

Lakeside Center Dispatch

October 2009

Letter from the Director

If you are reading this, you are the type of parent who also read the orientation newsletter and the parent handbook. You took notes at the first parent meeting. By now, you have diligently paid your first tuition bill and volunteered in your child's classroom. You also submitted your first 'Parent Volunteer Points Monthly Statement'. Now that your child has finally stopped crying at drop off time, you think you may start! It is all just so overwhelming.

How can you be doing all of this and still not be sure of what is going on? – Relax! Help is here in the nick of time! Make plans to attend the **Open House and Book Fair on Wednesday, October 7**. The book fair is located in the Social Hall while the Open House happens in the classrooms.

There is no childcare that night because most families choose one parent to go hear what the teacher has to say, while the other parent takes the child (ren) to the book fair. No child is reluctant to go to the book fair! The social hall transforms into a bookstore worthy of the mall where children shop and talk to their friends. Meanwhile, the other parent is in the classroom hearing about the teachers' plan for the year. Consequently, there is no large parent meeting at this event. However, it does count as the monthly, mandatory, 'parent meeting' and as such, be sure to sign in at your child's classroom to get credit for attending (otherwise you will be billed)!

Speaking of mandatory events, mark your calendar for the **Pumpkin Patch Trip on Friday, October 16!** This is an all school field trip! There are NO classes that day and extended care ONLY IN THE MORNING before the trip. We could not possibly supervise 100+ children without your help! So arrange to take the day off work and ride the big yellow bus with us! Treat yourself to pumpkin ice cream (available for sale at the Pumpkin patch – since we try to return around lunchtime – only child's snacks are provided)! This is one of those 'Lakeside traditions' that you don't want to miss!

Finally, speaking of traditions, I want to say a special 'thank you' to all of those parents who are careful to park in the neighborhood and stroll to school. This practice makes the parking lot a much safer zone for children. These same parents continue their safe practices once inside the building by insuring their child washes his/ her hands before entering the classroom every day. Aside from the 'get to know you' sniffles, we have managed to avoid a lot of illnesses that can plaque a school in the early autumn. Thanks again. Keep up the good work, trust me, you will get the hang of it! Sincerely, 'Mrs. E'

Key Dates in October

Oct 7.....Open House and Book Fair

Oct 16.....Pumpkin Patch Trip

Oct 19.....Fall Chevy's Night

Oct 28.....Halloween Party
(M/W/F Classes)Oct 29.....Halloween Party
(T/Th Classes)Oct 30.....Staff in-service day,
School closed

"Back-to-School Night" and Book Fair is Oct 7

Book Fair will be in the Social Hall from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Browse and buy to support Lakeside!
No childcare is available.

Parent meetings will be as follows – please do not be late:

- Parents of children in the **morning** classes, meet at **6:30 PM** in your child's classroom
- Parents of children in the **afternoon** classes, meet at **7:10 PM** in your child's classroom
- Parents of children in the **Kindergarten** class, meet at **6:30 PM** in your child's classroom



Ms. Kerry & Mrs. Chao's Classes

Hello Everyone!

Both our A.M. and P.M. classes have had a fantastic start to the new school year. The children are easily adjusting to our classroom routines, and we are getting acquainted with the wonderful personalities that comprise our classes. Those morning tears that were so prevalent the first couple of weeks of school are being replaced with eager smiles as the children are making the transition from home to a school environment. Thank-you for entrusting us with your child's well-being and early education. We will make every effort to ensure that their preschool experience is a positive one.

We hope you enjoyed the September calendar, our first of many! You will receive a new calendar each month. The children were so excited to bring them home. During this month, they also enjoyed learning (reviewing for many) their colors with an array of color-related activities. Color-mixing with water at circle time topped off our color unit. We also shaped-up with a unit on shapes.

