

Tall Pines Tidings

Important Dates

April

- 1 & 2 CCPPNS convention- a convention for teachers and parents of parent co-op preschools
- 5 Bulb Sale order forms due
- 9 Spring Clean-Up 10-2 and Jamba Juice day!
- 11 Board Meeting, 6:30 at school
- 12 Wild Things-the whole school is invited!
- 13, 14 & 15 Easter Egg hunt in class. Each Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs child should bring 6 hard-boiled, no cracks, un-colored eggs for the hunt.. PTs bring 6 plastic eggs with a non-candy treat.
- 15 Hats off to Wine 7pm at the Indian Springs Winery
- 18-22 Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
- 25 Return to school
- 30 Bike-a-Thon, 10:30-1:30 at the fairgrounds

May

- 4,5 & 6 Mother's Day brunch 11:15 - 12. Please bring a piece of fruit in the morning to make fruit salad.
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 at school
- 11 Movie Night at Tall Pines 7-8:30 pm
- 19 General Meeting, 7pm at school
- 20 Last day of School for PT 1 & 2 and Friday class
- 25 & 26 Last Day of School for M/W and T/Th
- 25 School is packed up by all T/Th parents
- 26 School Move Out. All M/W parents go to Minnie Park at 9:00 to drop off your children. (Depending on the weather.) Then go immediately to school to help pack and move. (Minnie park is on Brighton St. next to the fire station.)
- 26 Ice Cream Social at school outside in the play area. 6-7:30 pm

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President's Message

Hello Tall Pines Families! Wow, it doesn't seem possible, but here we are into April. We have so many fun and exciting things planned between now and the end of May. In class the kids will get a chance to get up close and personal with some exciting animals from Wild Things. Not to mention the Easter egg hunts, and one of my favorite school days, the Mother's Day Brunch. We also have some of our biggest fundraisers coming up ~ Hats off to Wine, which was rescheduled for April 15th, and our annual Bike-A-Thon on April 30th! So, dust off those tricycles, wagons and bikes and gear up for what is sure to be another super fun day!

We are also still looking for a few Board Members for next year. Please see Teacher Debby or any of the current board members if you are interested or have any questions. It really is a great way to get connected with the school!

Hope you all enjoy your Spring Break, and have a very Happy Easter ☺ ~ Nicole

Kerler's Korner

Well the last several weeks have been a busy time for the business office at Tall Pines Nursery School. Registration for the fall has begun, and we are seeing a healthy enrollment for the Fall 2011-2012 school year. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us, complete the forms and all the other stuff that goes along with registering. We realize, and some of you have reminded us, you have written several checks to Tall Pines these past few months...and to that we say Thank You!! Just remember when May and September come along we will not be asking

you for more tuition money~ that's when you can come by and 'thank us';~)) With that said, if you have not paid your registration fee and first month's tuition, please do so as soon as possible. We are willing to work with you concerning your financial account, but please understand your child's place is not completely secure until those fees are paid. If you need to make a few payments between now and May, please come by and we can set up a plan. Also, remember to tell your friends about Tall Pines~ we always have room for friends!

It is hard to believe we are already talking about the end of the school year. This will be an especially hard year for us, as we have to say 'so long' to some families we have known for many years. To those of you going off to kindergarten we wish you all the best. Thank you for being such a big part of our lives~ you will be missed, but never forgotten. And to those of you who will join us again next year~ we are looking forward to it! Have a great summer~ and as Teacher Debby has taught us, give your children what they need the most~ Your Time!!

So long friends...

Nancy and Bill

Hats Off to Wine – Rescheduled!

Friday, April 15th, 7p-9p

Indian Springs Tasting Room in Nevada City
Wine, Yummy Appetizers and Fabulous
Auction and Raffle Prizes

If you can now come on the NEW DATE,
please contact Wendy for tickets - we only
have about a dozen left!!

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Spring Bulb Sale

March 21st thru April 5th
 Buy and Sell...to yourself and family and friends... Spring Bulb planting for Summer flowers blooming – some items include: Freesia, Begonias, Gladiolus, Lilies and Strawberries!!
 Tons of fun to plant & fantastic learning for the kids too! Look for order forms in your cubbies or in the Fundraising folder on the kitchen door.

Tall Pines Bike-A-Thon

- 🚲 The most Fun you and your kids will have riding bikes at the Fairgrounds!
- 🚲 Saturday, April 30th from 10:30a - 1:30p
- 🚲 Watch your kids 'race' to complete those laps, share a hot dog box lunch on the lawn and root for those Dad's in the Trike Race!
- 🚲 Mr. Banana Man from Jamba Juice will also be there selling sips of yummy smoothies and we'll have tasty homemade goodies to enjoy too!
- 🚲 Look for more info in your cubbies

End of the Year Ice Cream Social

I know it's hard to believe the end is near... our last gathering before summer is upon us. You don't want to miss this opportunity for some luscious Baskin Robbin's Ice Cream and the chance at some great raffle prizes. Not to mention a time to visit with parents and let the kids play.

