

Tall Pines Tidings

Important Dates

March

- 5 Special Person's Day 9:30-11:00. Your child will invite an adult to school that Saturday.
- 8 & 9 Younger side School Pictures
- 10 March dues are due
- 11 PT 1&2 School Pictures
- 14 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm at school
- 15 & 16 Older side School Pictures
- 18 Hats Off to Wine at the Indian Springs tasting room
- 21 Spring Bulb Sale begins
- 24 General Meeting 7pm at school – Kindergarten night

April

- 1 & 2 CCPPNS convention- a convention for teachers and parents of parent co-op preschools
- 9 Spring Clean-Up 10-12 and Jamba Juice day!
- 11 Board Meeting, 6:30 at school
- 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
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 at school
- 11 Movie Night at Tall Pines 7-8:30
- 19 General Meeting, 7pm at school
- 20 Last day of School for PT 1 & 2
- 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 of your children. 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

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President's Message

Hello Tall Pines Families, and happy Spring.....? As I write this, we are in the middle of the big February snow storm. And, as fun as winter is, with two feet of snow and no power....my family is ready for spring! Soon the sun will be shining, and the flowers will be blooming, and my kids will be anxious to get outside. Here are some of the fun things we like to do when the season's start to change:

Go for a walk, even around your own property and hunt for different colored flowers. My girls like to put all of our treasures in a vase ~ often times, we end up with a bouquet of dandelions. If you have older kids, you can turn it into an alphabet hike, and look for things that start with A, B, C, and so on. As springtime arrives, so do the bugs ~ the kids' love seeing caterpillars, butterflies, spiders, etc. (a big one at our house is the arrival of the lizards). Make a pitcher of sun tea ~ it's fun to use the sun to "cook" something. Go on a scavenger hunt. Plant seeds together ~ kids love having the responsibility of watering and caring for their own plants. Thanks to a good friend of mine, we have even been know to plant rocks and watch how they grow (mom adds a few seeds later), and magically a flower blooms! Make mud pies. And, I know this sounds odd, but my kids like to pull weeds....hey, as long as they think it's fun, I'll take all the help I can get ☺

I know it's hard to believe, but the rest of the school year will be over in a flash. So, enjoy these last few weeks of school! And remember that when you pick your child up

from Tall Pines and they are covered in paint, sand, play dough and everything else, know that they have just had a fabulous day at school ☺

Here's to the beginning of Spring!

~ Nicole

Kerler's Korner

Well, it is hard to believe we are already talking about registration for next year~ but we are!!! We allow our current enrolled families to register first, and then we will open registration up to the public~ so don't miss your opportunity!! Make sure you have checked in with us in the business office by March 14th, as that will be the date we will start allowing the general public to register. Just a quick reminder, to keep using your grocery rebate cards/coupons~ we have seen an increase recently in the rebate checks~ that's happening because more of us are participating in the rebate program~ THANK YOU!! Keep it up! Hold on tight, these last few months will go by fast!!

Nancy and Bill



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Hats Off to Wine

Friday, March 18th, 7p-9p
 Indian Springs Tasting Room in Nevada City
 Wine, Yummy Appetizers and Fabulous
 Auction and Raffle
 We have a limit of 75 people at this event so
 BUY your tickets by the
 kitchen NOW!

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.

School Picture Schedule

March	
8	Tues/Thurs younger side
9	Mon/ Wed younger side
11	Parent-tot 1 and 2
15	Tues/Thurs older side
16	Mon/ Wed older side

The order form is at the end of this newsletter. Extra order forms will be available at school.

Many Thanks!

A big thank you to David Vaghn for providing the music at our fundraising night at California Organics!

Special Person's Day

We allow for Parent / Teacher conferences so the teacher and you can focus on your child. Because we use school days for the conference, we include a wonderful Saturday at school. A parent or grandparent who doesn't have the opportunity to come to school during the week can see what it's all about! It is a lovely morning. Come play on Saturday, March 5 from 9:30- 11:00.

General Meeting Info.

Our next general meeting is March 24 at 7 pm. This is our super special you-can-only-get-it-here Kindergarten Night! A panel of kindergarten teachers will be at school to give a short summary of their programs and answer questions. Kindergarten registration has already started at some schools and will be happening very soon at the rest. Parents of younger side students and parent-tots are especially encouraged to attend. 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.

Kids are Cooking!

March	
9 & 10	oatmeal
16 & 17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration- sign up to bring something mini
23 & 24	monkey bread
30 & 31	trail mix
April	
6 & 7	cereal & bananas with milk
13 & 14	bunny biscuits
27 & 28	pack a lunch for a hike

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Teacher Nicole's List

5 Ways to Help Your Preschooler Feel Like a Big Kid

1. Let them walk. Remind them they are too big to be carried and then race them to where ever you are going.
2. Let them help around the house. Give them a wipe to wipe down the counter or table. Let them sort the laundry and throw it in the washer.
3. Give them choices. Do you want it in the red cup or the blue?
4. Let them dress themselves.
5. Really listen to what they are saying.