October is sure to be another busy month. We will start off the month with our October calendars. We are anticipating many "Fall" and "Halloween" related activities. The children will be making their own costumes in class! Halloween is an exciting time for the children, but it can sometimes be exhausting for them and parents as well. We have found that by having the children make their own costumes in class, they can enjoy the festivities that surround Halloween without being even more overwhelmed. It gives the children a chance to create without anything being too scary. So please remember that you are not to send your child in a costume to school. Look for sign-ups for our classroom parties. Thank-you for your cooperation in this matter. The highlight of the month will be our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch and Halloween Festival here at school. Helpers for the festival are always needed, so please check the main bulletin board in the hall for sign-ups.

The PM class has started on their new individual alphabet pages. This will be an on-going activity throughout the year from A to Z. Both AM and PM classes have worked on their individual "Concept Books" where each child practices cutting, tracing, and figure drawing skills. These exercises will be repeated again for the AM class and you will be able to see the progress made in so many areas. Both classes have also started their "Me Books" which will be an ongoing activity throughout the year. It is a chance for the children to tell us about their favorite things and it also includes seasonal activities. The 'Me' Book covers will be hung in the hallway all year long.

We want to thank all our parents who have been signing up to bring in snacks. The children have enjoyed many healthy snacks to satisfy their hungry tummies. Thank-you for working in the classroom too. Your time, help, and support are invaluable to us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Communication between parents and teachers is so important, for we are a partnership in your child's education. We feel privileged to be able to spend time with your precious children! We look forward to seeing all of you at Back-to-School Night and Book Fair on October 7th, a time to show you around our classroom and share with you many ongoing plans we have for a year filled with lots of fun and learning. We think you will be amazed at how much your children have already learned in these few weeks. Their enthusiasm is wonderful!

Each month we will close our newsletter with a quote or poem which is special to us. We hope you enjoy them.

Believe you will succeed at whatever you do, and never forget the value of persistence, discipline, and determination.

You are meant to be whatever you dream of becoming.

-Edmund O'Neill-

Happy Fall! Happy Halloween!

Ms. Kerry, Mrs. Chao, Laura, Jenny and Bonnie

Mrs. Wardell's A.M. Kindergarten Class

During October the books we read, the poems we recite and the stories we write will reflect a Halloween theme. It is a very exciting time for children and I like to capitalize on their high interest level. Our ABC "rap" will also have this holiday theme. The "rap" is a catchy alphabet song that reinforces letter recognition and rhyming words. October's rap is as follows:

ABCDE.....October is here for all to see
FGHIJ.....Halloween is on the way
KLMNO...Bats and witches are flying low
PQRST.....Let's pick a pumpkin or two or three
UVWXY..The days are colder, oh me oh my
ZZZZZ.....We love Fall, you and me

We have group writing opportunities on a regular basis during which I model and reinforce the writing process-the "Daily News". Each child has a turn to report their news which is written down and collated into a monthly book. At the end of each month we will review the pages and reminisce about what we wrote. Our writing center is a daily activity that is supplied with the materials to facilitate the children's independent work.

In math we will continue to explore manipulatives and begin to use them to explore concepts such as sequencing, patterning, graphing and classifying. I use the "magic envelope" which contains patterns that the children are able to predict-proof of their inherent understanding of this underlying mathematical principle. Each child has been assessed for number concept and I am introducing math games that allow each child to work at their appropriate level.

October is a busy month with many activities. Please check the school calendar so you will have the dates for Back to School Night/Book Fair and the pumpkin patch field trip.

There will be a class Halloween party so look for the sign-up sheet posted on the wall as the time draws near. We will be making our own Halloween costumes at school to wear on Wednesday which will ensure that every child is included in the festivities. This allows you to keep their special Halloween costume intact and ready for trick-or-treating on the 31st. Halloween can be an exciting and overwhelming time of the year for some children. We try to keep each child's comfort level in mind during this season. If you have special concerns, please let me know.



Thank you for all the healthy snacks you have been bringing in for the children. After all our activities the children have worked up a hunger and certainly enjoy your generous food and drink contributions.

In the morning, we encourage the kindergartners to take responsibility for putting their jackets and backpacks in their cubbies. Being responsible for their own things engenders independence and a sense of accomplishment. Thank you for giving them this opportunity to grow and feel good about themselves.

