

Tall Pines Tidings



(530) 273-4638

December 2017 // January 2018

tallpinesnurseryschool.com

A Letter From the President



Here we go into full Holiday mode. It's time for decorating, shopping, baking, moving elves to and from shelves. Time for following traditions and to hunker down with family and friends. Some years the Spirit of Christmas fills me up and I feel to my core the magic this time of year brings. Other years the Spirit is more of a banshee shrieking and all I want to do is run and hide. But, the best part of this time of the year is the excitement my kids have. These are the years when their innocence and wonder are pure and beautiful. My oldest is trying hard to keep believing in Santa and I am so grateful for it. But, when he learns the truth I'll rope him into being a Santa. Learning to give without expectation of acknowledgment but simply for the joy it brings to give.

I read an article a few years ago that really resonated and becomes so much more relevant for me as my children grow. It was about Santa and the gifts that he brings. The article asked parents to rethink what Santa gives. Santa is probably the biggest celebrity in my house. The mystery behind him and the fact he leaves gifts is fairly mind blowing. The issue I have been finding as my kids grow up and start talking to their friends and comparing Santa gifts is that every household has a Santa on a different budget. It's hard enough to try to rationalize why the tooth fairy brings my son's friends \$10 per tooth which is WAY over what any teeth in my house go for. Tooth fairies can be many, perhaps each house or kid has their own. But Santa is one guy. The article I read suggested parents leave the high-ticket items as gifts from them. That way kids can give thanks to their parents for saving and spoiling their kids. And that Santa should bring things not so over the top. There are so many children who Santa struggles to even visit. I believe all kids deserve gifts and to feel the magic of this time of year. But, in my house Santa has started to scale back on his budget and give a little more for mom and dad to budget with. Perhaps the Big Man in Red doesn't even come to your house. Maybe you have traditions around him that are already established. However your household runs, I hope that you and your families can enjoy each other. And if this season goes awry, remember there is always next year!

With Pure Love, Leia

School Calendar



December 2017

- 1 Tuition Due
- 1 Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 1 T-Shirt Orders Due
- 2 Tall Pines Day at Sierra Knolls Winery Tasting Room
12-4pm, 10024 Linnet Lane, Auburn
Come support Tall Pines Fundraising with a day at a local winery! There will be activities for the kids while parents can taste, talk and shop.
- 6 Tall Pines Christmas, MW & PT-I, 6pm
- 7 Tall Pines Christmas, TTH & PT-II, 6pm
- 15, 20, 21 Christmas Celebrations!
- 16 Tall Pines Date Day, 10am-1pm
Get some shopping done, errands run, or just take a nap while your kids play at Tall Pines! \$20 for the first child, \$10 each additional, sign ups outside the kitchen
- 22 Winter Break Starts

January 2018

- 8 Return to School
- 8 Tuition Due
- 8 Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 15 No School, MLK Holiday
- 17, 18 Pajama Day
- 18 General Meeting w/ Kindergarten Panel, 6:30pm
- 20 Winter Clean Up, 10am-2pm
- 23 Gold Country Gymnastics Fieldtrip, TTH, 9:30-11am
- 24 Gold Country Gymnastics Fieldtrip, MW, 10-11:30am
- 26 Gold Country Gymnastics Fieldtrip, PT, 9-10:30am
- TBD Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release, 10:30am

February 2018

- 12 Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 16, 19 No School, President's Holidays
- 28 Start of Parent Teacher Conferences

From The Director



The holidays are right around the corner. As we enter the magic of this time of year please take a moment to reflect on what you have to be grateful for. Is it a warm home, healthy children, food to fill your bellies, a pet that makes you laugh, or any one of the myriad blessings that surround us each day? I urge you during this time of giving, to literally think outside of the box when it comes to gifts. In my family we call them “experiential” gifts, meaning that we do something as a family to make memories and strengthen our familial ties. Maybe an overnight to Tahoe, visiting the fish hatchery in Nimbus, taking a treasure walk through Empire Mine, movie passes for family movie night, or cooking a special meal together that you plan and shop for as a team. I know your kiddos are still young, but if you give them the opportunity to see how meaningful the gift of time is they will carry that with them forever.

