



Celebrating more than 40 Years in Play based education
Newsletter
March and April 2011

The Director's Desk

According to the California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, the parents are the owners. After all, we are a cooperative. "Parents are expected to regularly participate at all levels ranging from the administration, operation, and maintenance of the facility to teaching in the classroom under the guidance of a professional teacher. The involvement does not seem like work once the realization is made that involved parents are their children's biggest teacher. This participation fosters a strong sense of community, a rich and varied educational curriculum, and a safe and stimulating environment for preschoolers."

I bring this up because I have been reflecting about the changes I have implemented since starting here 5 years ago as the full time director. I feel as though many of my small changes have made a big impact. Until I was hired as the Director in the fall of 2005, the director at Sandy Hill was also one of the teachers. Since the director wore two hats, she needed the help of parents on many levels. Was it out of necessity or to promote the co-op feel? I feel as though some of my changes have been a catch 22. Now that most needs are being met by a designated committee, do I request that someone truly volunteer? As a member of a parent cooperative, you are a vital link in our chain.

I hope that you too will reflect on how you can help your children and your family get the most out of being a part of our parent participation school. It is important that you feel a sense of community here. If you need any support, please let me know. If you feel disconnect in the classroom, ask your teacher to set aside some time for you to have a conference.

Just this morning I visited each classroom and was so touched by the generosity shown by many of you in terms of supply donations requested by each teacher. It is important to me that we continue to foster the generosity so many of you display every day. Furthermore, I want to continue to work toward fostering a greater sense of community.

Food for Thought...

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the type of conversation.

Gossip is idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. It is one of the oldest and most common means of sharing facts and views, but also has a reputation for the introduction of errors and variations into the information transmitted. The term can also imply that the news is of personal or trivial nature, as opposed to normal conversation.

In the last decade, gossip has been researched in terms of its evolutionary psychology origins. This has found gossip to be an important means by which people can monitor cooperative reputations and so maintain widespread indirect reciprocity. Indirect reciprocity is defined here as "I help you and somebody else helps me". Gossip has also been identified by Robin Dunbar, an evolutionary biologist, as aiding social bonding in large groups.

The term is sometimes used to specifically refer to the spreading of dirt and misinformation, as (for example) through excited discussion of scandals. Some newspapers carry "gossip columns" which detail the social and personal lives of celebrities or of elite members of certain communities.

Emily's note: It is very easy to spread dirt and misinformation so please be careful when talking about Others...especially children. Every day is a learning experience for a child. They always deserve a kind heart and the benefit of the doubt.

The Availability of Your Teacher

Your surveys have been reviewed and your feedback has been helpful. One thing we want to disclose immediately is that the teachers want to be accessible to you if you feel you need one-on-one time.

The best time to meet with your teacher is during your Parent Participation day. You need to be clear about what you want. If it is a quick comment, you should approach them during playground time. If it is undivided attention you are seeking, ask if you can meet in the classroom during playground time. If need be, your teacher will ask Nana, Shani or me (Emily) to fill during their absence.

Other options:

Susi has prep time every Thursday from 1:00-3:30. This does not guarantee she will be in her classroom during this time. So, if you want to meet with Susi during her prep time, you will need to make arrangements with her at least 24 to 48 hours in advance so she can plan ahead.

Jacquie has prep time every Tuesday from 1:00-3:30. This does not guarantee she will be in her classroom during this time. So, if you want to meet with Jacquie during her prep time, you will need to make arrangements with her at least 24 to 48 hours in advance so she can plan ahead.

Erin has prep time every Monday and Friday from 2:15-3:30. This does not guarantee she will be in her classroom during this time. So, if you want to meet with Erin during her prep time, you will need to make arrangements with her at least 24 to 48 hours in advance so she can plan ahead.

Another great time to meet with your teacher is **during EDC** but after 2:00. By 2:00, EDC isn't as full and your teacher will most likely have time to focus on your needs while still keeping a watchful eye on the children. Again, be clear about what your expectations are of her. If you want discretion, you can find an empty part of the playground to chat.

The bottom line is that you should have open lines of communication with your teacher.

Good Search for charity...Sandy Hill Nursery School

We have something new and exciting we'd like to share with you! It's the new Sandy Hill Nursery School toolbar - once added to Internet Explorer or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,600 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to Sandy Hill Nursery School - at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated to Sandy Hill Nursery School.

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/sandy-hill-nursery-school>

And please pass this along to all of your friends. The two minutes it takes to add this toolbar to your browser can make a lifetime of difference!

Get the toolbar NOW! <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/sandy-hill-nursery-school>

Important Dates in March and April

March:

7th: Board Meeting noon-2:00

18th-19th: Work Party

21st: Pre-K Field Trip to Torrey Pines (please arrive to school between 9:00 and 9:15)

22nd: Teacher In-Service Day—School is Closed

April:

4th: Board Meeting noon-2:00

5th and 6th: Fire Drill

11th-15th: Spring Recess

20th: Pre-K Field Trip to the Monarch Vivarium (please arrive to school between 9:00 and 9:15)

28th and 29th: Visit from Rada Rabbit (discussion on healthy foods for our bodies) 10:00-10:30

30th: Spring Soiree- Silent Auction and Social Party

From the Family Resource Committee:

We continue to learn ways to best communicate our needs to our families. I suspect that you have noticed the new poster boards in your classrooms. This is working out to be a great way to keep families apprised of the needs in their classrooms. We still, however, have a couple more categories that need your ideas on how to let you know what we need.

1. **WORK PARTY:** It only comes twice a year but we will need supplies for our work parties. If we can cull these from your stores, it saves the school money. Very soon, I will be sending a dedicated note that lets you know what we will need for Work Party renovations and new projects.

2. SCHOOL AT LARGE: We also have ongoing needs for the school. For example, the playground is constantly in need of recycled paper, sand toys and vehicles. If you have any great ideas about how to communicate these needs, please let me know.

Consistent with the theme of finding new uses for materials, please **keep Sandy Hill in mind whenever you** are changing out your stocks. This could include when you are **remodeling, moving, spring cleaning and more**

Parking Reminder

The three spots in the upper (paved lot) with a clear sign that reads "No Sandy Hill Parking" are reserved Fellowship staff. We are required to adhere to their no parking policy 24 hours every day.