We are off to a great start. I hope that your child is eager to come to school and is feeling comfortable. I look forward to the challenges and discoveries ahead!

Molly Wardell

Miss Michele & Ms. Lupita's Classes

Welcome to all our new and returning families! We have been in school for only 24 days and the children are already so adjusted to all the schedules, activities and routines of the day. All those first day tears have turned into smiles and all the quiet ones have opened up. Everyone seems to be having so much fun--making new friends, reconnecting with old ones and discovering new ideas. We are as always so amazed how much your children have already learned. We sing our greeting songs and calendar songs in English and Spanish along with learning colors in Spanish as well. They are already so eager to learn and have so much fun with anything new that we share with them.

We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind all of our families of a few important things as your child starts his/her day. Please always remember to have a complete change of clothes in your child's cubby as accidents do happen. Also please keep an extra jacket or sweatshirt in his/her cubby as our weather changes all the time. Please remember to label all of your child's clothes so that they do not get misplaced or lost. Please remember to sign your child IN AND OUT! We realize school has just started but please do not hesitate to come to us with any questions or concerns you might have. We will always make time to speak with you. We wish to thank you for all the wonderful snacks you have been bringing--the children especially like the fresh fruit, crackers, sandwiches, bagels, rice cakes and cut up cheddar cheese.

We have already been working on our ME book in both A.M. and P.M. classes--this will be an ongoing project that we will work on all year. In the P.M., we have started our Special Friend books--this is a special book just for your child--each and every child will eventually get one--it will be another ongoing project that will take all year. We have so enjoyed making them and look forward to making one for each child. A few reminders of upcoming events. Back to School night is Wednesday Oct. 7th - A.M. classes meet in our room at 6:30pm and P.M. classes meet in our room at 7:10pm (Mommies & Daddies only please). This is an opportunity for all of us to get to know each other and for all of you to learn about our class and all the things we will be doing. We look forward to seeing you. October 16th is our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch - this is a perfect time to meet your children's classmates and parents - we would like to see all of you there (no classes that day)

On October 28th & 29th, we will have our Halloween festival in the social hall which is put on by some of our parents and is such a great time for all the children. On these days we will wear the costumes we have made in our classrooms (no costumes from home please, some children are scared of some of the costumes, and we have found over the years that it is easier and a lot more fun to make our own costumes and wear them). There will be no classes on Friday October 30th - this will be an in-service day for the teachers. We have been meeting with some of you already and we want to thank all of you for your support and appreciation. As always please do not hesitate to call with any concerns or questions.

" Welcome to the circle whatever brought you here
and know your work is worthy, and know your heart is true
and know that all you give away will come circling back to you"
----Betsy Rose---

Miss Michele and Ms.Lupita

Mrs. Wardell's PM Pre-K Class

September came and vanished in a flash! The children were very busy adjusting to their new classroom and a new routine. The many smiles and eager faces that greet me each day indicate a smooth transition to the Pre-Kindergarten program.

Most children love this time of year. I capitalize on this interest level by introducing Halloween themes throughout the curriculum. The songs we sing, the poems we learn and the books we read will reflect this seasonal theme. Each month we learn an ABC "rap". The "rap" is a catchy alphabet song that reinforces letter recognition and rhyming words. October's rap is as follows:

<p>ABCDE.....October is here for all to see FGHIJ.....Halloween is on the way KLMNO...Bats and witches are flying low PQRST.....Let's pick a pumpkin or two or three UVWXY..The days are colder, oh me oh my ZZZZZ.....We love Fall, you and me</p>
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Our art table is always occupied with children drawing, cutting, weaving, pasting and creating pictures. They have wonderful imaginations and love to express their creativity. The "art box" and table is stocked with markers, color pencils, scissors, yarn, crayons, chalk, cardboard, fabric and many other materials for them to use in whatever way they choose.