I am not saying to ditch the gifts... We love waking up Christmas morning to presents under the tree. However our focus is what can we do as a family and often the experience comes with a small gift to use as a memento or reminder of what we did. What your children really want is YOU – a cuddle, a story, a walk... So remind yourself during these busy times that if you un-plug and focus on the present moment, you will give a gift not only to your little ones but also to yourself.

Happy Holidays and Merry Everything my friends. May PEACE be with you! Teacher Kelsey

What's Cooking in the Tall Pines Kitchen

December 6 & 7
Gingerbread Muffins
& Homemade Butter

December 13 & 14
Hearty Winter Fruit Salad

December 20 & 21
Christmas Party

Tall Pines Wish List



- Rabbit Bedding for Ms. Jet (paper)
- Rabbit Food (fiesta mix)
- Large Toy Garbage Trucks x 2
- CD Player for Older Side
- Sparkle Water

Christmas Songs

Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Play in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee,
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"



Once There Was A Snowman

Once there was a snowman,
a snowman, a snowman.
Once there was a snowman,
tall, tall, tall.
In the sun he melted, he melted,
he melted.
In the sun he melted, small, small, small.



The Little Christmas Tree

One little Christmas Tree, standing all alone.
His heart was very sad, he didn't have a home.
Then CHOP went the axe, & down went the tree,
and away he went, with the happy family!

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh, HEY!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
in a one horse open sleigh, HEY!

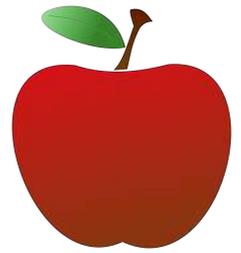
Dashing through the snow,
in a one horse open sleigh,
o'er the fields we go, laughing all the way!

Bells on bob-tails ring, making spirits bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing
a sleighing song tonight!

OOHHH. . .



From The Teachers



Choosing Toys: When Less Is Really More

Lindsay Dunkel is a friend of mine and the Executive Director of First 5 Nevada County. Check out the website at first5nevadacounty.org. There are other articles and good information on the website. Happy Holidays! Love, Teacher Cynthia

This time of year, parents are inundated with advertisements and catalogs showing toys full of pizzazz—toys that light up, talk, even interact. Micro chips are everywhere, and children today can have a roomful of toys that entertain them, wondrous things that we parents never even dreamed of in our childhood.

Imagine being able to “compose” music as a toddler, learn your letters from a talking school bus, or play with action heroes that cue you on inventing pretend emergencies! Childhood has changed. But have children?

Just before Christmas when my daughter was four years old, I found a wooden box with six little drawers which I filled with art supplies; modeling clay and tools for shaping it, glitter pens, fuzzy pompoms and colored craft sticks, feathers and googly eyes, stickers, and a whole drawer full of buttons of all shapes and sizes.

On Christmas morning she breezed past it, drawn to the gifts with more pizzazz. But I waited for what I knew was coming. Three days later she rediscovered the art box. And for years afterward, that art box, refilled many times, was a main fixture of her play time. She’ll tell you it’s one of her favorite presents ever.

Children are instantly drawn to electronic toys because they command attention. Parents are drawn to them because they are so different from what we had as kids. Advertisers capitalize on this, insisting that learning to interact with electronics is crucial in a world that is increasingly computerized. Toy packaging often points out what a child will “learn” from the nifty toy within. Some experts even say that children will benefit from using technology from an early age. Yet studies have shown that children entering high school with no computer experience catch up with their more computer-savvy classmates within a matter of months. Children seem to learn how to use technology much more quickly than adults, so why do we need to teach it through their toys?

For decades now, child development experts have understood that children learn through doing, through active involvement in their environment, including manipulating objects (like building with blocks or digging in sand), pretending one object is another (such as using a remote control for a cell phone, or leaves for food), and acting things out (playing Mommy or Teacher). The more a toy does, the less active the child has to be. With the most technologically advanced toys, a child is almost totally passive, called on only to respond to or to activate the toy. This has implications for the child’s development, including her physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Real play helps a child develop in all of these areas.

