

Tall Pines Tidings

Dates to Remember

December

- 1 Tuition due – late after the 10th. late fee applies.
- 5 Board Meeting 6:30 pm ~ place TBD
- 10 & 11 “A Tall Pines Christmas”: Singing Program 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Please bring food to share: hors d’oeuvres or a dessert (Please make enough for about 20 people). Here is the schedule:

 - Mon/Wed classes & the PT-I class come Dec 10th. 6 pm sharp! Be early!
 - Tue/Thu classes & PT-II class come Dec 11th. 6 pm sharp! Be early!
 - 6:00 pm Sing - Practice at home!
 - 6:15 – 7pm Share hors d’oeuvres and desserts. enjoy visiting with each other.
- 15 & 16 Santa Claus visits classrooms
- 17, 18 & 19 Christmas Celebrations during class
- Dec 22–Jan 2 Christmas–Winter Break ~ Return to school January 5th

January

- 5 Tuition is due – late after the 16th. late fee applies.
- 5 Return to school
- 12 Board Meeting 6:30pm at school.
- 14 SVC Meeting 6pm in Winters, CA
- 19 No school –Martin Luther King Holiday
- 22 General Meeting. Kindergarten Panel 7pm at school. All must attend!!
- 24 Winter Clean-up 10:00 to 2:00. Look in cubbies for reminders.

Mother Goose visit date and Wildlife Rehabilitation/Release visit TBA

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Many Blessings to all our wonderful Tall Pines Families!

♥ ~Teacher Debby, Teacher Michelle, Teacher Kelsey and Nicole.

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Kids are Cooking in December !

December

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 3 & 4 | Gingerbread (recipe in this issue! Really yummy) |
| 10 & 11 | Santa pancakes |
| 17. 18 | Christmas Celebrations in class. Sign up to bring something! |

January

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| 7 & 8 | Noodle soup & crackers |
| 14 & 15 | cheese biscuits |
| 21 & 22 | Snowman bagels |
| 28 & 29 | Grilled cheese |

President's Message

Hello Tall Pines Families.

This month is one of the most magical months with our school and children. It's a time we hopefully can see the world through our children. A simple time for our kids with no stress of their own, dates or time schedules. Not really any different than any other time of the year for them except for the fact that there ARE more schedules, dates and commitments for us and that usually means them too. I would love to make a personal request, let's try to smile more this season, talk with someone we don't usually get to. Let's try to keep that positive attitude and the true meaning of the Holidays as we interact through our crazy day. Let's talk of the positive and share the positive. There are so many good things that happen at our little school under the pines every day.

The second part to my personal request is to LIKE our Tall Pines Facebook Page and invite others to do the same. Enjoy your day and cherish all your memories that are to be made this Season at Tall Pines and beyond...through the eyes of your children.

Happy Holidays!

 ~Stephanie Harvey-Statler

Business Office

Hello Tall Pines Families and Happy Holidays! I can't believe that we are already immersed in the Christmas Season! Here in the business office, things are running smoothly. Just a few reminders ~ please include your child's name and class on your tuition payment ~ if you are mailing in your check, please make sure to send it to our mailing address:

PO Box 1543 Grass Valley 95945.

As we enter into the New Year, 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.

We still have a few class openings and January is a great time for families to join our school ~ so, please let your friends know! 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

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Hair by Kristen

**Mobile hair services
in the comfort of your home!**

Don't have 3 hours for an appointment at a salon? Don't want to pay a babysitter while you're there? I will come to you!

15 years of experience with an extensive, full clientele in the Bay Area.

Cuts, Color, Highlights, and Smoothing Treatments are my specialties.

(I've been doing this with a couple Tall Pines Moms and it works out great for everybody!)



Kristen Adams
415-599-6366
hairbykristen@gmail.com

donations for our silent auction. If you have an item or business service you would like to donate please get in touch with us. We are always amazed at the kinds of items our community of parents are able to come up with for this event year-after-year and we are looking forward to another amazing benefit! If you'd like to help us contact our supporters to request donations this year we could use your help on the committee too! Any amount of time you can spare would go a long way to help.

Thank you again for all you do to support our wonderful school. From our families to yours, we wish you a joyful holiday season filled with love and happiness. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

♥ ~Monique, Jamie and Mishelle

e-Scrip and AmazonSmile

A note from your e-Scrip coordinator:
I just wanted to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! Remember to use your benefits cards or vouchers, whether it's during a large shopping trip for family dinners or a quick run to the market for milk everything adds up for our kids. If your shopping habits have changed and you need a card for a different store, let me know. If you're out of vouchers for Briar Patch you can pick them up in my folder hanging on the office door.

♥ ~Chad Wingo

Fundraising News

We would like to send out a HUGE thank you to all our Tall Pines families who worked so hard on getting olive oil orders for the school. Together we sold over \$5,700 of products, and had record levels of participation in this sale!!! That's a true success! Thank you all. The bottles will be back to us by Dec. 12th. And don't forget to send us your recipes using these yummy oils and vinegars too!

