

Jumping Jack Journal

Newsletter for Fullerton Community Nursery School



Director Miss Sally's Message

Let's look back at what we have accomplished in these last 3 ½ months! Orientations, Back to School Night, field trips to the pumpkin patch, class photos, family portraits, rummage sale, Halloween parades, dental visits for half of us, fall feasts, and See's Candy sale! And don't forget all the fun and learning that happens everyday in the classrooms. And now the holidays are here and our personal lives get pretty crazy busy! Things will go a bit slower around here after the December meeting on the 6th. We tend to downplay the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays a little- we do fun activities at school and make gifts for the family, but we don't have the children performing for the parents, and no Santa visits. It is a wonderful time to celebrate traditions, so let us know if you have something to share!



Big thank you to Katrina Sleigh for being our president these last 2 years. She will still be around, but her duties should be lighter! Thank you to Kristal Melendez for stepping into those shoes- provided she gets elected Dec. 6!

A huge thank you to Clare Pana (Julia's mom in Group III) for volunteering to be our membership person- provided she gets voted in! We must thank Brooke Bohnhoff for doing this job for the last 3 years! Thank you, Brooke!

And thanks go to Ninh-Kieu Lee for agreeing to continue on as treasurer. (If she passes your vote!) So happy for the consistency of volunteers who know their job well! Thanks, Ninh-Kieu!

Director's Message

Pages 1-5

Membership

Page 6

Maintenance & Housekeeping

Pages 7-8

Miss Micky Groups 1 & 3

Page 9

Miss Kelly Group 2

Page 10

Miss Sally Group 4

Page 11

Thanks so much to Lindsay Caulford for donating a Spot Bot! We can use it to quickly clean up carpet spills- including pee accidents! Thanks! It's already been used 3 times!

Here's what you need to know about the last few and the next few weeks at FCNS:

Rummage Sale

Due to an error in accounting, we actually made \$4475, which is still \$475 over budget, so thanks to all who purchased! Also thanks to the rummage sale committee led by Katrina!

Class Photos

We used a professional photography company this year for our class photos and let's just say they weren't as professional as I would have liked. I saw many of your proof envelopes and the kids look pretty darn cute, so hopefully you are happy with the finished product! If you do not like your photo, there is a few coupons in the office for a re-do at JC Penney. Stop in if you want one. They are supposed to arrive 3 weeks after the due date which was Friday, Nov. 16. You can still order but you have to pay for shipping. Let's hope it is smooth sailing from now on!



See's Candy

Thank you to Lina Colligan for organizing the See's Candy fundraiser. The orders are due Nov. 30 and the candy should arrive shortly after that- in plenty of time for gifts. Take it to Thanksgiving and see if your family wants to order!

Scrip

Scrip sales are going well. Several people have already started their Christmas shopping by placing special orders. Jessica Lynch has been working hard handling the orders. Michelle Joyce has been posted the first scrip totals so you check where you are. Remember, you should have purchased or turned in receipts for about \$600 by Dec. 21. You will get a letter in your cubby if you are not current. You can buy out at anytime. Currently, orders are placed on Thursday and scrip arrives on Mondays.

Mandatory Meeting

As you should know, your third mandatory meeting is Thursday night, Dec. 6 at 7 PM here at school. There are three things going on that night. First, there will be a quick meeting to vote in our officers

for January: Kristal Meleldez for President, Clare Pana for membership, and Ninh-Kieu Lee as treasurer.

Second, we will have our guest speaker, Me! I have been reading up on a trendy topic near and dear to my heart- fixed vs growth mindset. It has applications in parenting, teaching, relationships, and the workplace. I hope to give you some info to really think about and hopefully to implement!

Last, we will have a cookie exchange. Want to know what that is? If you want to participate (it's optional) you bring to the meeting 3 dozen homemade cookies. One dozen will be used for our refreshments and 2 dozen are to "trade". Bring your cookies to share on one platter, and those to trade on another. We will provide an EMPTY container for you to take home 24 cookies baked by others! Yummy! Please don't stop at the grocery store and pick up some store-bought cookies! We want homemade delicious treats to take home to the family! You may want to print out your recipe and put it near your cookie platter for people to take a photo of. Then we can make them at home if we love them!



Although we love children, they are not invited to this event.

