

MAY AND JUNE PARENT NEWSLETTER

April Highlights:

Our Earth Day week went very well. The children took the information very seriously - don't be surprised if they ask you to turn off the water or turn out the lights. Be sure to look at your child's endangered species drawing in their journal - they were all beautiful.

Hopefully you have had a chance to sit down and read your child's Little House Book. The children really got into the story. It is a gentle story, but it also presents some harsh truths about farm life. We spent a week doing our word problems at the pioneer General Store that was set up in class.

Every year, in April, we begin to wind up, or catch up on, work that needs finishing. I write each child's contract with that in mind. If I see anything that needs help, or extra practice at home, I will be letting you know.

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:

Right now, we are working on our own poem about Spring. This is done during journal time. This is the first time in a while that I have been able to do this project with a class - it is a small tribute to them that they are ready and able to do it.

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

The Kindergarten Jog-a-thon last Friday was great fun and earned nearly \$2000 for school improvement. So now it the elementary children's turn 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 Thursday, May 17 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 next week, and the pledge money is due on Friday, May 25, a week after the Spell-a-thon.

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 28th. The children are invited to wear red, white and blue on the **Friday before** the long weekend.

*Our **dress rehearsal** will be at 1:00 on Tuesday, May 29th - please make sure that your child attends school and is present for the dress rehearsal.*

Upcoming in June:

This year's **Spring Concert** will be on Friday, June 1, 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 *Lullabies Around the World*. 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 have 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 14th 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. There is something happening or due almost every day. Illness should be the only excuse for absences.*

I cannot believe that this year is almost over - it has flown by. It has been a Cadillac year. What a great little class. 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 all of you again in September.

Report cards will June 14th. **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 both do a very important job!

JO