and corner of our homepage, saddlebackchildrenscenter.org.

9. **Cell Phone Policy:** Pick-up and drop-off time is a great way to connect with your child(ren) and is also a time when you may get to interact with your child's teacher. We are also setting an example for our children by showing them how important it is to make these interpersonal connections. We kindly ask that you save all cell phone usage for off-campus.



Enrichment Programs Offered at SCC

All programs will begin the week of **October 1st**

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is intended as an occasional after-preschool social program. Parents pack a lunch and your child may stay until **12:15**. The cost for Lunch Bunch is \$10.00. Please stop by the Office for more information to sign up. **New this year: students will be signed out directly from their classroom!**



Ballet Classes

Showtime Dance is offering Ballet, Tap, and Jazz classes on Mondays from 11:45-12:30. Information flyers are in the foyer.

Amazing Athletes

This program is designed to introduce a variety of different ball sports to children. All activities are introduced in a non-competitive environment that focuses on fun, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Classes are offered on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:30-12:15. Information flyers are in the foyer.

Spanish Classes

Children's Spanish classes will be offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-12:15. Information flyers are in the foyer.

****IMPORTANT NOTE****

We have children with severe allergies. Please show compassion and follow our "no nut policy."



SCC
Preschool **is**

NUT FREE

**THIS IS A
PEANUT AND
TREE NUT
FREE ZONE**

Share Day

Your child's teacher will provide specifics as to how she incorporates share days into the classroom.



Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parents that would like to help out at school. Your support and help is needed to make our program a success. Parent Volunteer forms will be going home soon. Please choose an area that you would feel comfortable helping with and return it to your child's teacher.

Thank you to those of you who signed up to be room parents for this year! With your help we look forward to a great school year.

Celebrating Birthdays

A fun occasion for all children is to celebrate their own birthday. We celebrate all our children's birthdays at our school, even throughout the summer. Children are given a birthday crown to wear throughout the day and the class sings "Happy Birthday" to them.

Parents may sign up to bring in the class snack on their child's celebration day. Parents may bring in the designated snack for the day, or may choose to change the snack item after first discussing an alternate snack with your child's teacher. All snacks must adhere to our healthy food guidelines. Items such as cake and ice cream are not permitted.



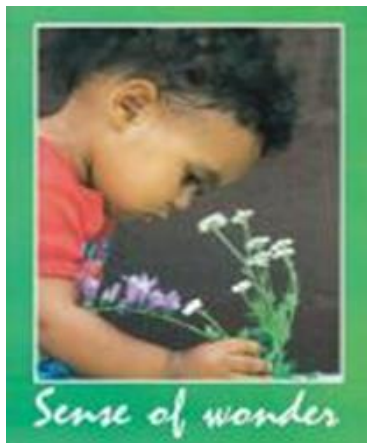
Outdoor Classroom Project



We are pleased to announce that Saddleback Children's Center is entering our third year in developing our play yards or outdoor classrooms. With that said, we are now entering the certification process. With guidance from the Outdoor Classroom Project, we hope to promote the following objectives:

1. Establish a lifelong pattern of ongoing, vigorous and extended physical activity.
2. Foster learning through self-initiation, control, and personal responsibility.
3. Achieve social / emotional mastery and build communication skills through outdoor projects such as our school garden and group activity.
4. Build a healthy, balanced internal psychology with time spent alone.
5. Develop an interest in science and math through connecting with nature.
6. Create a successful learning environment for the active learner.
7. Manifest classroom harmony.

From the Outdoor Classroom: A Brief Description by Eric Nelson, M.A.



Staff

Our school is blessed with a dedicated staff. We have listed their names below so you can get to know them!

Kristina Amante	Teacher/ Outdoor Classroom Specialist
Sandra Becerra	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Linda Burkholder	Teacher/Full Day Staff
Ligia Gal	Full Day Staff
Geneva Giddens	Teacher Aide
Linda Hafemann	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Jessica Ilfeld	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Lisa Jones	Full Day Staff
Meagan Kraszewski	Assistant Director
Jennifer Lak	Teacher
Carla Leveratt	Director
Diane McVicker	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Lead Teacher
Marie Papst	Teacher
Amanda Perez	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Staff
Alicia Quesada	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Staff
Kailey Hansen	Teacher Aide
Rachel Mazzone	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Staff
Michelle Scaccianoce	Teacher Aide
Kristin Thomas	Teacher Aide
Jennifer Trette	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Cynthia Stingham	Substitute
Susan Wright	Substitute



ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT SCC

Fall Fundraisers



Help support us while you shop! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases, which will go toward our school and church when you select "Community Lutheran Church" as your charity!

The proceeds from our Fall Fundraisers this year will all go toward our classroom remodeling project and materials for our Outdoor Classroom.

- Poppin Popcorn
- Family Night Out
- CLC Harvest Festival

Poppin Popcorn Fundraising

We will be starting our first fundraiser of the year selling different varieties of popcorn starting October 1st through October 15th. Look for more information coming soon!

FAMILY NIGHT OUT



Coming soon! Look for more information about our first family night out of the school year. This is a fun night where families can go out to eat at a local restaurant that we choose each month on one special night. A portion of the proceeds goes back to fundraising for SCC!



SCC T-Shirts

Children will be able to show their school spirit by purchasing their very own SCC school t-shirt! We will have spirit days again on Thursdays and Fridays!

Many of you already purchased your SCC T-Shirts either last year or through your registration form. If you purchased them using your registration form, please look for you shirt to be distributed by the end of the month. For those of you who have not had the opportunity, T-Shirts will be available for purchase in the courtyard soon.



ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT SCC

CLC Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 20th



Community Lutheran Church is kicking off the holiday season with a Harvest Festival & Boutique. Come shop at the boutique, enjoy a sweet treat from the bake sale, put your bids in at the silent auction, take your chances in the raffle, participate in kids crafts and activities, and sit down with a BBQ lunch. There is something fun for the whole family! Admission is free.

All proceeds will benefit CLC and Saddleback Children's Center's new Kitchen.

Please join us for our Harvest Festival & Boutique on Saturday October 20, 2018 from 9am-3pm at Community Lutheran Church in Rancho Santa Margarita. See you there!

If you are interested in selling your hand-made crafts at the boutique, download the registration from here: [Harvest Festival Registration Form](#) or you can pick one up in person from the church. Space is limited.

For more information please contact Julie Mortenson at 949-858-0307.



Mom and Dad take the night off!

Drop the kids off in the Full Day Room with Josiah and volunteers for dinner, desserts, music, crafts, fun games, and a movie while you have an evening to yourself.

Saturdays

September 15th

October 13th

December 15th

January 12th

February 9th

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

June 15th

Time: 5:00-8:00 pm

Cost \$ 20 per child, siblings additional \$5.
Preschool and Kindergarten

Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com for questions

Pre- registration is required
Please email Josiah one day prior to
Kids Night Out



Easing First Day Jitters: Strategies for Successful Home-to-School Transitions

Here are suggestions for strategies that we recommend and use at Saddleback Children's Center to help create a successful transition between home and school:

1. Establish a routine in which you drop off your child at the same time and pick them up at the same time (this can be more flexible once your child has acclimated to school).
2. Talk to your child about what to expect and remind them about who will come to pick them up at the end of the day.
3. Make drop-off time quick and simple (only a couple minutes) with these suggestions:
 - Hug and/or kiss your child good-bye after you sign your child in.
 - Connect with a teacher and tell your child, "It's time to go with Miss ____ now" or "It's time to wash your hands and it's time for me to leave, I will be back at the end of the day."
 - Once you sign your child in, please do not stay around to watch where your child can see you or re-enter the classroom (again this can be flexible once your child has acclimated). This makes it more difficult for your child to separate.
4. Remember that our staff is all here to help this transition process go as smoothly as possible and that it is typical to have an adjustment period that can be different for each child. We also realize this is an adjustment for parents too!

The following lists strategies from an article posted on NAEYC, http://www.naeyc.org/yc/article/first_day_jitters

Window wave and hug



The window wave is an easy strategy that can be done at a door, through a window, or on a school bus. After the parent and child say good-bye, the parent gives closure to the transition by waving to the child or blowing kisses. The child will know she is loved and is now ready to begin her day in a positive way.

Giving children a hug at the door helps them transition into the classroom or onto the school bus, and away from their parent. Children are reassured when parents let them know that they will be back to pick them up before saying goodbye. Sensing they are valued, they enter the classroom or school bus feeling safe and secure.

Vanessa when she returns to pick up Sophia at the end of her first school day. Ms. Lisa shows Vanessa the window and explains how the window wave and hug strategy works. She suggests that Vanessa and Sophia try the window wave before leaving, so that Sophia knows what to expect when her mother leaves the classroom on the following day.

Familiar object

Bringing a familiar object from home, such as a stuffed animal, blanket, or small toy (that doesn't make noise), helps children with the home-to-school transition. If children are having a hard time after the morning transition, they can hug the object from home to feel more comfortable at school. The familiar object can be reassuring throughout the day. The smell of home on the object can also help soothe children. It is up to the family, child, and school policy to choose whether to leave the object at school or take it home each day. While keeping the object at school may be an acceptable arrangement for some children, other children may have to send the object home to reduce distractions and the potential for other problems that may occur in the classroom, such as other children trying to play with the toy and upsetting the child who needs it.



Arrival buddy

Children who form friendships with peers in the classroom often feel more comfortable and may acclimate to the school environment more easily. Teachers can ask peers who consistently arrive before children needing transitional help whether they would like to be an arrival buddy. The arrival buddy—who has previously received directions from the teacher—guides the child into the classroom, and then takes the child directly to an activity, such as playdough, puzzles, or books. The arrival buddy could be someone the child has expressed interest in or someone who, if the new child is an English language learner, speaks the same home language. Teachers need to monitor these peer interactions to be sure the arrangement is helping the new child and is not a burden for the arrival buddy.

Visual home-to-school transitions

To make the home-to-school transition more successful, it is sometimes helpful for children to have visual items that are specific to their families, homes, or cultures. Such visuals include family photographs, family trees, picture schedules, and home-to-school arrival charts.

Family photos

Children can make books with family photographs to look at during the morning transition and at other times during the day, as needed. When appropriate, children might carry the books around with them to feel safe and secure. Another way to incorporate family pictures in the classroom environment is to hang a large construction paper tree on the wall to display each child's family. This helps all children in the classroom feel connected to their classroom and their peers.

For more tips visit http://www.naeyc.org/yc/article/first_day_jitters



September 2018

September Concepts
 Color: Red
 Number: 1
 Shape: Circle

M	T	W	Th	F
3 Labor Day Holiday School Closed	4	5 Chapel	6	7
10	11 Chapel	12	13	14
17	18	19 Chapel	20	21
24	25 Chapel	26 Parent Back to School Night 6:30-7:30 	27	28 <u>Enrichment Programs Begin the week of October 1st</u>

September Bible Verse:
 "God made the world and everything in it!" Acts 17:24

