

Lakeside Center Dispatch

May/June 2009

Letter from the Director

This is the last newsletter of the year. The fact that it is coming to your 'in box' instead of your school parent 'mailbox' marks the beginning of a new era here at Lakeside – and it arrived so quickly!

As mandated by California state regulations, we are nearing the end of 180 school days. 180 snacks, 180 circle times, 180 outside times, 180 chances to make a memory. Graduation celebrates those times. It seems as if as soon as my child manages to stop falling down and bumping his knee – it is time to go. It seems as if as soon as I remember when tuition checks are due – it is time to go.

Graduation is one of those life moments that cause you to reflect. But most adults reflect for only a moment because the last few weeks of school are filled with activity: be sure to mark your calendars for the Spring Picnic on Wednesday, May 6. It is the last mandatory parent function of the year! Also in May, I hope to see you at Chevy's Mexican restaurant at Stonestown on Monday, May 18. Proceeds from your meal will benefit the school.

Finally, all afternoon students (and some of Ms. Michele & Ms. Lupita's morning students) will be participating in a graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 4 at 3:00PM upstairs in the church sanctuary. There will be a reception in the social hall immediately following the ceremony. For some of us, it will be a bittersweet moment as we say good-bye to friends who are going on to other schools.

Speaking of moving on - be sure to say 'good luck' to Miss Megan Hunt as she will be leaving us to pursue her elementary school age teaching credential. We wish her the best in all her endeavors.

Mrs. Wardell and Ms. Winnie's kinders will be graduating the next day on Friday, June 5 at 10:00AM in the chapel. They, too, will have a reception immediately following their ceremony.

After the weekend, Lakeside Mini Camp summer program begins! If you have not signed up to attend, there is still room in some of the 10 one-week mini camps. See us in the office for more information.

If you are not attending mini camps, and you are moving on to elementary school, let me say on behalf of everyone here at Lakeside- thank you for sharing these precious early years with us.

-Caroline Bankhead, Program Director

Key Dates in May/June

May 6.....Annual Family Picnic 6 PM

May 25.....Center closed for Memorial Day

June 3.....Graduation Rehearsal, 12:45 PM

June 4.....PRE-K GRADUATION 3 PM

June 5.....Kindergarten graduation 10 AM

Ms. Kerry & Mrs. Chao's classes



It is hard to believe that May is upon us and that June is just around the corner. The busy months seem to have flown by so quickly and there are still so many things we would like to fit in before we have to say our good-byes for the summer. It doesn't seem that long ago the children were coming into class a little apprehensive about spending time away from their families. Now they come bouncing in, smiles on their faces and eager to talk to all the new friends they have made this year.

It has been such a joy for us to watch your children grow in so many areas-socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively. They are so imaginative and their eagerness to create, explore and learn through play is heartwarming. They are fine-tuning their problem-solving skills and it so much fun to read to the children as they ask thoughtful questions and extend stories on their own. Thank you so much for your cooperation and support throughout the year and for being a partner with us in your child's early education.

We really enjoyed meeting with our A.M. parents during conferences. Thank you for your positive support of the program we provide for your children. We were delighted to hear how much the children love coming to class.

We will start off the month of May with calendars. It is amazing how much the children's tracing skills have improved! Then we will have our "Cinco de Mayo" celebration with maracas. We will also honor our moms with a special Mother's Day gift. Shhh! It is a surprise! We even hope to fit in a Community Helpers Week where various community workers come to Lakeside to visit and tell the children about their jobs! Both the A.M. and P.M. classes will continue working on their "Me Book" pages, which we have been accumulating all year. The children will also continue their alphabet pages. The P.M. class will be finishing their individual journals, which are a collection of stories dictated by them. They are eager to share both of these completed books with their families.

June calendars will start off our last month's activities as we prepare for graduation and summer. We will also honor Dads with a surprise gift.

The P.M. children have been working very hard learning their graduation songs. We think you are going to be delighted with their program at the graduation festivities. Graduation rehearsal for all P.M. children will be on Wednesday, June 3 at 12:45 p.m. Graduation will be on Thursday, June 4 at 3:00 pm.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parents for the endless support you have shown us throughout this year. We couldn't do our job without you-whether it is working in the classroom, being a room parent, helping with fundraisers, buying books for our classroom, contributing to our penny drive, the list continues on and on! We truly appreciate all your time and efforts. Most of all, thank you for entrusting us with the care of your wonderful, inspiring children, who are precious gifts from God. We are so proud of them!