In math we are using manipulatives to "free explore" and illustrate concepts such as patterning, graphing and classifying. The children love to anticipate the patterns that come out of my "magic envelope", and are always thrilled when they can correctly predict what is coming next - proof of their inherent understanding of this mathematical principle. We are also working on counting skills and shape recognition.

We will be making our own Halloween costumes to wear at school to wear which will allow you to keep their special Halloween costume intact and ready for trick-or-treating on the 31st. Halloween can be an exciting and overwhelming time of the year for some children. We try to keep each child's comfort level in mind during this season. If you have special concerns, please let me know. The sign-ups for class parties will be posted a week prior to the dates so please be on the lookout for them.

Thank you for all the generous snacks you have contributed for the children to enjoy. A healthy snack in the afternoon fuels them for the many activities they tackle at school.

It promises to be a wonderful year in the Pre-Kindergarten. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share this formative time with your child.

Molly Wardell

Extended Care Program

Now that the school year has begun, we have had a chance to get to know each child a little more through their answers to the 'Question of the Day' and the child survey that you received at the beginning of the year. We have a great group of kids this year, along with great staff to keep your children happy and safe. **Michelle Dimapasoc** and **Mey Saephan** are our two lead teachers alongside our caring and supportive teacher aides: **Sweelina, Jenny, Laura, Cindy, Jane and JeLisa**. Parents, if you haven't had a chance to get to know our wonderful Extended Care staff, please read their staff biographies by our doorway.

Our Extended Care program is **designed to foster your child's development**. Through exciting activities, each with its own area in the classroom, such as blocks/manipulatives, math, science, art, writing/literacy and dramatic play, our goal is to teach the basic fundamentals the children need in order to go on to Kindergarten. During the time your child spends in Extended Care, they will be given the opportunity to develop and build their physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral skills. We intend to provide these learning opportunities by doing activities and discussing topics that interest them.

You can find out what's going on in Extended Care and Kindergarten Extended Care in our **'What happened today?'** entry posted on the parent bulletin board, as well as our weekly curriculum. Following the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines, the Extended Care programs have started taking written observations and documentation and created children's portfolios, where these documentations as well as the child survey and their work are filed. If you haven't already, **please return your child survey to Extended Care**. These surveys, as well as our observations, help Extended Care develop curriculum to meet your child's interests and needs.

There is a new project in Extended Care called **'Child of the Week.'** When your child is chosen, there will be a letter attached to a large house-shaped poster explaining what the family and child has to do for the week. Children will be selected at random, so please be sure to check your child's cubby!

In the Extended Care classroom, we also have a bulletin board dedicated to multicultural curriculum. **We are looking for donations of cultural clothing and/or items** (i.e. musical instruments, postcards, books, etc.) for our multicultural bulletin board and our dramatic play area. You will receive **1 point for each donation**. We would like to be able to keep these items, but we can also return borrowed items. In addition, **we are looking for donations of recycled items**: toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, strawberry baskets and milk/juice cartons to be used in our art area. **Six recycled items will earn you 1 point**.

As October approaches, we'll be working on Halloween-related activities. We'll be discussing what Halloween means and how people celebrate Halloween around the world. Each area in our classroom will have a Halloween theme, from building haunted houses in the block area to writing spooky stories in the literacy area to dressing up in costumes in the dramatic play area. We hope you visit our classroom to see the children's work and the pictures we've documented up on the walls.

Please remember that space is limited in Extended Care. If you would like your child to participate in our Extended Care program, **please check with the office**. If there are days in which you would like to **drop in to Extended Care**, please talk to **Michelle or Mey** to see if there is room available to accommodate your child.

We offer **pizza lunch every Tuesday and Friday**. If you would like your child to participate in pizza lunches, please sign up no later than 10:00 am that day. For those children who are signed up for pizza lunches, we do ask parents to bring supplementary snacks. Although we do serve pizza, we feel children who have hungry appetites need to not just fill themselves up with pizza but with other healthy snacks too. This will help them eat a balanced lunch.