We are also beginning work on our big Spring Benefit in March and are looking for

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AmazonSmile: Tall Pines Nursery School has signed up for AmazonSmile. It works like e-Scrip when you shop on Amazon. If you shop on amazon, just go to the AmazonSmile feature, log into Amazon as you usually do and you will automatically be linked to Tall Pines Nursery School. Here's an easy link to do so:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1558895>



- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Tall Pines Nursery School** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

From your SVC rep

As your SVC/CCPPNS (Sacramento Valley Council ~ California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools) representative, I'd like to share details for the upcoming conference for parents. It will take place March 20-21 in San Jose, with the theme "Unplug and Play." Details may be found here: <https://sites.google.com/site/unplugandplay2015/home>

❤ ~Mary Jane Huenergardt

Unplug & Play – A Conference for Parents

March 20 - 21, 2015

Downtown San Jose Hilton

Join parents and educators from all over the state for a fun and inspiring two-day event. We'll gather for stimulating workshops and featured speakers focusing on child development and early-learning. Come hone your parenting skills and add to your "bag of tricks" for educating and raising happy, responsible and self-confident children in this high tech world we live in. "Unplug & Play – A Conference for Parents" will equip and inspire parents and educators to be aware of and purposeful in how we manage and use electronics.

Hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Council/CCPPNS

Featured Speakers



Dr. Laura Markham. Author of *Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids: How to Stop Yelling and Start Connecting*



Dr. Kathy Masarie. Author of *Face to Face: Cultivating Kids' Social Lives in Today's Digital World*



Heather Shumaker. Author of *It's OK Not to Share...And Other Renegade Rules for Raising Competent and Compassionate Kids*

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REMINDER

The weather is changing. We sometimes do have snow days because of weather.

Please listen to KNCO 830 AM on the radio or KNCO.com for Grass Valley school cancellation information.

When it rains you can drive in and park by the school. Go through gate 5, no faster than 5 mph at all times!!

Do NOT park on the grass. Park by the school in back.

From Teacher Kelsey

The holidays are officially upon us! This time of year gives us so many opportunities to make lifelong memories. I urge you to think out of the box literally and figuratively when it comes to gifts this holiday season. Children love to open presents but instead of "toys or objects" think of giving gifts that are centered around activities. This can be a whole family activity or it can be a special "date" with a parent.

When my husband and I have given activity centered gifts to our girls, we all agree that they are the most meaningful and come to mind more often in memories than any object we receive or give.

If you have questions or need ideas about these kinds of gifts please don't hesitate to ask me and I would be happy to send you in the right direction for your individual family. Happy Holidays!

♥ ~ Teacher Kelsey

Thankfulness

Thankfulness is being grateful for what we have. It is an attitude of gratitude for learning, loving and being. Appreciate the little things that happen around you and within you every day. Think positively. Thankfulness brings contentment.

Linda Kavelin-Popov



Why They are "Just Playing"

When they are just playing with sand, they are learning...

- ☺ Math concepts: conservation, weight distribution, volume and mass, measuring, geometry, numbers.
- ☺ Language: comparative terms, requests for information, dialogue, names for things.
- ☺ Creativity: expressing their ideas
- ☺ Social skills: sharing, cooperating, problem solving

When they are playing with water, they are learning...

- ☺ Math concepts: fractions, volume weight, equality, differences, measurement.
- ☺ Science: Water as a source of power, water conservation, pollution, management, evaporation, water cycle,

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properties of water and objects in water.

- ☺ Language: vocabulary, phrases.
- ☺ Social skills: manners, sharing.
- ☺ Art: food, paint in water, mixing colors.
- ☺ Motor skills: pouring and coordinated movement.

When they are playing with manipulatives, they are learning...

- ☺ Math concepts: Patterns, ordering and sequence, number, measurement, geometry, algebra, probability, logic.
- ☺ Representation: using manipulative to represent situations, problems.
- ☺ Self-direction: making choices, making a plan and implementing it.
- ☺ Scientific method: observing, making and testing predictions.
- ☺ Social rules: using available resources for building, representing structures.

When they are engaged in dramatic play, they are learning...

- ☺ Language: changing roles, creating a script.
- ☺ Representation: using language and objects to represent situations in life.
- ☺ Problem solving: human interaction, causing others to play cooperatively.

When they are playing with blocks, they are learning...

- ☺ Math/science: Size, shapes, weights, sorting, patterning, cause and effect.
- ☺ Reasoning skills: problem solving, planning.

☺ Social skills: cooperation, negotiation, conflict resolution.

☺ Literacy: symbolic representation.

When they are engaged in art, they are learning...

- ☺ Representation: using materials to represent learning from other curricular areas.
- ☺ Creative expression: using color, line, form, texture, shape to express themselves.
- ☺ Problem solving: using available materials to create, using "mistakes" creatively.
- ☺ Language: vocabulary, descriptive words.
- ☺ Cause and effect: creating change
- ☺ Task completion: staying with a task and experiencing the feeling of satisfaction involved.

