

Redeemer Preschool

Newsletter—July 2009



A Great Start for 2009-2010 School Year

Thanks to a very successful annual fundraiser (auction dinner) in May, we will be starting the new school year with plenty of new things:

- New linoleum floors for all the classrooms;
- A totally remodeled outdoor bathroom for the children;
- A new sink and vanity cabinet for both sides of the school;
- Refurbished front steps, ramps and decks;
- A new 6-foot steel fence and gate fronting both playgrounds;
- Enhanced security for the entry way;
- New wall activity panels for the Green Frog/Yellow Duck playground;
- Two picnic tables for the Purple Dragon class; and
- Air conditioner for the staff room.



A Full House

Our enrollment for the 2009-2010 School Year is full except for a few morning spots in the Dragon classes. We will be serving 82 families and 88 children, an increase of 8 children from last year. There are 47 boys, 41 girls. Forty of the children are full-day students. We will have four pairs of twins in the Redeemer family (one pair in the Green Frog class and three pairs in the Yellow Duck class!).

2009-2010 Teaching Teams

Green Frog Class: Kelley Maddox and Shay Graham
Yellow Duck Class: Karen Brumbaugh and Trisha Coulter
Purple Dragon Class: Kim Patzner and Sarah Clarke
Red Dragon Class: Jacki Tarantino and Stefan Turcios
Art Club and Afternoon Support: Alexis Clements
Cooking Club and Afternoon Support: Sylvia Frazer
Substitute Teacher: Deirdre Chattan

Enrichment Schedules

Our enrichment activities will begin the last week of August. The morning enrichment sessions run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. two times a week. The afternoon enrichment sessions go from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. as follows:



Monday	Dance and Movement, Yoga
Tuesday	Art, Drama
Wednesday	Cooking
Thursday	Storytelling, Music
Friday	Gymnastics

Performing art activities including puppet shows, magic shows, and Youth in Arts performances will be scheduled throughout the school year.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, July 21

Family Potluck
for new families
6:00—7:30 p.m.
ALL Redeemer families
are welcome!

Thursday, July 23

NAEYC Accreditation
Staff Work Day
School CLOSED

Friday, July 24

Staff Retreat
School CLOSED

August 3-11

Summer Break
School CLOSED

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
2009-2010 School Year
Wednesday, August 12



Respect—Responsive—Relationship

It is our core belief that children are the ultimate beneficiaries of a high-quality early childhood education:

- Young children deserve careful attention to every aspect of their physical, social, and cognitive development.
- Each child comes to us with a unique set of characteristics and we **respect** the differing family background, abilities, temperament, and learning style of every child.
- Children bring their own thoughts and abilities to school. They gain knowledge and skills from a learning environment that is **responsive** to their interests and needs. Our emergent curriculum is a process in which the teachers incorporate children's natural curiosity and interests into established learning goals and activities.
- Families matter, both in terms of your influence on your own child and as partners with us to maximize the quality of your child's experiences.



- Positive **relationships** are essential for the development of a child's responsibility, capacity for self-regulation, and for constructive interactions with others. We promote positive relationships among all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth and belonging as part of a community.

At Redeemer, each age group will be assigned to the same teaching team in the morning and in the afternoon to ensure the continuity of care. Our small group setting also encourages personal contact between children and allows individual care.


Helping Your Child Have a Great First Day of Preschool


Your child can panic a little bit on the first day of school, whether he/she is a new *Green Frog*, or a returning *Dragon*. Young children thrive on familiarity so when they are placed into a new situation, it is common if they get upset. Make sure that you are **READY** for your child to go to preschool as he/she will pick up on your emotions quickly. So on the big day, keep a bright smile on your face and stay positive. Our teachers have a process in place to help crying children and in most cases, they encourage parents to leave. Please trust their experience and know they have your child's best interest at heart. When it comes to saying goodbye:


- Do not remove your child from the classroom as it makes it much harder to bring him/her back in.
- Don't sneak away if your child becomes distracted by an activity. Your child needs to learn that school is a place she goes to without mom or dad and saying goodbye is part of the process.
- Don't ask if it's OK for you to leave and don't make promises. This can reinforce the child's upset behavior.