We also want to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful parents who have brought snack for our A.M., P.M., and Kindergarten Extended Care programs. Bringing in healthy and nutritious snacks for our children helps them learn about and build healthy eating habits for later on. Please help Extended Care by signing up for snacks and **remember you earn points for snacks!**

Because the children in Extended Care have more than two meals a day (morning and afternoon snack and lunch), NAEYC guidelines have required our classroom to practice tooth-brushing. **Please remember to pack your child's toothbrush and a small tube of toothpaste** in your child's lunch box every day, labeled with his/her name. The children brush their teeth after their lunch at the Extended Care room sink, monitored by a teacher.

We also want to remind you to **please take your child to the bathroom** to use the toilet and wash hands before entering the classroom. With the flu season coming up, we are taking measures to prevent the spread of germs. We are also providing the children with hand sanitizer throughout the day after sneezing or coughing into their hands. Please be sure to remind your child to practice regular hand washing.

Please sign your child in/out when you drop off/pick him or her up. When you are dropping off/picking up two children from the same classroom, please be sure to sign in/out twice, not just one signature for both children. Also, please write your child's name on ALL jackets/ extra clothing brought to school to help us keep track of your child's belongings.

Lastly, if you have any questions or concerns about what is discussed in this newsletter or anything else, please do not hesitate to come to our classroom and talk with us.

Michelle Dimapasoc, Mey Saephan and the Extended Care Staff

PVO President's Note

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the first school year edition of the 2009-2010 PVO Newsletter. This newsletter comes out nearly every month (we combine a few editions in the spring) and is a great way to keep up with dates of events that occur at Lakeside, as well as what's going on in your child's classroom. A very big thank you to **Kath Tsakalakis**, who has taken on the role of producing this wonderful newsletter! We hope that you take the time to read through this every month, since it is one of the ways that the school and the PVO communicate with parents.

The year has gotten off to a great start. I want to thank everyone who has already helped make this happen. **Kelly Alves** worked diligently over the summer to produce the Parent Handbook (check out, among other things the handbook's handy calendar of events for the year!). **Janelle White** and **Tina Priskich** conceived of and put on our very successful Welcome Picnic at the zoo. **Sonali Herrera** planned and hosted our first day's coffee, with help from **Melanie Dietrich**, allowing parents to meet and re-connect with other parents. **Shelley Dunnigan** led the sweatshirt sales. (They are still on sale, so if you don't have your "Ants" sweatshirt, order forms are available on the PVO bulletin board in the front hallway.) **Kori Riordan** gathered all of our families' information and put together the buzz book. **Brad Taylor** is working with **Denice Heath** (the school's tireless secretary in the office) to facilitate email distribution of the newsletter. Brad will be helping to post the newsletters on the Lakeside website each month.

A thank you as well to **Kristin Stans**, who has stepped up to take over the job of PVO Points Coordinator from veteran Diane Linehan, whose family has left Lakeside. (Diane generously promised to teach Kristin everything she knows about keeping track of points.)

Lastly, I want to thank parents for your help and support so far this year. We had a wonderful turnout at our first board meeting and I have had several parents approach me on ways they can contribute. Whether you are helping to plan an event or are bringing a snack, all of these endeavors are what make Lakeside's parent participation program one of a kind.

Do keep an eye out for flyers about one of the very few fundraising events we'll have this year: Lakeside Night at Chevy's restaurant will be on Monday, **October 19**, during which a portion of the money families spend on food there comes back to the school.

See you in the halls!

Kerry Dolan Button, PVO President
kerryadolan@yahoo.com

New PVO Points Coordinator

Please congratulate **Kristin Stans** who is our new points coordinator. For any questions, please contact her at kristinstans@sbcglobal.net or put a note in the points coordinator's mailbox.