To our P.M. children, we wish you all the very best as you journey on to Kindergarten. We have had fun learning along with you. We will miss you, but we know your incredible qualities will continue to shine wherever your paths may lead you. To our A.M. children, your enthusiasm, smiles, and endless spirit have brought much sunshine into our classroom each day. Your boundless energy and sense of humor has been a reminder to us of the joys of childhood and we cherish the time you have been in our care.

We wish everyone a fun, safe, and relaxing summer. Enjoy your time with your children. We leave this final quote of the year with you:

**If you are willing to take the opportunities you are given and
utilize the abilities you have, you will fill your life with
special moments and unforgettable times.**

Dena Dilaconi

May the road rise to meet you...

Ms. Kerry, Mrs. Chao, Norma, Laura and Mey

Mrs. Wardell's Kindergarten

May is already upon us, which means that this is the last newsletter. It is hard to believe that the school year is winding down and summer is fast approaching. The remaining weeks will be filled to the brim with projects, activities and tying up all the loose ends. Leaving the security and comfort of Lakeside can be stressful, especially when faced with the prospect of a "new, big school." In the midst of this hectic time, we will try to keep the classroom atmosphere as calm as possible.

Thank you for all the wonderful books donated to the class during the book fair. We love getting new books and the children are so proud to see their name on the inside flap, indicating they made the contribution. Our library is rich with diverse works that add so much to our literacy program.

This month the Kindergarten will be "buzzing" with insects! The children will explore different types of insects, defense mechanisms and behavior with a special focus on butterflies. There are so many terrific stories that lend themselves to this unit: The Very Grouchy Ladybug, The Lonely Firefly, In the Tall, Tall Grass, The Very Busy Spider and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, to name a few. Stories, poems and a new rap will keep us entertained as we explore the fascinating world of insects.

Our insect rap is as follows:



ABCDE	How many insects do you see?
FGHIJ	As beetles and ants march our way
KLMNO	They crawl and hop as they go
PQRST	A butterfly, a grasshopper and a flea
UVWXY	A termite, an aphid and a dragonfly
ZZZZZ	Insects all around me!

We will work on a class book that is based on "The Wheels on the Bus" concept, using insects as the main characters. The children are so creative and adaptive that we are sure the book will be delightful.

Along with graphing their favorite insect, the kindergartners will continue to work on number concepts, counting and patterning.

Though we may play the same math games many times, the children are all honing their skills and gaining confidence with abstract concepts. Each time they revisit a game they take away new insights and observations.

We will be looking forward to the family picnic on Wednesday, May 6th. It is a very fun gathering that unites all the Lakeside families in a relaxed setting. And, of course, we will be preparing for graduation, which is on Friday, June 5th. The kindergarten will have its own graduation the day AFTER the other children have graduated. We need to fulfill our 180 day school requirement which has the class graduating on Friday the 5th of June. We will have a short presentation on Friday starting at 10:00am, followed by a reception at school. We hope that you will enjoy this new, personal format that will focus on the kindergarten class. More information will follow, but please mark your calendars to be with us Friday morning from 10:00-11:00am.

The end of the year is usually bittersweet. I am amazed and filled with so much pride as I watch the kindergartners so capably finish projects and move independently in the classroom. I see how much they have learned this year, yet know it is time for them to face new challenges in new classrooms-they need to move on. I feel blessed to have had this time with your children. It has been a wonderful year and one that I have enjoyed tremendously. Thank you for the all the support, encouragement and enrichment you provided throughout the year. I wish you all the best in your new schools.

-- Molly Wardell



Lakeside Chevy's Fundraiser

When: Monday, May 18th from 4 pm - 10 pm

Where: Chevy's Restaurant at Stonestown Galleria

What: Chevy's will donate 25% of all food and non-alcoholic drink proceeds to the Lakeside Presbyterian Center for Children's Parent Volunteer Organization (PVO)

Diners need to bring a flyer and present it to their waiter. A flyer will be put in your parent mailbox. --Liz Zang

Miss Michele, Miss Lupita & Miss Megan's Classes

Hello our wonderful families for the last time this year!

It is always with such joy and sadness that I write this last newsletter - joy at having the pleasure of working with your children this school year and sadness at having to say goodbye to so many wonderful children and their families. We start out the school year just getting to know each other; learning each other's names, finding our comfort zones with each other, learning so much about each other - it feels like our second family. We truly love our Lakeside Family!

