



# Saddleback Children's Center



Newsletter  
September 2020

Welcome to  
Saddleback Children's Center!

This past year has looked especially different for all of us as we have overcome unique challenges and confronted uncertainty. We are overjoyed to be gathered back together as an SCC Family. SCC is a special place and it is the parents and children together with the teachers that make it that way so thank you for trusting your child to our care. We take pride in our family atmosphere, so we are so thrilled that you are a part of our family this year!

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 more throughout the entire school 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 Katy, Miss Caylie, Miss Rhowena and Miss Yvonne!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." -  
Matthew 5:16

Let's follow our children's lead and be a light for others this school year! God bless the 2020-21 school year for all our students and their teachers!

- Meagan Kraszewski, Director &  
Kristin Thomas, Assistant Director

## Back to School Night A virtual event!

Keep your eyes on the lookout for information coming soon about our virtual Back to School Night. We are busy collaborating with our teachers to find the best way to welcome you into the classroom online! It will look different this year, but we hope that you will find comfort in having the ability to see the smiles of your teachers and hear what they have to say about what to expect this year as well as the inside of your child's classroom!

## Chapel

Our Preschool holds Chapel on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This year we will be dividing our groups into three separate sessions starting at 9:45, 10:05 and 10:25 to maintain social distancing in a child friendly way. 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 8th. They are led by Pastor Marty Jacobson. Our Sunday 8:30 AM Outdoor Patio Worship Service has become popular. Registration is recommended to help with six feet social distancing on the patio. Register [here](#) before 3:00 PM on Friday, September 4th for this Sunday. Or at **10:00 am** you can view our Livestream YouTube Worship service from the sanctuary. If you have any questions or need help with registering please email Julie ([julieclcrsm@gmail.com](mailto:julieclcrsm@gmail.com)) or call the church office at (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. Our sign-out staff will be sure to check this folder each day for any information that needs to go home.

3. **Snack:** Each child needs bring snack from home labeled AM for the morning and PM if here in the afternoon. This is a **peanut and tree nut-free school**. Please purchase snacks packaged in a nut free facility.

4. **Sign-In:** Thank you parents and sign-in/out staff for helping this process to go smoothly so far! Just a couple reminders to help this process continue to go smoothly:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Morning Drop-Off**  
Our campus is not open until 8:00am. Our sign-in table is not staffed until this time. Before this time, our teachers are preparing their classrooms for a day of fun and learning.
4. **Preschool Drop-off:** If your child is enrolled in the preschool morning program please arrive between 8:25 and 8:35. Our preschool morning begins at 8:30 so our sign-in staff will do our best to facilitate this process and help your child to their classroom within that time period.
5. **Masks:** Masks must be worn during sign-in and sign-out procedures.

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 at either one of the sign-in/out tables.

7. **Tuition:** The first tuition payment is billed September 1st. Tuition is billed 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.

8. **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](http://myprocare.com), which is also found at the bottom right hand corner of our homepage, [saddlebackchildrenscenter.org](http://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.

10. **MyProcare Parent Portal:** Our user-friendly software program for parents and administrators will allow you to view 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 [myprocare.com](http://myprocare.com)



## Enrichment Programs Offered at SCC

All Enrichment programs have been placed on hold until further notice. We hope to bring them back sooner than expected. Here is what you can look forward to in the future!

### Lunch Bunch [Cancelled until further notice]

Lunch Bunch is intended as an occasional after-preschool social program. Parents pack a lunch and your child may stay until **12:15**. More information will be provided when we are able to bring our lunch bunch program back.



### Ballet Classes [Cancelled until further notice]

Showtime Dance offers Ballet, Tap, and Jazz.

### Amazing Athletes [Cancelled until further notice]

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.

### Spanish Classes [Cancelled until further notice]

Children's Spanish classes are traditionally offered twice a week.

#### **\*\*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. We are currently asking that items are not brought from home until further notice.



## Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parents that would like to help at school. Your support and help are 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. Although, parents are not able to come onto campus at this time, we will still have unique opportunities for parents to help.

We will also be looking for room parent volunteers. With your help we look forward to a great school year. Information will be coming soon, look for outside tables for sign-up.

