

TAMAGRAM

September 2008

Welcome to our new and returning families!!!

The first days of school are very exciting for all of us, and it's such a good feeling to walk in and see all of our wonderful families! It is also a time to make new friends, renew old friendships and become acquainted with **the absolute magic** of preschool years!

Our first event for the school year is **Parent Information Night**, which will be held Thursday, September 18th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This event is for both new and veteran parents to have an opportunity to meet the staff, members of the Board of Trustees, and other parents, as well as to view the Preschool and the Pre-K. **This event is for adults only**, while our Family Open Houses, to which the whole family is invited, take place during the month of May.

OPENING THEME: We begin our preschool year with a curriculum unit called, "Let's Say Hello"! Our classrooms are divided into groups. The "Bumblebees", "Dragonflies", "Ducks", and "Frogs" are our Monday-Wednesday-Friday groups. Tuesday-Thursday groups are the "Bumblebees", "Dragonflies", "Ducklings" and "Ladybugs". The Pre-Kindergarteners are the "Whales". During this time, we will get acquainted with our classmates, teachers and school helpers. We talk about what it means to be friendly, cooperative, caring, sharing, and learning about listening and talking with the people around us.

* Please send a picture of your child for our PICTURE BOARD (if you have not done so already). The children love to look at these pictures, and it is a wonderful tool for learning names and "matching names to faces"!

Dates to Remember: Soon, we will have the children sorted into groups and then you will receive an individual Group Breakfast invitation in your child's art folder. Here is a "head's up" for dates:

Tuesday – Thursday Class, Group Breakfasts:

Ladybugs Tuesday, October 7	Ducklings – Thursday, October 9
Dragonflies – Tuesday, October 14	Bumblebees – Thursday, October 16

Monday – Wednesday – Friday, Group Breakfasts:

Frogs – Wednesday, October 8	Ducks – Monday, October 13
Dragonflies – Wednesday, October 15	Bumblebees – Friday, October 17

Halloween Party: Saturday, October 25th, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lots of opportunities for our wonderful volunteers, contact Ruth McDaniels ruthmcd@hotmail.com or Kara Taub at karataub@yahoo.com!

PARENT HANDBOOK: Each family will receive a copy of our "Parent Handbook" in your child's art folder. This Handbook gives you all the relevant information about school expectations, routines, billing procedures, and all kinds of other fun "stuff"!

PARENT INFORMATION: In order for our families to know all about what is happening at school, please read the Preschool **TAM DAILY** or the Pre-K **WHALE WATCH** each day on the Sign-In Sheets. We also post notices on the front window and bulletin boards near the front doors of each classroom, and of course you are always welcome to give Joan or Marcela a telephone call. Each family receives a TAMAGRAM newsletter each

month, and our Pre-Kindergarten parents receive the Whale Watch News to tell them all about the happenings in the Pre-K.

ADJUSTMENT TO SCHOOL: Sometimes the beginning of school can be difficult for you or your child. Please read our handout on “Family Routines for the School Year”. This may help avoid some problems. Also, call us with any concerns or questions you may have. We look forward to forming a close partnership with you in the excitement and joy of seeing your child mature and develop independence!

CHILD CARE: Early morning Child Care is available from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. We often recommend that “timid” or “reluctant” children come to school during this early period, for it may help them adjust to the school routines. Some children feel more comfortable if they can see how the day begins, and then slowly move into playtime with peers. However, if you do come into school early, you will be billed for a “Morning Child Care Block”, which costs \$4.25.

If you arrive “just a bit early” (and do not wish to be billed for Child Care), it is nice to take a walk around the area and enjoy the creek vistas, perhaps observing the many birds in the marsh. Regular Preschool and Pre-K hours begin at 9:00 a.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: We share the Methodist Church complex with other tenants. Please be especially careful of the well-being of our neighbors. **Please drive slowly** when entering and exiting the Church and school premises. (Note: It is not okay to enter the school grounds from the school exit onto Camino Alto!)

VOLUNTEERS: We love to have parents volunteer in the classroom. We have a **Volunteer Calendar** in the Parent News Corner in the front area of the classrooms. We can always use help with art projects, cooking projects, yard supervision, story dictation, reading books, and snack table companionship and conversation.

THANK YOU NOTES: Special thanks to Maureen Gazzola, Grace Kraaijvanger and Hilary Steiger for arranging refreshments for our Lemonade Socials for the opening of school! Thank you to Kara Taub for summer “maintenance” and overseeing all of the projects that help our school look so warm and welcoming!

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF FOR THIS YEAR....

Michelle Marcotte – Assistant Director and Preschool Teacher of the Bumblebee groups

Sheila Marvin – Preschool Teacher, Dragonfly groups

Lindsey Layzell – Preschool Teacher, Duck and Duckling groups

Dayna Barnett – Preschool Teacher, Frog group (MWF)

Anne Bell – Preschool Teacher, Ladybug group (TU-TH)

Maureen Wall – Preschool Volunteer Aide

Marcela Amador – Head Teacher, Pre-Kindergarten

Barbi Martinez – Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Amy Hester – Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Cambria Hicks – Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle Smith – Head Teacher, Child Care (MWF)

Dana Esau – Head Teacher, Child Care (TU-TH)

Corienne Bannier – Child Care Teacher

Lelia Lanctot – Director Emeritus and Administrative Liaison

Joan Lynch – Director and Preschool Teacher

We are very happy to have you and your children with us this year, and thank you for trusting us with your treasures!