We have watched your children grow and mature in so many ways; we are truly amazed at the progress we have seen in each and every child - they have all matured and sprouted right before our eyes. I'm sure you can also see the differences and growth at home.

For those children in the P.M. and a few children in the A.M. (WE WILL LET THE PARENTS KNOW) graduation information will be sent home soon. There will be a graduation rehearsal on Wednesday June 3rd at 12:30 - all graduates will attend. Graduation will be on Thursday at 3:00. More detailed information to follow.

For those children and families that are moving on - we will miss you and we wish you the best of luck as you venture on your new journeys. We feel so blessed and honored to have been a part of your children's lives and for those returning families we look forward to seeing you in the hallways - remember to say hi to us and please don't forget us.

We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for your constant love and support - we could not do this without you!

With much love,
Miss Michele, Ms. Lupita, Miss Megan,
Chika, Maritza, and Jenny

Ms. Lupita's PM Class

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing Easter break!

It is hard to believe I am writing our last newsletter. The busy months seem to have flown by and there is still so much that we want to fit in before we have to say goodbye.

Thank you so much for your cooperation throughout the year and for being a partner with us in your child's early education.

I cannot thank you enough for my wonderful Birthday celebration. Thank you!

Our children are ready to move onto the big world of Kindergarten. Ms. Chika and I have enjoyed this group immensely. They have formed some wonderful friendships and have fine-tuned their sharing and problem-solving skills. Also, they are very creative with their drawings and their storytelling. Chika and I are really going to miss this graduating class. We have had a lot of fun together!!!!!!!

Our plans for May and June.... lots of fun. May will start with our May calendars. We'll celebrate Cinco de Mayo; we will have quesadillas, salsa and chips and music. We will be working on our Mother's Day present and also Father's Day celebration. We will finish our surprise books and we will get ready for graduation!

Chika and I would like to say that it has been a pleasure and an honor to have had your children in our class. Thank you again for entrusting us with your children.

I wish you a fun relaxing and fun summer!!!!!!!

Ms. Lupita McGloin

Extended Care program

April was an exciting month for Extended Care! In the beginning of the month, we celebrated Easter with colorful paintings, spring tissue paper collages, and sand art bunnies, just to name a few. Before the Easter break, we had parties to celebrate the season. Thank you to all the parents who brought in the delicious snacks for our parties!

At the end of the month, the children worked on a handprint garden mural, using their hands to make flowers, grass, butterflies and other spring things. We hope you were able to see the children's colorful creation. The preschool children also had the privilege to watch the kindergartners in Kindergarten Extended Care perform a special hula dance taught to them by Miss Michelle. We were all thrilled to see them move so gracefully in their beautiful Hawaiian costumes.☺

In May, we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and preparing for Graduation Day! We are excited and sad to have one month left to spend with your children. This will also be Miss Megan's last month at Lakeside. She will be leaving us to study in the teacher credential program. We will also be saying goodbye at the end of the summer camp program to Miss Melanie as she will be pursuing a Masters degree. We will miss them both very much.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. It has been both a fun-filled year being a part of the Lakeside family and we can't wait until next school year! We hope everyone has a great summer.☺

- Miss Melanie, Miss Michelle and the Extended Care Staff

GREEN CORNER

SUMMER is a perfect time to re-think your cleaning supplies. I wanted to leave my position as Green Coordinator sharing some of my secrets to saving money, and using earth friendly and effective cleaning supplies. Consider making your own cleaning products:

Window & Mirror Spray: Club Soda

Kitchen Spray: Equal Water & Vinegar, 1 Tbsp. Baking Soda, 20 drops Peppermint Oil

Floor Spray: Equal Water & Vinegar, 20 drops Peppermint Oil

Wood Furniture Spray: 1 cup Water, ¼ cup Vinegar, 1 ½ tsp. Olive Oil, 20 drops Lemon Oil

Shower/Toilet Cleaner: 1 cup Baking Soda, 1 cup Water, ¼ cup liquid soap, 1 Tbsp. Vinegar, 25 drops Tea Tree Oil

Also, using these non-toxic items opens the door to having your little ones get involved with the house cleaning. Have a Green Summer!

--Janelle L. White-Farinacci

Pizza!