- ⚙️ Thursday, May 26th, 6pm at the school patio area.

Thank You Friends

I'd like to especially thank the Hat's Off committee for all their dedication to a wonderful event. (That had to be rescheduled for April 15th.) A special one to Greg & Meagan Littlejohn for all the food that was prepared and ready to bring. The fire departments of Penn Valley and Lake Wildwood loved it! Thanks again!

♥ Tall Pines and Teacher Debby

Pizza Booth Sign Ups

The pizza booth sign up sheet is on the kitchen door. Every Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs family must sign up for 2 pizza booth shifts. (Starred shifts count as 2 shifts.) Please include your phone number and write in pencil. If you have any questions call Ruth Purwin at 272-5949.

Mother's Day Brunch

Every year the children at Tall Pines make a special brunch for their moms. They cook, clean, set the table, and then clean up Mom's space. It's a wonderful time for your child to say Thank You for all you do! (Teacher Debby thanks you too!)

- ⚙️ Please bring a piece of fruit in the morning for the children to make fruit salad.

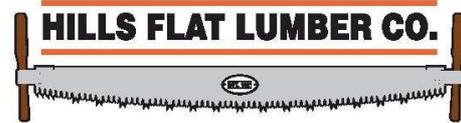
School Evaluations

Remember to fill out your school evaluations and place them in the envelope on the kitchen door.

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General Meeting Info.

Our next general meeting is May 19 at 7 pm. Gail Martin & Karen Nelson will be speaking about the Children's Festival in Nevada City this summer. If you cannot make it to a general meeting please fill out an excuse form and put it in Megan Littlejohn's file on the kitchen door.



Jason Pardini
Owner - Purchasing Manager
Cell: (530) 362-1139
jasonpa@hillsflatlumber.com

www.hillsflatlumber.com

Great Egg Adventure

49er Family Fun Park "Great Egg Adventure" will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. The Egg Adventure is a FREE event to the public. In addition to the Great Egg Adventure they will also have lots of fun activities such as game booths (Duck pond, Bunny sack races etc) along with kids' contests, and prize raffles. Come have some fun and say "hi" to the Tall Pines parents who will be there handing out "eggs" to all the kids. Join the fun!

New Kindergarten Guidelines

Senate Bill 1381 changed the date by which a child is required to be admitted to kindergarten. In the past the date was 5 years old by December 2 of the year in which they start kindergarten. For the 2012-13 school year children need to turn 5 by November 1. For the 2013-14 school year children must be 5 by October 1. And for the 2014-15 school year and each year thereafter children must be 5 by September 1 to attend kindergarten in California.

A Special Request

Parents from Teacher Debby's class please bring in any photos you have taken through the year. We are starting to put together their memory albums for the end of the year. If anyone is interested in helping please let me know. I do need help.

♥Teacher Debby

Kids are Cooking!

April

6 & 7

cereal & bananas with milk

13 & 14

Sign up to bring something to the Easter celebration. Also bring 6 hard-boiled, no cracks, un-colored eggs for the hunt.

27 & 28

pack a lunch for a hike

May

4 & 5

Mother's Day brunches- bring a piece of fruit for fruit salad.

11 & 12

cheese quesadillas

18 & 19

Unbirthday Party- hot dogs, chips and watermelon

25 & 26

Bring a lunch and a drink for the last day of school.

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Tall Pines Recipes from the Classroom

Monkey Bread

12 servings

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 4 cans Pillsbury refrigerated biscuits
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter or margarine, melted
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup packed brown sugar

1. Grease or spray a 12-cup Bundt cake pan
2. Mix granulated sugar and cinnamon in a 1-gallon bag. Cut each biscuit into quarters. Shake quarters in bag to coat; place in pan. Mix butter and brown sugar; pour over biscuit pieces.
3. Bake at 350 F for 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 5 minutes. Turn upside down. Serve warm.

Science with Teacher Julie

Take a Wildflower Walk at Bridgeport. The trail is a little rough at times so you will need to hold your child's hand during the high parts of the trail. You can see about 20 different types of Wildflowers on the upper trail. Park in the parking lot after the bridge. The trail is well marked. You can also walk through the covered bridge and visit the ranger station to learn about animals living in our area. They have a large stuffed bear at the ranger station. Enjoy a nice spring walk at Bridgeport.

School Pictures

What cuties! I had so much fun photographing your children. School pictures will be delivered to school by April 15. You may order more photos at any time, but they are no longer available at the school prices. Studio prices now apply to all orders. If you are interested in more photos please contact Samantha at 274-7907 or midmountainphotography.com



Teacher Debby's Parent Page

A Thinking Brain. How Does it Happen?

Some of the children in my class will be here with me again and some will be going to kindergarten next year. One of the biggest developmental milestones is coping skills. How do they move through their morning? Are they able to separate from parent's with ease? Can they problem solve with another child? Is their attention span good? Is your child stable? How are their independence skills? How is their self-regulation? There is so much for children to attain before they go to a larger formal learning environment.