Science with Teacher Julie

Sensory activity: make Oobleck together with your child.

This is a fun mixture that will appear dry and solid when it is pushed together and as the children let go of the mixture it will flow like a smooth liquid:

Recipe for Oobleck:

1 1/2 cups Corn Starch

1 Cup Water

Food Coloring



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Fitness with Teacher Michelle

Windy Weather (done in pairs)

Windy weather, windy weather, (face each other standing or seated; hands meet partners hands like pat-a-cake, circle hands against partners together; one side & then the other)

When the wind blows, (keep circling)

We all come together (give a hug)

(Verse 2 - same motions, but add hands up & down)

Snowy weather, snowy weather

When the snow falls

We all come together

(Verse 3 - continue pressing hands & raise arms overhead)

Sunny weather, sunny weather,

When the sun shines

We all come together



midmountain photography

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Teacher Debby's Parent Page

Relation of Our Program to Growth Characteristics

Physical Growth

Independence is "routines" such as handwashing, taking off and hanging-up coats, and toileting is encouraged. Self help skills in feeding such as spreading and pouring are encouraged.

Much equipment is available to encourage both large and small motor activity. Specific teaching of skills is done in response to the child's needs and interests. For example, when a child is stuck on top of a jungle gym, guide him in discovering how to get unstuck, rather than just lifting the child down. "Keep holding on with your hands and reach down with this foot," (and touch the specified foot). "I'll help your foot find the step," (and you physically guide his foot to the right step).

The program may encourage development of specific skills by the varied equipment provided, and the way the environment is organized.

Emotional Growth

Listening, sitting at their level, using their names, expressing appreciation for their accomplishments, helping when needed and encouraging independence, are all things that promote the child's sense of self-worth.

Their ability to stay at school without their mothers; their discovery that there are other friendly adults who will help them; their solutions to physical, social, and intellectual problems will promote independence and self-confidence for the child.

Respect for the child's feelings, while limiting their expression of those feelings, helps the child to learn self control. You can express these sentiments in many ways, like – "I know you are angry that you cannot have that toy right now, but Billy needs a chance to play with it for a few minutes before he will be ready to give you a turn. It's alright to feel angry, but I won't let you grab the toy. You will have to wait." Or – "Sometimes we are afraid of things that might make loud noises. Do you want to watch the fire truck through the window?" Or – "It is hard to say good-bye sometimes. I will stay with you while your mother leaves. Would you like to sit on my lap until you feel ready to play?"

Social Growth

Some children need to watch for quite a while before they are ready to join in. Do not feel you have to make the child do anything. On-looker activity is a very real form of social behavior. It is participation- a stepping stone of group interaction.

Certain areas/activities of the school promote spontaneous group play. We need to arrange equipment and provide props to encourage such play. Our playhouse, and dramatic play settings such as a McDonald's, fire hat and hose, and block people and animals, are examples of such areas/activities. Cooperative painting on a large paper turns a usually solitary activity into a social one.

Physical skill activities such as jumping off the board, sliding, bean-bag tossing, etc, teach routines for taking turns as well as physical skill. Negotiation of the use of space and equipment in the sandbox teaches social problem solving.

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The adult's role is primarily in arranging the environment. During play, the adult supervises the observance of a few rules such as "People aren't for hitting", "If you didn't build it you don't knock it down", and "We take care of our toys". The adult also acts as a resource suggesting additional equipment or play roles as the child's interest indicates. Sometimes the adult may add word-vocabulary-to help the child enrich their play. For example, "The person who adds up your groceries is called the checker", or "Every grocery store needs a stocker to fill the shelves back up after the people buy things".

Intellectual Growth

Because Children have a need for self selection, and younger ones need frequent changes and activity, a variety of activities is provided. In order for children to be able to find play spaces independently, a minimum of one and one-half play spaces per child must be available.

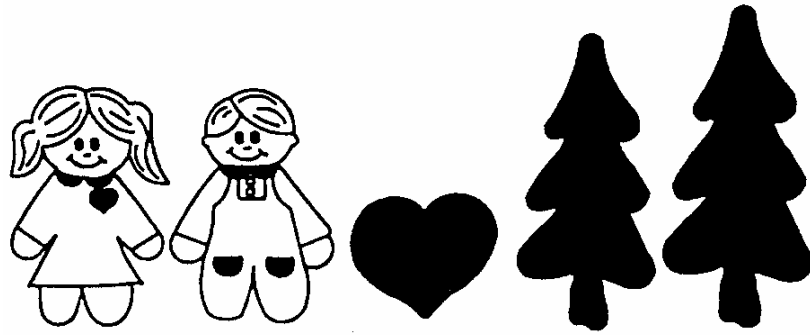
Many opportunities are provided for children to use language. Enough adults are present to introduce new words in meaningful contexts. Child to child talk fosters increasing fluency and clarity. Language skills are also developed through music, stories, and language games.

The most effective teaching is done in response to the child's needs or interests. We sometimes encourage these needs and interests by the materials we provide. Other children will also be stimulating to the child.

- by Teacher Debby

Tall Pines Preschool 273-4638

March 2011



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