A friendly reminder that the hot lunch program will go into hibernation from June to August and will restart in September. The last day for pizza will be May 29th. The hot lunch program is a self-run program. All money received goes entirely towards the cost. With this in mind, please ensure to submit all payment due in the black tin box by May 29. Thank you everyone for making the hot lunch program a success. I would like to extend a special thank you to the extended care staff for ordering and arranging the pizza and milk for our kids to enjoy. --Myra Kwok

Annual Lakeside Family Picnic

Wednesday May 6, from 6 to 8 pm
Location: Social Hall at Lakeside

Please note: the Spring Picnic serves as the mandatory parent meeting for May.

-Katy Springer and Shannon Collins

Congratulations!



GRADUATION 2009

It's right around the corner. Graduation Day is Thursday, June 4! Pre-K graduation will be at 3:00 PM in the church sanctuary. (Rehearsal is Wednesday June 3, at 12:45 PM.) Friends and family are welcome to join the celebration. Immediately following the graduation ceremonies, there will be a reception with light refreshments in the Social Hall.

Volunteers are needed to set up chairs beforehand and clean up after the ceremony and the reception—and we would like to ask parents of children who are not graduating this year to volunteer, so the parents of those graduating can enjoy the party. **Sign-up sheets will be on the PVO bulletin board in the hall.** You can list the points you anticipate earning on your May summary so that they will count for the year. We really need volunteers, as this is the last event of the year! -Christine Leon

PVO President's note

Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter of the year, and my last to you as my term nears its close. It's been a fun and memorable year and I have enjoyed getting to know all of you and the ins and outs of the school. It has been my honor and privilege to work with so many dedicated and wonderful parent volunteers. Your volunteerism has come in many shapes and forms and we want to acknowledge **each and every** one of you. In addition to volunteering, your generous donations have made this all possible.

To begin with, some of the more understated jobs that deserve **THE BIGGEST THANKS** are those of you who provide snack and party supplies, wash the toys and rugs, work in the classroom and volunteer to set up and clean up the events. Without these behind the scenes jobs, we simply could not function. Thank you, Thank you!

Speaking of behind the scenes, I want to further acknowledge the 2008-2009 PVO Board members. We've had a most interesting year, with big issues that have taken up extra time and they have all gone above and beyond the hours and duties for which they "signed on." Thank you to **Pam Barry**, the Vice President, who has been a bedrock of the PVO for three years. This is her last year at Lakeside and she will truly be missed in this community! Thanks to **Sonali Herrera**, who, by the grace of God, has signed on for another year as the PVO Fundraising chair. She successfully pulled off an amazing year of fundraising in the midst of a recession. Way to go Sonali! When we talk about finances, the glamorous (and tedious) job of writing checks for the last three years has gone to **Kori Riordan**. This does not even remotely cover all that she has done, but regardless, the treasurer has been a treasure. Last but by no means least, is our communications chair, **Kathleen Lunbeck**. She was a trooper, to say the least. Thanks for all of your diligence and faith Kathleen! Will we miss you at Lakeside next year also!

Next on the list is our wonderful administration. A huge thank you to **Caroline Bankhead**, our fearless leader, for all of the strength she gives to the school. Caroline, AKA Mrs. E, your love of our children is absolutely tangible! In addition, **Denice Heath** deserves a rousing round of applause for her tireless support to the PVO, especially with this year's spring event. Your behind the scenes work did not go unnoticed!

As the year has gone by, we have had the opportunity to thank the volunteers each month. Many volunteers have jobs that require ongoing engagement. Thank you to **Oliver Chin** who has once again this year discovered new and exciting ways to create wonderful signage for our front door. Thanks to **Tom Angsten** for a second year of maintaining the website and for setting up our email distribution lists. We are so excited to be sending this out via email! Along the same lines, thanks to **Kerry Dolan Button** for taking on her third year as newsletter coordinator. In addition, an even bigger thank you for taking on the PVO presidency next year—Yeah! Thank you to **Janelle White**, our green coordinator, for taking on a new position and contributing to getting this newsletter on-line! To **Lucinda Fleurant** we extend admiration and appreciation for her diligence and perseverance in coordinating the landscaping talks AND taking on the vice-presidency next year.

Thanks to **Myra Kwok** leading the hot lunch program, something my kids couldn't live without. Cheers to **Georgia Ferry** for once again promoting literacy with the monthly Book Club and to **Kevin Kosewic** for preparing our children for emergencies. We cannot forget about all the box tops that we have collected and so thank you to Monica O'Reilly for sending them in. We have all gotten to know **Diane Linehan's** parent mailbox this year-kudos for taking on the points coordination once again! Bravo to **Jennifer Powell, Barbara Bruxvoort, Donna Jones and Debbie McGrath** for their commitment to the Children's Center Committee and helping bridge communication between the church, school and the PVO.