The information that I present to you is so powerful. In my class you will see a lot of moving with arms, bodies, and lots of singing. This is very designed music to create

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moments over and over again to stabilize your child and draw them in. Within this stabilization a child who is settled, relaxed, alert, focused, regardful and engaged "Learns".

This is so important for the social & emotional stabilization of the brain. This is a requirement, the child's brain must not be stressed. Thinking does not proceed until the emotional-cognitive brain is stabilized.

A quote from Jane M. Healy, an author of child development books:

"Merely trying to shovel in information will serve little purpose unless children also learn how to use their brains to stay mentally focused, put information into perspective, reflect on meaning, plan ahead and follow through constructively- the fundamental components of problem solving."

If your child is having difficulty he or she may be in a fight or flight state. Usually this happens in a child has an argument or feels threatened. His or her brain will produce noradrenaline, a hormone that does not leave the body for 6 hours. At this point the brain cannot learn. Entering a play state can ease the condition, but cannot take it away.

Did you know that children remember negativity more than positivity. Mammals (us) expect nurturance. This is where we find the development of self-regulation. When a child feels nurtured and safe the less reactive they are.

"Young children, while involuntarily captured by novelty, really need repetition and familiarity. Anchoring experiences in this way helps them gain a sense of organization and mastery"

- Jane Healy

In meaningful "play life" the child increases their alertness and everything becomes easier.

I'm not sure what has happened, but children are expected to learn reading at earlier and earlier ages. Problems in reading have much to do with problems in auditory processing. To know something we can't just talk about it. You must have experience to "know it". Then knowing becomes internalized and then can be remembered with ease.

The child's first 7 years should be consumed with sensory motor activities. This "sense field" should be loaded with play. Images are stored in the brain when the whole body is involved. The more experiences we have the more images get stored in the brain. Then they are in the brain and available for symbolization, or reading. We really do need both sides of our brain. We need them to be involved- see, feel, and organize it all.

According to another well known professional, Vygotsky, "Inner speech develops as the child learns to use language. First to think out loud and then to reason inside his own mind. Eventually, it becomes an instinctive tool with which to think and also communicate thoughts by speech and then writing. I am convinced that a major reason so many students today have difficulty with problem solving, abstract reasoning, and writing coherently is that they have an insufficiently developed mechanism of inner speech." Young children not given time to develop in those building block years struggle.

I leave you with some things to think about.

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- Does movement help children develop an internal sense of "beat"?
- Does the inner sense of "beat" correlate with successful reading and math abilities?
- Do we as a community of play based designed curriculum improve children's attention?

I hope you have said yes to all three. We've got to keep this thinking. We've got to get them up, get them physically involved and tune them into the play, designed play.

When you walk into my classroom and hear some of the songs I sing and the movements with them, remember I have studied many years on what works best for young preschoolers and how that little brain is stimulated the most. And I always learn more. Everyday your children are amazing little people.

- by Teacher Debby

What Do You Do When You Are Five?

By Teacher Debby's Mon/Wed class

You don't pick your boogers and you don't do things bad anymore.

- Alex Schug

You play! It's fun to be 5. You can also climb trees.

-Chase Littlejohn

We get to go to kindergarten. But I love Tall Pines too! And when my grandpa brings me on fun Friday. And you get kindergarten shots.

- Gabrielle Goodwin

When I turn 5 I can get a tattoo.

- Molly Hope

When you're 5 you eat a lot.

- Marabelle Caddy

I'll feel great when I turn 5. I'll feel big.

- Sam Eck

You get shots. 11 shots.

- Levi Becker

I go to kindergarten! You get stronger and bigger and run faster.

- Troy McIntosh



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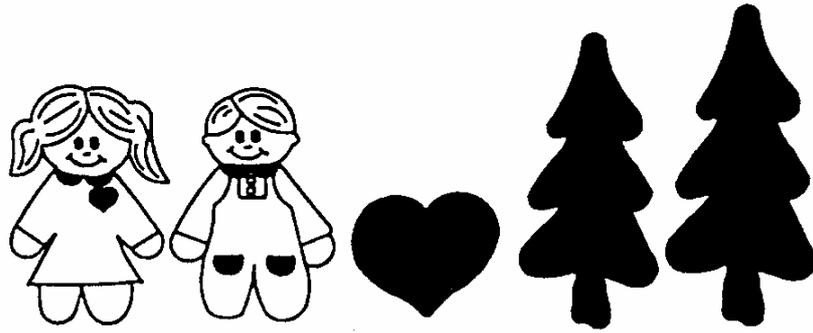
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Chris Anderson
President

P.O.Box 3308
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 272-3465 (Ph)
(530) 559-1997 (Cell)
E-mail: chrisand@onemain.com

Tall Pines Preschool 273-4638

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