Preparing for the Pumpkin Patch Trip

We're looking forward seeing Lakeside families at our annual Pumpkin Patch Trip to Lemos Farm in Half Moon Bay. The event will take place on **Friday, October 16**, so save the date and take a day off to have fun with your child. Big yellow school buses will take us down to the farm where you and your child can roam around the pumpkin fields, jump in the bouncy house, ride the spooky train, saddle up for a pony ride, and get on board for a hay ride. Here is a checklist to help organize for the trip:

- ✓ **Schedule Day Off** - There is only A.M. extended care on the 16th.
- ✓ **Turn in sign-up sheet** - Deadline is **Tuesday, October 6**.
- ✓ **Arrive on time** - Please be in your child's classroom **by 8:00 a.m.** for sign-in and bus assignment.
- ✓ **Pack a lunch** - There will be a light snack for children, so bring a lunch for you and your child, or money to buy it at the farm.

We will depart Lakeside promptly at 8:30 and arrive at Lemos Farm around 9:30 a.m. Families will get to "play" until our bus departure time of 11:45 a.m. There will be a picnic area set aside for when you wish to break for a snack or eat your lunch.

Any questions, please feel free to contact coordinators Melba Policicchio, Celina Lam, or Andree Jiang.

Melba: melba@gaiainc.com

Celina: celina.lam@gmail.com

Andree: andree711@hotmail.com



Pumpkin Patch Trip Forms Due Oct 6.

Happy Halloween!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 24th!

Please submit your content via email to:
kerryadolan@yahoo.com

Halloween can be an exciting, entertaining time for your children, but Halloween events may cause them to be unduly scared, even traumatized. By understanding what your youngsters can cope with, you'll be able to prevent them from being scared out of a good time.

Preschoolers are unable to clearly distinguish between reality and fantasy. Even some children in the early elementary grades are still wrestling with this understanding. You may do your best to explain that ghouls and goblins are "pretend", but the costumed monsters that appear at your door can seem very real.

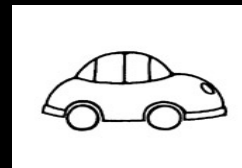
Frightening masks, costumes, and sounds can terrify children at this age, no matter how quickly the scary masks are removed to reveal friendly, familiar faces. Don't challenge your young kids to "stop being afraid" or make them feel ashamed about their fears. Halloween should be used to make them more emotionally mature.

Remember that your goal is to provide them with fun, not fear. There are many ways for your young children to enjoy Halloween. Just put yourself in their "emotional shoes" and then make plans for a great time.

-- Adapted from Carleton Kendrick, Ed.M., LCSW

2009 Lakeside PVO Annual Fund, Oct 1st to 31st

October marks the month that Lakeside families come together to raise money for the PVO. The annual fund supports PVO efforts to enrich our children's experience at Lakeside through a variety of things such as cultural and educational events, classroom improvements and much, much more! Look for the annual fund letter and donation card in your mailbox. We will be updating participation in the annual fund on a school wide and individual classroom level. All classes that reach 100% participation will receive an ice cream party for the class. And remember, many employers have a matching program...a quick check can double your gift to the school! Questions? Email Sonali Herrera at sonaliherrera@yahoo.com.



The Annual Drive starts this month!

Lakeside Fundraising Night at Chevys, October 19th from 4pm to 10pm at Stonestown Galleria

Invite all of your friends and family to dine with Lakeside families and Chevys will donate 25% of the proceeds to Lakeside Presbyterian Center for Children PVO. Please watch for special flyers in your mailboxes.

Halloween Fun Awaits at Annual Festival, October 28th and 29th during school day in the Social Hall

Earn PVO points by sewing, baking or volunteering at festival. Spooky treats and ghoulish delights await your child at this year's LPCC Halloween Festival, on Wednesday, October 28 and Thursday, October 29.

Join in the fun! You can earn PVO points by helping with the following tasks:

- Break out your sewing machine and sew 20 pumpkin treat bags (1 point)
- Provide 2 dozen unfrosted cupcakes for the day of the festival (1 point)
- Help out on one of the festival days by manning one of our booths -- and dressing in costume, too! (1 point for 2 hours)

Look for more information and sign-up sheets soon! Questions? Please contact Sara Cecchin at saracecchin@aol.com or Mymar Lunbeck at m_lunbeck@yahoo.com.