Eye Screening



The originally planned date for eye screening has been changed! The Eye screening will now take place on Friday, Dec. 14. It is provided by the Marshall B. Ketchum University in Fullerton. All children attending class that day can be screened and we are inviting Groups I and II to stop in that day to be screened as well. There will be permission slips soon.

OCCPPNS

Registration is now open for the convention in March at the Great Wolf Lodge! Very important! If you register, the code for the \$10 scholarship has changed! Someone from LA county was using it and it is for Orange County Co-Op families/alumni only. We are using money we paid in as dues for the last few years, so it's only available to our people! If you register it is **4UOC**.

We are looking for vendors for the event. Something that would appeal to parents and preschool teachers. We already have a book vendor. I can't guarantee you will be chosen as a vendor, but if you know someone, let me know!

STEM Class



On Wed. Dec. 12, we will have sign-ups for the next session of STEM classes. We will take 12 kids again, all must be eligible to go to kindergarten next school year. No priority given to current students, sorry. This session will be 8 weeks- Jan.9- February 27 and cost \$96. You must pay when you register in the office with Miss Micky, thanks! There will be one last session March 6- May 15- 10 weeks for \$120.

Spanish

The next session of Spanish is Jan.7- March18- 8 weeks for \$96.



Last Spanish will be April 1- May 13. It's 7 weeks, with a 2 hr. final class. Cost will be \$96.

Last reminder

There will be no newsletter given in December (for January). The next Jumping Jack Journal will come out January 21, 2019.

Last year I was honored by Fullerton Women's Leadership Forum for my work in education. I had printed my speech I gave that night in last year's newsletter. I re-read it and think it bears repeating! It sums up our philosophy and challenges here at FCNS and our new families might enjoy it!

When I think of what has inspired me in life, the answer is, of course, children. Spending time with children has colored my point of view in life and inspired me to influence parents to the best of my ability. One of the challenges that I have faced over the years is the changing curriculum in some preschools and most kindergartens. There is far less hands-on, learn by doing, and outside play and far more worksheets, drills, homework, and sitting still and listening to the teacher. In protest, I have been fighting for the right for children to play. It sounds crazy to me that such a thing exists.

Each year I have to defend our hands-on, developmental philosophy to some worried parents, who believe that if children don't recognize all their letters and numbers before kindergarten, they will be behind their peers and at a disadvantage. Our viewpoint is the older they are, the easier and quicker they will learn it.

So, what are we doing instead of the boring letter of the week?

We make rivers in our sand. With just a garden hose and a large sandy area, the kids have to figure out how to make the water flow where they want it. They learn that too many tributaries will deplete the force of the water and some will dry up. They learn about erosion, and how to make waterfalls. They learn about islands and bridges. I think it's one of the best things we do.

We also have ramps for balls and cars. The kids learn about momentum- how high to we have to start the ramp if we want the balls to roll all the way to the end. If we add a hill what happens? I actually heard a child once say, "Take out the hills! It's slowing down the balls!" They try to figure out how to make cars jump and land on the track.

We have catapults and foam balls. We ask if they can launch the ball and catch it. How hard do you have to stomp the catapult to make the ball touch the ceiling?

They learn how much glue and paint is enough and how much is too much?

They learn happens when blue paint mixes with the yellow, red with blue, etc.

We play ABC and number lotto games, sing counting songs, and talk about letter sounds with rhyming books.

All the while we are working on social skills- negotiating sharing, taking turns, being a part of a large group. We are expanding our vocabulary, our love of books. We are making charts and patterns, singing, dancing, cutting, and drawing. We are running, chasing, hiding, climbing and jump roping.

Our kids are learning- and it is all through play.

Contrast this with worksheets, letter of the week, and 5 minutes on the calendar- what day it is, what is the month, the weather, etc. and only 20 minutes of recess- which is what I've heard at least one transitional kindergarten offers.

I have resisted pressure through the years from parents who think we should focus more on ABC's and 123's. But kids deserve to be able to learn through play. They inspire me fight for that right! Conversations with kindergarten teachers back me up! They say- you get them ready to sit still and listen, take turns and not cry for their parents, we'll teach them to read! Research also backs me up- hands-on learning is developmentally appropriate for this age!

Our biggest challenge may still be ahead. Transitional kindergartens are siphoning off our 4 yr. olds. Even parents that love our philosophy are enticed by free, 5 day a week preschool. But I will continue to use my influence and fight for the right for children to play! I hope you will, too! Thank you so much!