Healthy Lunch Box Ideas

Did you know?

 Most children establish their food likes and dislikes before they enter kindergarten.

 Learning to enjoy a variety of healthy foods during the preschool years will help children have good health throughout their lives.

 If your child only wants to eat one or two foods, don't be too concerned. This behavior will usually last just a few days with proper guidance from parents.

 When you offer your child healthy food choices every day, you don't need to be worried about what is eaten at just one meal or during just one day.



As parent you help your children enjoy healthy lives every day. Packing school lunches with nutritious foods is one

important way we contribute to your child's life-long health. A healthy lunch should contain food from at least three of the four main food groups, which is also interesting, varied and enjoyable, so that your child will eat it.

Studies have also found that eating breakfast, especially one of fortified cereal, is important for school children. At Redeemer, we serve breakfast everyday at 9:00 a.m. with whole-grain cereal, fresh fruit and 2% milk.



There are ample resources on the Internet regarding healthy lunchbox ideas. Please check the following links:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8110.pdf> (A great overview with ideas from parents)

<http://www.healthy-eating-made-easy.com>

<http://www.parenting.com/recipes-gallery/Recipes/10-Fresh-Lunchbox-Ideas>

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/>

Toilet Training *Ideas from August 2009 Parents Magazine*

The Prep—Make your bathroom a happy, kid-friendly place. When you need to use the bathroom, invite your child to come in and point out the whole process: wiping, flushing, and hand-washing.

The Practice—When your child seems to show an interest instead of mimicking you, you are ready for active training. Match your strategies to your child's temperament. For example, if you have an easily distracted child who may not notice the urge to pee or poop, scheduling and prompting are key. Just follow your child's lead.



The Patience—Don't rush the process. It typically takes four to six months for a child to achieve potty independence.

Avoid Bathroom Bribery—It may work in the short run, but using something to reward your child for a natural physical event is a slippery slope. The child needs to feel proud about what they have achieved without getting a prize.

Your Redeemer teachers will work closely with you to make potty training easy and successful. Approximately 95% of the Green Frogs are fully potty-trained by the end of the school year.

Welcome New Dragon Teacher

Our warmest welcome to Kim Patzner to the Redeemer family! Kim will work with Sarah to team teach in the Purple Dragon classroom starting the new school year. Kim received her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from California State University, Chico and is CPR certified. She is well trained in developmentally appropriate curriculum and child assessments. Kim's work with young children started in 2005 with a variety of age groups from infant to 3-4 year olds. She came to us highly recommended from her former employers including A.S. Children Center in Chico (a NAEYC accredited facility) and The Kid's Place in Corte Madera. Kim is also a dancer and will work with Jacki to create a dance/movement program for the children.



Kids Quote



While playing with lego men, a Yellow Duck said, "We're good policemen, but we're mean to the bad guys."

As the children were painting with ice outdoor, a teacher asked, "What does snow turn into when it melts?" A girl said, "Grass."

After being told that one of the school bunnies went to see a vet (being neutered), a boy said, "My dad's car also went to the vet because the tires were broken."

Labeling

Please label your child's belongings including lunch boxes and jackets. Many similar lunch boxes and jackets could be taken home mistakenly and a child could be without his/her favorite lunch kit for days before it is brought back to school. Please check the following website for some water-proof and dishwasher safe labels. www.appliedlabels.com



Talking with Teachers

It is important that parents feel free to talk to their teachers. Please keep your conservation short while a teacher is supervising children. You can always set up a time to talk to your teachers when they are not in a classroom, or send them an email.

Sign In/Out

It's mandated by Licensing that a child must be signed in and out by his/her legal guardian (with full signature) each time he/she attends a preschool. Many preschools in Marin have been cited due to missing parent signatures.

Parenting Workshops

Parents Place in Marin offers a broad range of parenting workshops that include positive parenting, school readiness, children guidance and communication. You can obtain more information from their website at:

www.parentsplaceonline.org

The preschool also organizes routine parenting workshops at the church during each school year.