***It may look like child's play,
but they're very busy
constructing knowledge!!***



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10 Ways to Play

1. Set up a stuffed animal zoo or vet office. Make signs, tickets, prescriptions, and feeling schedules, lead zoo tours or treat your patients with bandages, medicine and love!
2. Make structures with toothpicks and marshmallows.
3. Tell a story and have a grown up write it down. Add some illustrations too!
4. Paint some card stock or watercolor paper. When dry, cut the paper into postcards and send notes to friends and family.
5. Do a sink and float experiment.
6. Have a living room picnic
7. Paint with unusual tools. Here are some ideas to get you started: tree branch, toy cars, toothbrush, kitchen sponge, bath scrubbie or cookie cutters.
8. Make a single-color collage. Gather yarn, paper, buttons, crayons, paint, and anything else you can find that is your special color. Grab some glue and start creating!
9. Try batting balloons around the room using your head, elbows, knees or nose. Can you bat a balloon back and forth with a fly swatter?

10. How tall of a block tower can you build? How many blocks can you stack in one minute?

HAPPY PLAYING!

Tall Pines Christmas Gingerbread Cookies

(A spicy dough that bakes into thick semisoft cookies and makes especially good gingerbread figures)

1 stick or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup softened butter

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses

1 egg

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour

1 tsp. baking soda

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

1 Tbs. powdered ginger

1 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. nutmeg

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. allspice

Cream butter and sugar, then beat in molasses and egg. Stir and toss together flour and spices. Add the dry ingredients with the wet ingredients and beat until smooth. **Cover and chill** for at least an hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. Cut with cookie cutters. Bake for about 7 minutes.

If you wish, frost and decorate.



Teacher Debby's Parent Pages

Some Key Parenting Advice

The complexities of parenthood can feel overwhelming to even the most capable people. The stress of “the holidays” is also overwhelming. Through these pressures, parenting can become even more complex. It is difficult—however, developing skills in key areas such as communication and discipline can do much to reduce or even prevent some common parenting problems.

Communication:

One of the biggest pitfalls for parents and their children is communication. Miscommunication or lack of any communication at all quickly generates problems that only escalate with time. Keeping communication lines open and clear is vital for good parent-child relationships.

Good communication starts with good listening. Active listening involves more than just acknowledging that your child is speaking to you.

To be an active listener, begin by rephrasing what your child says to you: repeat what your child says in your own words, perhaps adding how you think she/he felt about what was said. This tells the child you heard and understood what was said. For example, your child

says to you, “I hate school. I’m not going back.” Instead of saying, “Oh yes you are,” a more effective reply might be, “You seem really upset about school. Did something bad happen today?”.

Non-verbal communication

Non-verbal communication is also important. Body language often tells more of a story than words do.

Commenting on a child’s non-verbal cues, such as a smile or a frown, is an invitation to share the feelings behind it.

Also important is the body language and adult/parent gives the child. What you wear on your face is just as good as words to a child. They react to them very well.

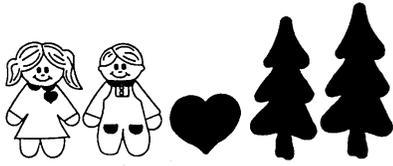
Discipline:

Discipline and punishment are not necessarily the same.

Discipline is a system of guidelines designed to help children learn and adhere to standards of behavior.

When properly applied, discipline produces self-reliant, self-controlled, functional adults.

Eventually, children who do not have an environment at home that is nurturing, has a system of guidelines and is in charge of the home, have a more difficult time with self-regulation, independence, coping and happiness.



Teacher Debby's Parent Pages

They do not feel safe or stable and thus feel miserable.

Discipline is always a balancing act between too much and too little. Studies have shown that children of authoritarian parents may end up with low self-esteem and be unable to make decisions, while permissive parenting leaves a child lacking in structure and security.

Finding the middle ground isn't always easy. The following may help:

- ✓ Begin by setting some firm rules and sticking to them consistently.
- ✓ Every rule should have a logical consequence for breaking it.
- ✓ The consequence should be in keeping with your child's age and the seriousness of the rule. Time out or withdrawal of privilege related to the offense are often appropriate.

Physical punishment is never recommended. Too often it is administered in anger, suggesting to children that violence is the way to resolve a conflict. Remember: children emulate what they see and hear.

Properly administered by loving, caring parents, discipline will help children develop the skills they need for their future independence and success in life. After all, that's why they need us as

stable adults so they can feel safe and accepted.

As you go through the holidays this year, remember to not over indulge your children. All they really want is "just you" and quality time, reading to them, playing a game or just talking.

Remember to cherish the small things: time does go very quickly. The gift you can give is to be your child's guide, not his/her best friend.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
♥ ~Teacher Debby

