



BRUSH CREEK NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER, 2019

Classroom Notes

Well, it's hard to believe but more than a whole month of school is already over. We feel like we're on our way to a good year. We have lots of wonderful families this year and we hope you're getting more comfortable with the nursery school routines. It was great to see so many of you here at our potluck. Thanks for coming out and bringing such a delicious assortment of food. There were lots of laughs, talking and running (where DO those kids get the energy????).

This month we're going to be quite busy. Our Farmer's Market is up and running (thanks to those who have donated) and will stay up for a couple weeks. Thank you to Guner's family for donating hay bales for us, and for everyone who brought in gourds, pumpkins, etc. Later in the month we will of course engage in some color appropriate activities (orange and black) as the spooky days draw near.

We also want to thank front class parents who have been helping out with our "take home projects" located on top of the cubbies. It's mostly cutting out papers in various shapes for art projects. If you haven't looked at that yet, check it out. Have a wonderful month of October!

How do you handle Halloween?

It's already begun. "What are YOU going to be for Halloween?" can be heard on the play yard and at lunch. The build up of excitement is happening. This time of year can be very exhilarating for kids, but also overwhelming. Often a child who seemed so excited about the whole idea of trick or treating will balk when the big moment arrives and end up happily passing out candy to other children. The costume you all agonized over may end up in a heap on the floor.

At school, we believe it is best to have a **very low-key** approach to this holiday. We all know children thrive best in safe, consistent environments. They need to know what to expect and many don't like things "sprung" on them. Imagine how scary it would be to arrive at school and find your friend with fangs and a mask!! Developmentally, children are just learning the difference between what is real and what is fantasy. Also, some parents simply don't celebrate the holiday. **Because of all this, we will NOT be wearing our costumes to school.** If your child would like to share with us how they looked on Halloween, you can send in a picture of them in costume. Please, no candy treats left in kid's files or cubby.

We will be talking about our fears, about reality vs. make believe. We will do lots of orange and black projects, projects about pumpkins, and projects about spiders!!

Fundraising Fee

On the bill this month you will see a fundraising fee. This was discussed at orientation and on our financial agreements. In lieu of the constant parade of fundraisers (wrapping paper, See's candy, etc) we charge a \$100 annual fundraising fee. This gives you two tickets to our Evening in Paradise fundraiser to be held this year at Wild Oak Saddle Club on April 25, 2020. (Scholarship families do not pay this fee).

We've set your billing according to how you requested to pay the fee (all at once, or in increments). If you have a change, please come to the office.

Parking woes

Now that everyone has been here a few weeks, we're beginning to get our routines down. One issue we still have is the parking. We understand that most of us have busy days ahead and we are coming and going quickly. However, parking on the curve where the boulders sit on the grass is NOT okay, nor is the "gully" down the driveway (on the right side). You can park behind the staff cars on the creek side (next to the office) however. Please also remember to sloooooow down as you come through the parking lot. The last two speedbumps are a bit harsher than our others. We will be having our driveway guy come back and "smooth them out" a bit on a day we are closed. We still need to proceed slowly and with caution. Thanks for your patience. Safety first.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: BRUSH CREEK NURSERY SCHOOL....WE POST ARTICLES OF INTEREST AND PHOTOS OF WHAT WE'RE UP TO!

Board Blurbs...

Join the current board for coffee and muffins on October 10 and 11 to find out more information about joining. Board elections will be held October 21-25. Our current open positions are Secretary, Treasurer, EIP event planning (2 people) and possibly community member at large.

Also, be on the lookout for EIP theme voting!

The commitment is a Board meeting once a month (except December, June and July) and some committee work depending on what position you have. We can't encourage you enough to get involved. We really need your help and support!

Employee Recognition Program

Please check the front bulletin board for our latest profiled staff member. This month it is Julie, our Program Director. Read about Julie's long history with our school. This marks her 42nd year as a Brush Creek staff member.

Late Pick Ups

We realize with the beginning of any school year we are all trying to get used to new routines and schedules. While we appreciate the difficulty of always getting to where we need to go in a timely manner, we are seeing some late pickups of children. Remember, **UNLESS YOU ARE USING EARLY/AFTER CARE**, the morning sessions are from 9-12 and the afternoon classes are from 1-4. Please **DO NOT** sign in early, even if you are standing out front and waiting for the door to open. Any early sign-ins could result in early/after care charges! Please respect the pickup times and get into the building a few minutes before class is over. Staff members need their lunch breaks as well as being able to count on going home when their shift is done at the end of the day. Your cooperation is so appreciated.

Mom's Brunch!

On October 26 we will be having our annual Mom's event. More information will be coming soon. There will be two shifts, 8:30 or 9:30. Moms and kids will come and eat a delicious meal prepared by the staff and the kids. The kids will have some special surprises to give to Mom, as well. ***Put this date on your calendars.*** Hope you can make it!

Eye/Ear Screening

The Assistance League of Sonoma County will be providing FREE eye and ear screening for our 4 year old classes on October 8 and 9. Most of you have signed a permission slip already (our Signature Form), but if you haven't we will be chatting with you. This service is free to our students.

Handy Helpers and Garden Group

Thanks to everyone who returned their parent involvement sheets, letting us know how you'd like to help out this year. Several of you are qualified to substitute for us which is super. Thanks to the handy helper crew (8 strong) who are already taking on small projects around the facility. Thanks also to the garden group who will begin to get fall plants into the garden and lay out activities they will be doing as well. Many hands make light work!!



Front class parents have probably been hearing your child recite our monthly poem by Maurice Sendak from his book, "Chicken Soup with Rice." Here is the October poem for you all to enjoy:

**In October I'll be host
To witches, goblins and a ghost
I'll serve them chicken soup on toast
Whoopy once, whoopy twice
Whoopy chicken soup with rice**