No school can live without room parents. Thank you to **Oliver Chin, Kathleen Gavney, Erika Pollasky, Irene Motoviloff, Maureen McFadden, Amy Stecher, Georgia Ferry, Helen Wang, Kristin Monfredini, Melissa Curry, Alex O'Brien and Sawsan Shatara** for keeping all of the room activities on track!

Spring has been quite busy. I applaud the spring event co-coordinators **Melanie Dietrich and Diane Gutierrez** for a *muy bueno* and successful Fiesta-this was truly an event that showcased Lakeside's great community spirit. Melanie will be applying her tremendous skills next year as the PVO treasurer-way to go Melanie! There were many folks on that committee, but in particular **Anna Totah and Melyssa Nelson** were superstars. Melyssa has signed on as the PVO communication chairs-great news for all of us! A big cheer for **Mimi Pratt and Samantha Hubley** for pulling off another successful Book Fair with the great help of **Kathleen Gavney**. As a result of the book fair, Lakeside donated 653 books to the Children's Book Project!! Thank you to **Nina Howell** for this wonderful feat!

For upcoming events, a big ovation for **Nicole Ring and Mary Healey** who will be getting our kids out and walking at this year's Healthy Kids Walk-a-thon. I think the children like the next event as much as the teachers do: Thank you to **Jennifer Howard** for setting up and collecting all of our loose change at the Coin Drive.

Don't forget to meet up with friends at Chevy's on **May 18**-thanks to **Liz Zang** for this new fiesta! More thanks to Liz along with

Leigh Armand for conducting the school survey this year—a big task! Keep your eyes out for the results on the PVO board. We hope to implement as much as we can and really appreciate your suggestions and input! The spring picnic is right around the corner, and we're thrilled that **Katy Springer and Shannon Collins** will be chairing this event with short notice. Watch for information before school starts next year as we change the spring picnic into a fall picnic to help new parents get to know one another and encourage returning families to reconnect. And finally, what else, but graduation! A big cheers to **Christine Leon** for taking this job on for her fourth year in a row—it promises to be a very memorable event. There was much success with the two separate graduations last year, so please remember that the pre-schoolers graduate on June 4th and the kindergartners on June 5th.

Our final PVO board meeting of the year will be held on Friday May 8th at 8:45 am. I encourage you to attend if you have held a PVO position this year or are taking one on for next year. We also hope to see you all at the PVO appreciation luncheon hosted by the teachers and staff at Lakeside, held on Saturday, May 16th at Lakeside Café.

It's been a wonderful year thanks to **ALL OF YOU**--- Have a great summer!

Tanya Miller
PVO President, 2008-2009

Lakeside Presbyterian Center for Children

May/June 2009

PARENTS' CORNER



The butterfly metaphor is particularly relevant now – our children are metamorphosing right before our eyes. June is a milestone month. For many children at Lakeside, it means the beginning of the transition from preschool to elementary school. They are about to take the next step on their educational journey, with different teachers, different classmates in a different place. It's a big step, and your child will likely experience a variety of emotions before starting kindergarten: happiness, pride, and excitement about growing up; sadness over leaving the teachers and friends at preschool behind; and fear of the unknown. Here are a few tips to help facilitate this important transition.

Stick to a Predictable Schedule: While summer days should be filled with lazy days, try to provide a predictable schedule around bedtime and rising time (ideally one that conforms to their Kindergarten schedule.) Set a specific time for brushing teeth, taking a bath, and getting into bed. Children have to know what's going to happen to them and what's expected of them. When they do, the transitions they face --including that first big one from preschool to kindergarten -- will go more smoothly.

Talk About Kindergarten: Your perspective on kindergarten and the school you've selected will have a big impact on your child. Don't hold back -- it's important to talk to your child about starting kindergarten. Try to answer all your child's questions. Kick off a discussion by asking your child about his/her feelings, for example "I wonder what trips your new teacher will take you on?"

Practice New Routines: If your child will be wearing a uniform, give your child lots of opportunity to wear it before the first day of school so he/she feels comfortable in it. Introduce your child to children who will be in their new class and, if possible, take your child to meet their new teacher and see their new classroom before the first day of school.

Most importantly, hug and laugh a lot. And don't forget the camera and Kleenex on that first day of school (for you!)

Adapted from <http://school.familyeducation.com>

Happy Mother's Day to all our Lakeside Mothers!