So what should you buy this holiday season? Look for simple playthings that can be used in a number of ways. These toys will hold children’s attention longer and they will use them more over time. Try to balance the types of toys your child has, with some from each of the basic “toy groups:” gross motor, fine motor, spatial, art, and pretend play.

Choosing Toys: When Less Is Really More (cont.)

Gross motor toys engage a child in active play. Things like ride-on toys, balls, hula hoops, bowling sets, pull-and-push toys, balance beams, swings, and cloth tunnels fall in this group. These toys help your child develop whole-body coordination, awareness of the self in space, and planning (for instance, guessing where the ball is going and getting there to catch it). Some of them also help your child develop hand-eye or foot-eye coordination. Look around your house and see what is missing—indoor gross motor toys for those rainy winter days? How about a magnetic fishing set? You can make one yourself with a stick, a string, a magnet, and some cloth or paper fish with paper clips on them. A gift that is made by a parent carries an extra message of the importance of the child.

Fine motor toys engage a child in quiet play. They tend to sit with these toys and play with them using their fingers. These toys help your child develop fine motor skills that are crucial in such things as writing. They can also help develop focus, work habits, and follow-through (lacing a sewing card from beginning to end or finishing a puzzle, for example). Puzzles, stringing beads, lacing cards, stacking toys, scissors, and fit-together toys are all part of this group. For very young children, any fill-and-dump toy, where the child puts something in a larger container, is a fine motor toy.

Spatial toys engage children in using things in spatial relationship to one another. Most building toys are spatial toys. These toys are terrific pre-math concept builders and are important for both boys and girls, although they are often marketed only to boys. Wooden blocks, Legos, Duplos, marble runs, mosaic tile toys, and construction toys (especially those with simple, visual instructions that a preschooler can follow) all help build essential spatial reasoning concepts. They are also great for bringing parents and children together in play.

Art toys engage children in creating things. These toys can fall under all of the above categories, but they are grouped together because they allow children to express themselves in another mode besides language. Many art toys and activities also allow for sensorimotor exploration, exploring the world through the senses, and are yet another type of learning. Art toys play an important role in the development of the self-concept and of self-expression. They can give children a method for processing or coping with their emotions and experiences. Art toys can create two-dimensional, spatial, or musical products. Try to have a variety available for your child—colors, textures, sounds. Finger painting and blow pens offer two totally different ways of getting marks on paper. These kinds of things appeal to the little scientist in your child. A drum, a maraca, and a kazoo are all easy to get a sound out of, but it is done in very different ways. All of these things build on your child's knowledge of cause and effect. Additionally, music tapes or CDs make wonderful holiday gifts for children.

Pretend play occupies most of young children's play time. It is crucial to social development, allowing children to try out roles and experiences, thereby coming to understand them in a new way. Whether practiced alone or with others, pretend play helps children develop negotiating skills and learn to navigate their world. The symbolic use of objects (a shoe becomes a boat for a toy man) paves the way for children's understanding of a symbol system. This understanding is the basis for learning to read. Dress-up clothes are great for developing pretend play—but remember that simple can be better. Big scarves can be skirts or turbans or capes or doll blankets or something with which to dance, whereas a knight's armor is limited to just that. Other good, open-ended, pretend play toys that captivate children include wooden or plastic toy animals—especially those that come in a family grouping—doll houses or just doll house furniture, and all kinds of people figures with accessories.

When you choose to give your child these kinds of simple toys that engage rather than entertain him, you will be enhancing his physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth in a way that electronic toys cannot. You will be creating a holiday season in which your child's joy in the gifts lasts well beyond the new year.

From The Office



Reminders From Nicole

Hello Tall Pines Families and Happy Holidays! I can't believe that we are already immersed in the Christmas season! It has been so much fun listening to your children belt out those Christmas carols ☺ Here in the business office, things are running smoothly. Just a few reminders:

- For those of you who did not receive the flu vaccine prior to December 1st, please sign the declination letter I have posted by the sign-in sheets.
- Also, as we enter into the New Year, please remember that we pay May's tuition in February, so it will be a double tuition month. As always, please come see me if you would like to set up a payment plan, or have any questions.
- January also marks the start of school for a few new families ~ please help us in welcoming them to Tall Pines!
- Lastly, my office hours are changing for the month of December ~ I will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. However, I am always available via email at tnkiser@hughes.net

I hope that during this hectic time of year that you are able to slow down and enjoy this wonderful season with your children. Taking the time to see the wonder through their eyes is truly magical.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyous Holiday season!
Nicole~

Vote for Tall Pines in the
Parents' Resource Guide!



