

MAY AND JUNE PARENT NEWSLETTER

April Highlights:

April turned out to be a very busy month after all. Besides the fun stuff like Easter egg dying, Easter bags and egg hunts, we managed to squeeze in a week of Earth Day activities, a visit from the Insect Lab (always a WOW experience), and a session with the Discovery Lab which was great as well. Their topic this year was the parts of the brain and what those parts do. This was a hands on experience with stations which the children were free to visit.

In addition the rain held off enough to make our Ardenwood Historic Farm trip enjoyable. Thanks to those parents who drove. There are many activities for families throughout the year to keep an eye out for. Ardenwood is a local treasure.

We just sent home our poem, and we just finished our *Little House* book. We are putting the last touches on our writing project about that wonderful story. The children really got into it. It is a gentle story, but it also presents some harsh truths about farm life. We spent a week doing our word problems at a pioneer General Store that was set up in class.

Our last read aloud book will be *Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White - it's wonderful too, in a deeper, more philosophical way. I know, everybody has seen the movie, but the book is SO much better!

Upcoming in May:

Not to be a spoiler, but just to let you know that your Mother's Day present is another writing project. It will be a keeper.

The Kindergarten Jog-a-thon was great fun and earned over \$1600 for school improvement. So now it is our turn for the elementary children to earn a little money for the school by having a **Spell-a-thon**.

This event is not a Spelling Bee - there is not that kind of pressure, and participation is completely voluntary. Each grade is given a list of tricky words that they have been learning all year long, but still have difficulty remembering.

The children will take a written test on these words on **Friday, May 19th** and earn pledge money for each word they spell correctly. All participants receive a certificate and a honey stick. Everybody wins.

Your child's packet goes out today, and the pledge money is due on **Friday, May 26th**, a week after the Spell-a-thon.

On **May 25th** Toni will be hosting a Summer Birthday celebration for the children whose birthdays happen after school closes in June through August. There is free dress for those birthday children. Toni will be sending out information to those students.

Memorial Day will be observed on **Monday, May 29th**. The children are invited to wear red, white and blue on the **Friday before** the long weekend.

Our last concert rehearsal will be at 1:00 on May 26th - please make sure your child attends school and is present for the dress rehearsal.

Upcoming in June:

This year's **Spring Concert** will be on **June 2, at 1:00 pm** in the Social Hall. The chorus has been working on the songs all year long (perhaps you have heard some of them) and they are ready to perform them for you. Please do try and come. We have a piano accompanist, Steve Doherty, who comes every year and makes them sound great. Of course there will be a little party on the patio after the concert.

This year's concert is *Songs of America*. The third year students add a little zing to our program with props and a few surprises. It is very fun and the children love to having their parents in the audience. There will be a flyer coming out with more details, and a special invitation from your child.

Last, there is a final field trip to the Oakland Zoo with Toni in June. This field trip is perfect for the budding zoologists in class who have so enthusiastically learned all sorts of facts about invertebrates and vertebrates this year. Toni will send out more info soon.

June 15th will be our last day of school. It will be a half day ending at **12:00 noon** for children who are not enrolled in daycare. *I will be sending further info about the last day activities, and I will hand out the final report card on this day.*

Just to let you know, these last days of school are very important. Our classes do not wind down. We go full speed until the last day. We still have three more projects to complete. Illness should be the only excuse for absences.

I cannot believe that this year is almost over - it has flown by. This class has been a real pleasure - they are bright and curious and hard working. What more could a teacher ask for? They have grown a lot, and learned a lot. Take time to look at the first and last journals and see how far they have come. And a big thanks to you parents who have done so much to support your child and the school curriculum - we notice all the things you do for your child! It has been a real pleasure and privilege teaching your children this year. I'm so happy that I will be seeing most of you again in September.

Report cards will June 15th. **PICK UP TIME ON THAT DAY WILL BE 12:00.**

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to all of you out there.

You do a very important job!