

December School Newsletter 2009

Volume 52, Issue 2

Campbell Parents' Participation Preschool, 528 Harrison Avenue Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 866-7223



Letter from the President

Hello everyone...it is cold outside this morning!

I can't believe this is the last week of school before the winter break. Where did the time go?

The twins are excited for winter break. They know we are going to Tahoe and that they will be going skiing for the first time!

This weekend I stopped by the Boutique Fundraiser that was held at the school. I purchased some fun books for the twins. I would like to thank everyone who worked on this event. There were lots of great products to choose from.

This Wednesday, December 9 each class will be meeting separately for their Parent Ed meeting. Please make sure to get the location information from your class coordinator.

Saturday, December 12 there will be a large work party to get the school ready for the open house in January. We will be painting as well as filling the area surrounding our new play structure with mulch.

The school still has low enrollment. Due to low enrollment, the budget is tight for this year. I would still like to ask our members to do their best to let people know about our school. We still have opening in the 2's, 3's, and 4's.

We have a couple of changes to inform you of regarding board members.

The first change is Aeilene Ramirez stepped down as the Membership Chair. The new Chair is Amy Ho. Amy will be co-chairing with Kristie Manning. Thank you so much for stepping up Amy and thank you Aeilene for all the hard work you have done!

The second change is Wim Vuist stepped down as the Maintenance Chair. I am pleased to announce that Michael Kane volunteered to fill this position. Thank you so much Michael and thank you Wim for your hard work as well!

Please remember that the school is closed for winter break from December 21 – January 2.

The new play structure will be installed during the winter break. I can't wait to see the kids playing on this!

Have a happy and safe holiday!

Sincerely,

Leticia Hunter
CCCP President

Important CPPP Dates!

December 21-January 2
Winter Break—School Closed

January 6
Board Meeting

January 13
Parent Education Meeting

January 18
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday-School Closed

January 26-27
Open House

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Two's Class

Emily Davie 11/3

Three's Class

Allie Phan 12/5

Four's Class

Mia Keller 11/13

Christo Hunter 12/5

Emma Hunter 12/5

Ruthie Manning 12/8

The Two's Class

Winter in the Two's Class

November flew by with many fun activities and experiences in the Two's class. We had many activities surrounding Fall and the sights and sounds it brings. We braved the cold and visited Emma Prusch Farm taking in the country feel in the middle of the city. The farm animals were out in full swing. The children really enjoyed interacting with the animals. We finished out November with our Friendship Feast. The Two's class went all out bringing a wide variety of food and goodies for us all to enjoy.

As December is here we are looking forward to the wonderful sensory experiences that await us during the holidays. Pine leaves, cinnamon, gingerbread just to name a few. We will take the train to Christmas in the Park for a fun adventure. As the month comes to a close we look ahead to January and the experiences winter will bring. Wishing you all a very special holiday season with family and friends.

Teacher Monica



The Three's Class

Ringin in the Holidays in the 3's

The children finished off the fall season with a flurry of music, cooking scents, and finding all the turkeys hidden in the backyard. Our ride on the Moreland school bus and a wonderful trip to Reid-Hillview Airport was met with enthusiasm and joy by the children. A great end to our transportation and fall activities for November.

We started our holiday fun making ornaments for the school tree at "Christmas In The Park". A lot of rolling the dough and pressing their favorite gems went into each shape. The hardest part was leaving them at school to be placed on the tree. We can't wait to see them again when we visit the park on the 9th. The class will hop on the light rail for a smooth, quick ride downtown. Our December circle time at school started with looking at different evergreens and pine cones with our magnifying glasses, while talking and discussing what we found. We have been experimenting with different sounds and shapes of bells and had a wonderful story about a magic sleigh traveling over the world to different lands. We will continue to enjoy and learn about different celebrations from other lands at circle time. Mexico and the Los Posadas will be first along with getting some batting practice hitting a piñata. We will have a day of celebrating Hanukkah by spinning dreidels, making latkes, and enjoying the symbols of this Jewish holiday. We also will enjoy Santa stories, reindeer, gingerbread men and applesauce ornaments. How to fit it all in?

The children's social skills are already taking off with them becoming much more interested in their peer group and playing with each other. January will be here before we know it and a whole world of differences in the children's play will be readily noticed.