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and have time to focus on the positive things in our lives and remind yourself of all the things we have to be thankful for. Miss Sally

Membership

Hello FCNS families, we've had a couple of enrollment changes to our classes. Please update your rosters at home, Jovial has been updated online.



We're saying goodbye to Willow Lee from Group 4.

Brian Kim from Group 3 has joined Group 1 as well.

We're welcoming Ethan DeAnda to Group 4.



Please continue spreading the word about our wonderful school. We still have 2 openings for the 3 year old class, group 1.

Thank you,

Brooke Bohnhoff

Trevor's mom, Group 2

Maintenance & Housekeeping

MAINTENANCE



Dear FCNS Families,

Thank you to the following families for completing their maintenance duty in November: Lynch, Munaretto, Martinez, Harrell, Dietmeier, Buker, Hameren, and Oak! Thank you for making sure our kids are playing in a clean & safe yard!

If you switch days with someone please let me know! Remember that missing your maintenance day is a \$150 fine.

BELOW IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO MAINTENANCE DAYS

Saturday, December 8th at 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Habermann (Grp 4) Salvador (Grp 3) Pizaro (Grp 3) Chen (Grp 1)

Saturday, January 5th at 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monnig (Grp 3) Cordero (Grp 2) Estrada (Grp 3) Pana (Grp 3)

If you forgot your scheduled day, please check the Sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Thank you,

Rochelle Burcell, Lee/4 & Colt/3

Maintenance Chair

r.burcell@yahoo.com

Maintenance & Housekeeping

HOUSEKEEPING



Hi FCNS Families!

Our classrooms have been busy with lots of crafts and hands on learning. We are so thankful for those that worked hard on 11/9 to keep our classrooms clean. A big thanks to Brian Reta, Jennifer Salvador, Molly Munaretto, Sheila Pizarro, LeeAnn Mulay, Sonia Montez and Saya Oak.

We are still needing families to sign up if they have not done so already. We are short for the December 3rd housekeeping date. Please sign up on the master list in the hallway.

HERE IS A REMINDER FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE NEXT MONTH

December 3rd @ 12:00

Group 1- Lindsay Caulford and Nathan Dietmeyer **opening for 2 more

Group 2- Jane Jones, Melissa Freilich, Yvette McCauley, Danielle Lozan

Keep in mind that if a member does not show up on the assigned day they will be fined and rescheduled.

If you have any questions you can reach me at bnlee000@gmail.com or 562-760-6941

Miss Micky Groups 1 & 3



Thank you for visiting with us during stone soup . I hope you enjoyed it and hope you also had a good time celebrating Thanksgiving. I appreciate all the celebration of my birthday and the thoughtful gifts. Thank you very much I have so much to be thankful for .

Our visit to Fullerton Pediatrics was a success. We got to sit in the check up chair and brush the puppet friends teeth. We all did pretty good walking. Thanks to all the extra parents we were safe walking on the street.

We had a fun visit from Reilly's Nana who brought in three of her box turtles to show us and we got to look at them run and compared them to a rock. It tied in with our talk about hibernating. She will be returning with them in the spring time when they wake up from their long winter sleep and so will our hibernating puppets.

December is here and this is a great time to share family traditions with class. If you have a celebration or tradition that you would like to share with us please see me.

In group one we will be joining Miss Kelly's class in the celebration of Hanukkah with Cameron's Aunt Sandra whose children attended here many years ago and she continues the tradition of sharing with us. Thank you.

I would like to make ginger bread people cookies one day for snack . We could also make reindeer sandwiches or reindeer trail mix. Let me know if you are interested in these and remember in group one we would like it if you only use sunflower butter. Thank you.



We have many cultures and traditions to share along with foods and music . I encourage you to share.

Thank you for all your work and dedication to our school.

We will be busy little elves working this month. It's so fun to see all the group play happening . Some of us are still working on boundaries while others are working on putting on capes and rain boots. They are getting better about cleaning up snack, so please encourage them to clean up and not do it for them. When we return in January I hope to start working on pouring our own water.