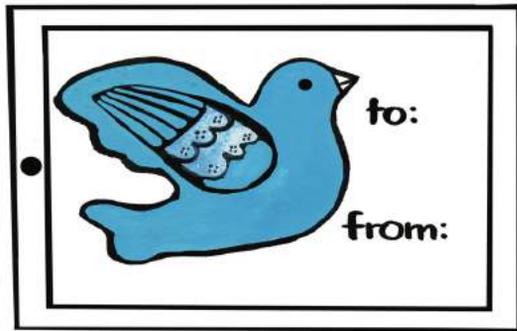
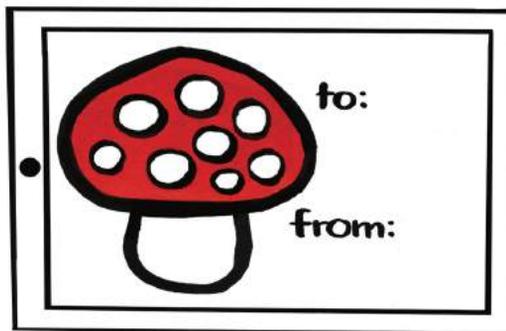
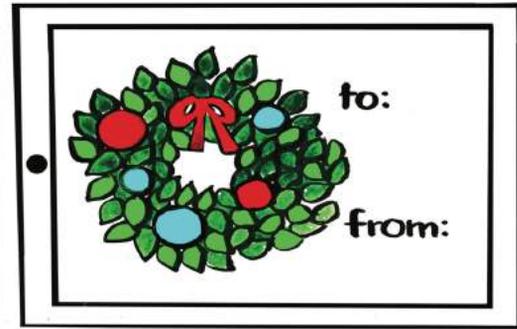
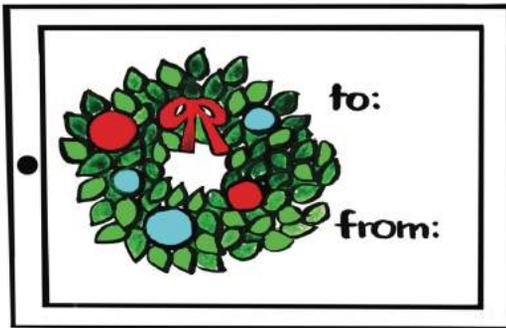
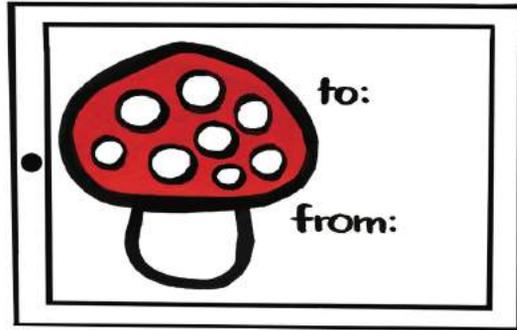
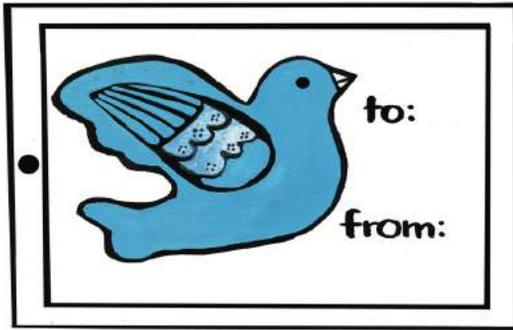
Tall Pines is very proud to have won the Parents' Resource Guide 'Parents Choice' Award for the past three years!

Voting is open for the 2017 Parents Choice Award. Please click [THIS LINK](#) and vote for Tall Pines!

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Gift Tags



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Thanks to Erin Sherry Prim for donating her beautiful artwork!
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