Wishing you all a holiday season filled with love, laughter, peace, and light.
Teacher Carol



REMINDER ABOUT THE UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE!

Our Open House will be held January 26th (for the 2's and 4's during class time), and January 27th (for the 3's during class time). Please spread the word—tell neighbors, family, friends, mom's groups, etc. The Membership team requests that all families please take care of any cleaning or maintenance needs that come up between now and the Open House so our school can look as good as possible.

Eating Locally Year Round

Eating seasonally and locally ensures that foods are fresh and have the highest level of nutrients. These foods also have the highest level of enzyme activity, which aids in digestion since they are coming from the farm to your table. Additionally, eating seasonally helps cut down on the amount of pesticides and herbicides consumed as well. Winter foods in season now are the vegetables in the cabbage family, winter squash, and root vegetables. Fruits include citrus, apples, and pears.

Adults should be eating at least 5 to 7 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Not only do these foods have antioxidants to help the immune system, but they also have fiber, which is necessary for proper digestion and healthy living.

We are fortunate to have year-round farmers markets where you can find all of the seasonal treats listed above as well as Los Gatos raw honey. Campbell has a huge (and crowded) market every Sunday; you can find one in Santa Clara on Saturday mornings, and at the Vallco center in Cupertino on Fridays. Shopping just before closing will deliver some even better savings too. Remember to ask the vendors if they are pesticide free; many of them have not gone through the process of becoming Organic but do not use any toxic substances on their farms. Buying from farmers markets is far better than buying from the stores, even if you are not buying organic, since these farms are smaller and do not have to transport food as many miles.

Shannon Rafat

3's Class

Cranberry Muffins Recipe

A great recipe to make with your children for breakfast or snack time.

Family Fun Magazine

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups flour

3/4 Cup sugar

1 Tablespoon baking powder

1 Teaspoon salt

1/4 Teaspoon cinnamon

3/4 cup dried cranberries

1 Large egg

1 1/2 cups milk

1/3 Cup vegetable oil

1. Heat the oven to 400 degrees and butter bottoms only of 12 regular-sized or mini muffin pan.
2. Pour the dry ingredients into a large bowl and stir with a spoon. In another bowl, whisk one large egg. Then blend in 1 1/2 cups of milk and 1/3 cup of vegetable oil.
3. Make a well in the dry ingredients. Pour in the liquid mixture and stir just until smooth. Spoon the batter into the muffin pans.
4. Bake the muffins on the center oven rack until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes for regular muffins, less time for mini muffins.

Serve warm or cool and enjoy!

Something you'd like to share with the school or your class? Here are the email addresses for our new Google Groups!

CPPP All School:
all_cpppp@googlegroups.com

**Teacher Monica's
2's Class:**
twos_cpppp@googlegroups.com

**Teacher Carol's
3's Class:**
threes_cpppp@googlegroups.com

**Teacher Erica's
4's Class:**
fours_cpppp@googlegroups.com



Have you enrolled in eScrip for the 2009-2010 school year?

Go to www.escrip.com to register your debit, credit, Safeway, Macy's, and many other cards.

Help CPPP receive a percentage of each sale!

Don't worry - all information is safe and secure.

You MUST renew your card every year, so that our school can earn the benefits. Make sure you re/register today

The Four's Class

Winter Fun in the 4's

Well, the 4s are really getting into the holiday season! They have made school ornaments for our Christmas in the Park tree, made snowflakes and reindeer faces, and will be working on a special surprise for their families soon. On the 16th we will take our traditional light rail trip down to Christmas in the Park. On the 17th we will have a special last day before break that will include making graham cracker "houses" to take home and enjoy, and end the calendar year with a book exchange for the kids. And throughout the month, we have been enjoying having families come to circle time and share their family traditions around this time of year. This kind of sharing builds meaningful connections between home and school learning.

We also have been having some old fashioned preschool fun. We have grown crystals, played with glitter, we have glued, taped, and stapled and we are diving into the joy of sending and getting mail. Check out the mailboxes next to Bubble Gum's cage. You will find a picture (thank you, Mariely) and name plate for each child. They are having such fun sending cards to each other. Thank you, Mariely and Huong for bringing in cards for the children to use! Later this month will bring the opportunity to use our sense of smell with "scented boxes." This is a fun activity that brings all kinds of favorite aromas into our school. Stop by the science table to check it out.

