



Saddleback Children's Center



Newsletter
September 2016

Message from SCC:

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 29th 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 faces as well as goodbye to familiar faces. We would like to wish Miss Rachel well in her next chapter as she will be leaving our school to focus on her education. She will be deeply missed and always welcome! We are happy, however, that she will be coming back as a substitute. On that note, we are happy to announce that Miss Alicia will be joining our SCC family as an Assistant in the Red Room this year! She is very enthusiastic about joining us as we are about having her!

We also ask that you keep one of our teachers, Miss Ligia, in your prayers. She has been taking care of her mother for the past month and will return to SCC as an assistant in the full day program Mid-September.

God bless the 2016-17 school year for all of our students and their teachers!

-Carla Leveratt, Director &
Meagan Kraszewski, Assistant Director

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Back to School Night
Thursday, September 29th 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. 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!

Chapel

Our Preschool holds Chapel on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9:30. This is a special time of prayer and fellowship for our children. Both Pastor Marty and Josiah, our Youth Minister, 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 8:15 and 10:45 beginning September 13th. They are led by Pastor Marty Jacobson. Please call the church office with any questions you may have! 949-858-0307

Important Reminders:

1. **Enrollment:** Please make sure the office has all your child's enrollment forms. Emergency contact numbers for both parents are vitally important to your child's safety while at school. Please keep them updated.

2. **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.

3. **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 students have a folder in the Big Room. Be sure to check that one also!

4. **Snack:** Each child needs to sign up to bring snack in for his/her class at least once a 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.

5. **Sign-In:** When dropping off or picking up your child you must sign them in/out each day. No one under the age of 18 may pick up a child from school. Parents/guardians are required by the State of California to sign their child in and out of school each day. Please be sure your signature is legible.

6. **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.

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

Parents of full day 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.

Enrichment Programs Offered at SCC

All programs will begin the week of October 3rd

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is intended as an occasional after-preschool social program. Parents pack a lunch and your child may stay until 12:30. The cost for Lunch Bunch is \$7.00. Please stop by the Office for more information to sign up.

Ballet Classes

Showtime Dance is offering Ballet, Tap, and Jazz classes on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:45-12:15. 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 11:45-12:15. Information flyers are in the foyer.

Spanish Classes

Children's Spanish classes will be offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:45-12:15. Information flyers are in the foyer.

Martial Arts Classes

World Champions Martial Arts Center is offering a karate, nutrition and yoga "all-in-one" program on Wednesdays from 11:45-12:30. Information flyers are in the foyer.



Outdoor Classroom Project



Our very own Director, Carla Leveratt, and Purple Room Teacher Aide, Kristina Amante, are training to have our school designated as an Outdoor Classroom. This means that our school offers a curriculum that will better support children in developing positive relationships with their peers and the environment.

To find out more about this you can go to www.outdoorclassroomproject.org.

Poppin Popcorn Fundraising

We will be starting our first fundraiser of the year selling different varieties of popcorn starting Mid-September! Look for more information coming soon!



Proceeds will go towards facility improvements including new flooring in our classrooms and materials for our Outdoor Classroom.

CLC Holiday Boutique

Saturday, October 15th

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Holiday Boutique, a fun holiday fundraiser organized through Community Lutheran Church. So far we are set to have 12 vendors at the boutique!

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

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. The only room that still needs a room parent is the Green Room.

****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

Our students are each assigned a “Share Day” to bring special items from home and talk about them with their classmates.

Share day is intended to be a learning experience! We are asking that your child bring a special item of interest for sharing that is related to what we are teaching in class. Because this month we are “Getting Acquainted” we would like your child to bring items that will help his/her classmates get to know him/her better such as favorite objects, pictures, etc.

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



Celebrating Birthdays

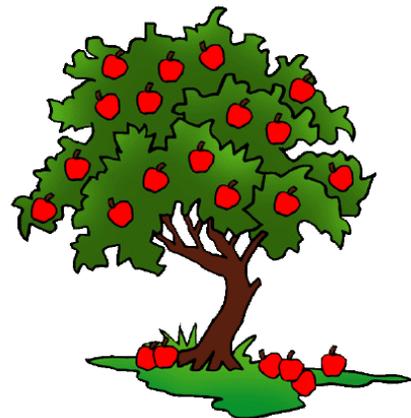
A fun occasion for all children is to celebrate their own birthday. We celebrate all of our children’s birthdays at our school, even throughout the summer. Children are given a birthday crown to wear throughout the day and the class sings “Happy Birthday” to them.

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.

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 Aide/Full Day Staff
Sandra Becerra	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Linda Burkholder	Teacher/Full Day Staff
Marijane Echan	Teacher
Ligia Gal	Full Day Staff
Geneva Giddens	Teacher Aide
Linda Hafemann	Teacher
Meagan Kraszewski	Assistant Director
Jennifer Lak	Teacher
Carla Leveratt	Director/Teacher
Diane McVicker	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Lead Teacher
Valerie Varela	Teacher Aide
Alicia Quesada	Teacher Aide
Jennifer Boyle	Substitute
Rachel Steinbach	Substitute
Cynthia Stingham	Substitute
Susan Wright	Substitute



Parents' Pages

WHAT IS "DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE?"

YOU PROBABLY HAVE NOTICED THAT OUR CLASSROOMS HAVE A LOT OF BUSTLE AND NOISE, THAT CHILDREN ARE UP DOING THINGS, TALKING, PLAYING, AND EXPLORING. SUCH A CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT DIFFERS FROM THE OLD GRADE-SCHOOL IMAGES OF A TEACHER DOING A LOT OF TALKING AT A BLACKBOARD WHILE CHILDREN SIT AND LISTEN QUIETLY AT THEIR DESKS.

RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE TELL US THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, TEACHING PRACTICES NEED TO BE "DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE." WHAT THIS MEANS IS SIMPLY THAT EDUCATORS NEED TO THINK FIRST ABOUT WHAT CHILDREN ARE LIKE AND THEN CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT AND EXPERIENCES THAT ARE IN TUNE WITH CHILDREN'S CHARACTERISTICS.

EARLY CHILDHOOD, AFTER ALL, IS A TIME OF LIFE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ADULTHOOD, AND EVEN FROM THE LATER SCHOOL YEARS. CHILDREN 3-6 LEARN FAR BETTER THROUGH DIRECT INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES THAN THROUGH JUST LISTENING TO SOMEONE TALK. THEY LEARN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNTS THROUGH PLAY AND EXPLORATION. AND THE YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE, THE MORE WHAT THEY LEARN NEEDS TO BE RELEVANT AND INTERESTING ON THE DAY THEY LEARN

IT, NOT JUST IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME FUTURE LEARNING.

BASED ON SUCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WHAT CHILDREN OF THIS AGE ARE LIKE, WE DESIGN OUR PROGRAM TO FIT THEM. IT WORKS A LOT BETTER THAN TRYING TO REDESIGN CHILDREN.

A DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PROGRAM LIKE OURS IS AGE-APPROPRIATE. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. TO MAKE THE PROGRAM A GOOD PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD, WE GEAR OUR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND ACTIVITIES TO THIS COMMUNITY AND THE FAMILIES INVOLVED. WE'RE EAGER TO LEARN AS MUCH AS WE CAN ABOUT EACH CHILD'S FAMILY, CULTURAL BACKGROUND, PAST EXPERIENCE, AND CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE WE WORK TO CREATE A PROGRAM THAT FITS THE CHILDREN AND THE FAMILIES WE SERVE.