## 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.

Your child's birthday will be celebrated regardless. Please do not feel obligated to bring in anything other than what you would normally send to school. However, if you would like to bring in something special, remember that cupcakes, candy, punch, and other sugary foods are not permitted. Some festive but healthier alternatives are yogurt push-ups or frozen go-gurts, 100% juice popsicles, fresh fruit, oatmeal cookies, muffins, etc. Please make sure these items are brought to school in the original sealed packaging.



# Outdoor Classroom Project



We are pleased to announce that Saddleback Children's Center is entering our fifth year in developing our play yards or outdoor classrooms and became certified as a demonstration site in February 2019. With guidance from the Outdoor Classroom Project, we hope to continue 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.

## Special Outdoor Classroom Announcement

Miss Kristina will be dedicated as our Outdoor Classroom Specialist beginning this year! Over the past four years she has split her time between teaching in the classroom and as the Outdoor Classroom Specialist where our school has been blessed with her gift of arranging outdoor spaces and implementing creative ways to use these spaces. With her ability to dedicate her time to the outdoors she will be able to continue her research to help expand our program, manage our outdoor spaces and even implement a new fitness and fun program! This is truly her passion and we are grateful that she can incorporate it into our school!

## Staff

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

Kristina Amante	Outdoor Classroom Specialist
Katy Baez	Teacher
Linda Burkholder	Teacher
Marianne Carlucci	Teacher Aide/Floater
Caylie Eichelberger	Teacher Aide
Yvonne Elliot	Teacher Aide
Ligia Gal	Teacher
Geneva Giddens	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Gabriena Halwani	Teacher/ Full Day Staff
Meagan Kraszewski	Director
Mary Miewald	Teacher Aide/Floater
Marie Papst	Teacher
Alicia Quesada	Teacher Aide/ Full Day Staff
Kristin Thomas	Assistant Director
Cami Vallens	Teacher
Rhowena Wardle	Teacher Aide
Carla Leveratt	Consultant

## Substitutes

Kailey Hansen  
Rachel Mazzone  
Michelle Scaccianoce



# Ongoing Ways to Support SCC



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 ELCA Day of Service is Sunday, September 13th

This year we are concentrating our efforts onto one project that can involve us all whether you must stay home or join us in person! We will be creating "Thank You - We Appreciate You Bags" for all of our community grocery stores and fire stations. We want them to know we recognize their unwavering efforts during this pandemic. Grocery Store workers have been especially hard working as they restock entire shelves and update the stores to keep up with changing protocols. We wanted to make sure they aren't overlooked as essential workers!

Each gift bag will contain:

- A thank you note from you (hint: Dollar Tree is a great place to find affordable notecards or just write a letter of thanks on any paper)
- A bottle of water
- A packet of Emergen-C (to keep up their energy)



- A 100 Grand candy bar (to signify we think they are priceless)



- Trail mix packet

- A Granola Bar

- Hershey's Kisses



- A smiley face magnet - or something similar to lift their spirits and remind them we appreciate them



Whether you fill bags at home, donate goods from the list and leave them at the church office, or join us on September 13th to assemble and deliver the bags, we greatly appreciate your help! We will have brown handle craft bags at the church office if you wish to take any to fill yourselves.

If you have any questions, please contact: Heidi Wolfson or Brian Wielenga

## Fall Fundraisers

The proceeds from our Fall Fundraisers this year will all go toward purchasing classroom curriculum supplies and materials.

- Poppin Popcorn
- Family Night Out

## Poppin Popcorn Fundraising

We will be starting our first fundraiser of the year selling different varieties of popcorn. Our Poppin Popcorn fundraiser will start September 28<sup>th</sup> and run until October 12<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be placed online and will be shipped directly to your home. Look for more information coming soon!



## 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!

T-Shirts will be available for purchase soon.



# 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](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.

Ms. Lisa shows 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.



# September 2020

September Concepts  
 Color: Red  
 Number: 1  
 Shape: Circle

M	T	W	Th	F
31	1	2 Chapel	3	4
7 Labor Day Holiday School Closed	8 Chapel	9	10	11
14	15	16 Chapel	17	18
21	22 Chapel	23	24	25
28 Poppin Popcorn Fundraiser Begins!	29	30 Chapel		

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