With all the fun and excitement, I am offering a gentle reminder that the holidays are a very stimulating time for young children. With presents in mind, parties to attend and party food easily available, the kids can easily get tired, cranky and belly-achy. You can help by slowing down the pace of celebrations, making sure lots of good food is offered before the sweets or fatty food, and having as many regular bedtimes as possible. This is a fun, memory making time—may your holiday be warm, filled with love, and move at a languorous pace.

Warm wishes,
Teacher Erica



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Here are some folk traditions around Christmas in Hungary:

-The Hungarian Santa, called Mikulás, (Me-ku-lash) visits children on December 6th, St. Nicholas' Day. Children put boots in the windows, like stockings hang by the fireplace on Christmas Eve all over the US. If the child has been good, Mikulás leaves the boot filled with goodies—traditionally with candies, tangerines, walnuts, apples, dates, and chocolate Mikulás figurines. Also, most children get small toys and books. If the child has been bad, the boot will contain just brushwood. Since no child is all good or all bad, most get the brushwood and the treat. There is no Mrs. Santa in Hungary.

-December 13th, the name day of Luca has several folk traditions. In Hungary, we celebrate name days rather than birthdays. The day of Luca people start to make a chair from nature wood, which will be done on the day before Christmas. (There is also a saying for something that is terribly slow, that it is being made more slowly than Luca's chair). If someone steps on this chair in the church during the mass of Holy Night, he can see who is the witch. The day of Luca is also the day of love predictions. In the evening, girls used to cast lead in the backyard. The shape of the lead tells the occupations of their future love.

-The largest Christmas tradition is the "Bethlehem Play". Some days before Christmas, groups of boys go house-to-house with a model of the holy family. They perform a short play about the child Jesus with songs and poems usually in costumes.

Aniko Fulop
3's Class

-Since we became a family, we've been going to see The Nutcracker for the past 3 years now. We also make it a point to not buy any ornaments. We only hang up ornaments that we make ourselves or have received as a gift. It makes it so much more special and meaningful. Plus, it's fun to see our tree fill up more and more every year with more ornaments.

Huong Remotigue
4's Class

-One thing we've been doing since my husband and I started dating, is we collect Christmas ornaments from all the places we travel to, as far away as Portugal, and as close as Monterey. It's a fun thing to do any time of the year, and a great souvenir; and always brings back great memories of the places we've visited.

Shanda Husted
3's Class

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Thank You!

- ❖ A special thank you to Carrissa Wilson, Mezjana Metanovic, Sharla Oliveri, and Feli Reichel for being the lucky working parents on our family feast day on 11/24—what a lot of extra work those ladies did helping the kids have an awesome party!
- ❖ Shout out to Pam Louderback and Andrea Higgins for researching, ordering, and being around for installation of our awesome playground structure (coming during December break).
- ❖ Thanks a bunch to Monica Keller and Danielle Kane for their awesome art prep help. They make all the detailed projects possible.
- ❖ Thank you to Huong Remotigue for agreeing to chaperone at the last minute on the 4's last field trip (not her work day). You helped the kids have a great day.
- ❖ Thank You to the Quinonez triplet's Grandpa Darryl. He donated a whole bag of beautiful leis to the school. Some are already out being enjoyed in the dress-up room. :-)
- ❖ Thank you to the Manning Family for braving the rain to help decorate our Christmas in the Park tree!
- ❖ A big Thank You to Gary DeVita for his help making and posting signs for the Holiday book fair/boutique.
- ❖ A heartfelt Thank You to Pam Louderback for continuing to supply the school with wonderful additions to our science corner. Leaves, plate of varied spices, gourds, and different varieties of pine cones. Great additions to our hands on display. :-)
- ❖ Thank you to all the families who helped with the most recent work party to prepare the school for the new playground equipment and for the Open House: The Keller, Paugh, Einschlag-Wang, Dudley, and Hunter families; Danny Nguyen, Wim Vuist, Therese Johnston, Christine Headley, Kathy Carlson, Roberto Oliveri, Mike Reichel, Brett Hoogensen, Teacher Erica, and Huong Remotigue.