Happy Holidays to All. With love, Miss Micky

Miss Kelly Group 2



November seemed to come and go. I always say, "The days are long but the years are short." I LOVE Thanksgiving. I am a sucker for savory food and gratitude! Thank you all for coming out for our stone soup feast! I loved sharing in story and eating a meal with you. You



really are family to me. One of my favorite traditions with my boys is the Thankful Box. We started this tradition when my boys were in Miss Sally's class. At this point, we have over 10 years of memories and lists of things that we are grateful for. I hope you too will enjoy this tradition as we made our thankful boxes in class last week.

The kids and I had some great discussion about healthy eating and built our stone soup bulletin board with vegetables. We talked about what it means to be thankful and started our lists of gratitude. The kids had me belly laughing with their responses. We shared a story of Native Americans with Sally's class and had the coolest drum circle and corn shaker jam session. It was super cool!

I also started a math lesson with our kids about how many letters are in your name. We started by counting each letter in our name. We then counted out feathers for each letter. Finally, we added each feather to build our name Turkey. Ask your kids how many letters they have in their name and I'm sure they will know!

We will round out November with healthy habits and have a visit from Butler Dentistry on Monday, November 26th. We will discuss proper teeth brushing and flossing. We will then talk about exercise with a visit from the OC karate on Tuesday, November 27th and finish with germs. I have a fun activity with glitter and lotion that will demonstrate how quickly germs are passed.

December will bring Hanukkah, nursery rhymes, my old friend the gingerbread man and of course Christmas. Looking forward to the Holidays!

Eat something delicious and know that I am thankful for you,

Miss Kelly

Miss Sally Group 4

Halloween was fun once again. I had posted some pictures of the kids in their costumes. They loved looking at them everyday!

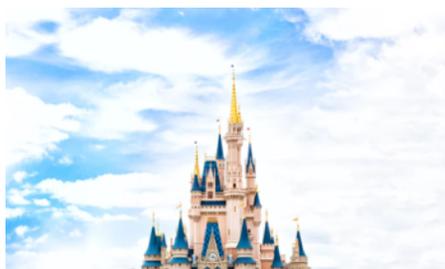
After Halloween we talked about taking good care of our teeth. We walked to the Sunny Hill Pediatric Dentist office and got a quick tour and lesson on eating healthy food. They gave the kids a nice little gift bag!



We spent some time talking about Native Americans and hearing some great stories from different tribes. We play acted outside what life was like for the Native Americans of long ago by building a pretend fire, hunting for buffalo, fishing, and telling stories around the fire. We did sand painting and made clay bowls and drums.

Next it was on to Thanksgiving and what we are thankful for. We practiced self-control when learning rhythms on our drums. Some of us are still trying to figure out how to follow the patterns. You can practice this at home-try these patterns: The heart beat, the rain storm, BINGO, and Twinkle Twinkle. They also know how to say their name with the drum. I think the kids enjoyed performing the rhythms and Tony Chestnut for you at the feast. I know that Tony Chestnut is a bit hard for them and some don't really want to try. That's ok. They did great on the drums! Many thanks to Erin McDaniel for the delicious cornbread and for the chopping many of the vegetables. We had some great helpers! Anyway, I hope you enjoyed your feast! The soup was delicious as always! Thanks for bringing in some different stuff- like spinach, cabbage, brussel sprouts, sweet potato, zucchini, rainbow carrots and squash!

Next week we will talk about Nursery Rhymes and holidays. If any of you celebrate Hanukah or have unique traditions or special foods you eat around this time of year and would like to share with us, please let me know. I am looking for someone who would like to make Gingerbread cookies with the kids and we can do the Gingerbread story (and have the cookies escape from the oven!). I'd love to do this on the last week of school before the break. Let me know, thanks.



I am feeling very thankful for this wonderful group of kiddos and their nice parents! Thanks so much for my birthday gifts! I had an interesting experience at Disneyland this year. Three rides broke down just as we were about to get on them- and had waited 45 min. for! It was disappointing- especially trying to explain to the grandkids! Never experienced that before- as well as running out of paper towels in the bathroom and no churros available in one cart. What is happening to Disneyland? And, of course, the crowds!

I am starting to sound old. There were lots of moments of joy watching the grandkids faces as they experienced things for the first time. I am thankful we got to go! I am also enjoying the assorted fattening foods I received! The flowers are beautiful in my kitchen. Thanks so much!

Enjoy your week with your families! Happy Thanksgiving! Miss Sally