

Lakeside Center Dispatch

January 2008

Letter from the Director

Unfortunately, I had 'medicine head' during the Christmas Program and therefore could not trust my perception of how it went. However, through the 'fog of over the counter cold medicine', I thought it was wonderful! The children looked and sounded like angels! It appeared that they really enjoyed watching their friends sing! As I mentioned, this is the only time during the entire year that the entire school is together. Therefore, I was so pleased to hear assistant director Mimi Johnson exclaim that this was the most polite crowd she had seen in the sanctuary in years. I hope this is because you took advantage of the fact that we had enlisted the services of Aria's father, Alex Tirion to take photographs, and as a result, you were able to relax and savor the moment. And as promised, those memories have been captured for you at <http://www.kodakgallery.com/l.jsp?c=7qj57i.6b58d8en&x=0&y=-7uzlnl>. Please visit the site and download prints for only fifteen cents apiece. I hope the spirit of community the photographs convey will once again impress upon you what a special group you belong to here at Lakeside.

You will have another chance to experience this feeling, (at least in part) at this month's Child /Guest dinner. On Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00PM in the social hall, the afternoon classes and the kindergarten children will invite a 'significant other' to dine with them. Again, due to sheer capacity numbers, we can only accommodate a fraction of the community together at one time; therefore, next month, it will be the morning classes' chance. You and your child will dine on cuisine supplied by former Lakeside parent, Pedro Galletti, owner of Mozzarella Di Bufala. Therefore, if you have not done so already, be sure to RSVP! This is a chance for your child to practice his / her 'eating out skills'. It is a chance for you to get to know fellow parents. It is also your chance to meet the parent 'meeting' requirement for both the month of January and February. Most importantly, it is a chance to experience the 'warm fuzzy' community feeling! I look forward to seeing you there!

– Caroline Bankhead, Director
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Key Dates in JANUARY

Jan. 9.....Child/Guest dinner at 6 p.m. for Kindergarten and PM classes

Jan. 13.....San Francisco Family Appreciation Day (see Parent's Corner for details)

Jan 17-18.. Parent/Teacher conferences for Kindergarten/P.M. classes only
No Regular Classes, Except K on 17th

Jan. 21.....Martin Luther King Day
School Closed for holiday

Feb. 6.....Child/Guest Dinner for A.M. Families only

Table for Two: CHILD/GUEST DINNER

The Child/Guest Dinner for Kindergarten and P.M. preschoolers is **Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 PM** in the social hall. Each child may bring one guest. This event counts as the Parent Meeting for January, (so no parent meeting for the A.M. Classes in January.) Information has been distributed in your inbox. Please visit the communication board and sign up to volunteer as PVO points can be earned for this fun event. (The Child Guest Dinner for AM classes will be held on Wednesday, February 6,. Please save the date. More information to come.)

We look forward to an evening of good food, family, friendship and fun! See you all there! --Gini Jordan & Wilme Wan

Parent/Teacher Conferences: K & PM classes

If you have a child in an afternoon class or in kindergarten, please sign up to meet with your child's teachers on Thursday, January 17, or Friday, January 18.

All other parents please note: The only class held during parent/teacher conference days is the morning kindergarten class on Thursday. Extended care will be available. Please sign up if needed. Thank you!

Mrs. Korn & Mrs. Chao's classes

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome Back! We hope that you all had a joyous and relaxing holiday, spending time with your precious children. The Christmas program was heartwarming. Listening to the children's voices brought us so much joy. They worked so hard learning and practicing their songs and it showed. We were so proud of all the children! We would like to thank all the children and families for giving so generously to us at Christmas time. You made us feel very special. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated! Having your children here at Lakeside and spending time with them is an everyday "gift" to us, as is all your support. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the joy of their early education.

With the holiday rush over, we will be easing our way into January activities. We will start off the month with our January calendars. With the P.M. class we will review basic concepts as we evaluate their readiness for Kindergarten. Please remember that conferences for the P.M. Class only will be on Thursday, January 17th and Friday, January 18th. Please make sure you have signed up for a conference time. There will be no regularly scheduled A.M. or P.M. classes on these days. We prefer that children not be present at conference time, so please make other arrangements for childcare. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

On Wednesday, January 9th, we will have our Child/Guest dinner for the P.M. classes and Kindergarten in the social hall. Remember your child can bring only one guest, as space is limited. There will be some fun entertainment planned for the evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

During the month we will be doing a unit on winter-related activities. To warm our insides we will be having hot chocolate and waffles for snacks, so watch for sign-ups. "Pajama Day" will be the highlight of the month. The children love wearing P.J.'s to school and bringing their favorite stuffed animals. "My name is Stegosaurus, I'm a funny looking dinosaur." Yes, we will be talking about dinosaurs. It is amazing how all the children can remember the name of each type of dinosaur! Look for some surprises related to this unit. We may even have a "dinosaur buffet"!

At this time of the year, we see so much growth in the children in both the A.M. and P.M. classes as they begin and/or continue fostering friendships with their peers. They also feel more comfortable sharing their thoughts with the larger group and it is fun for us to watch this. We learn so much just from listening to the children engage in their daily activities.

We want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2008! Thank you again for your wonderful generosity to us during the holidays.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Keep Smiling!

Mrs. Korn, Mrs. Chao, Alison, Norma and Laura



Mrs. Wardell's & Miss Kerry's Kindergarten

Happy 2008! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and are ready to begin the new year with renewed spirit and anticipation. The class party and musical program were such enjoyable events. Thank you for your support. Your warm wishes and thoughtful remembrances made the Christmas holiday very special for us - thank you!

We will start 2008 off with a unit on sea life. The Kindergartners will study the many creatures that live in the ocean with a special emphasis on whales. We will look at their habitat, their bodies, how they move and what they eat.

There are poems to learn and stories such as Dear Mr. Blueberry and The Whales' Song. One book, If I Went Sailing Out to Sea, will be the basis for a class book to which all the children will contribute. The writing table will be stocked with word cards, paper and stamps so the children can make their own sea life books and lists.

Our new rap is as follows:

ABCDE	Let's go swimming out to sea
FGHIJ	We'll see dolphins on the way
KLMNO	Dive with me, down below
PQRST	A pod of whales we're sure to see
UVWXY	Fish and seals will swim right by
ZZZZZ	Under the water is the place to be

We will classify different creatures in math and subtract with edible gold fish while playing math games. There is a magnetic fish game that challenges the children to find number pairs and number combinations. We will begin in earnest with number formation, practicing the strokes needed to form legible numbers. We are doing lots of counting, by ones and tens, in anticipation of Day 100, which falls on February 4. More information about that exciting day will follow.



Kindergarten conferences will be held on Thursday afternoon January 17 and Friday January 18. A sheet will be sent home in the beginning of January asking you to select a day and a time that is convenient. Please return the form as soon as possible so that we can schedule the appointments. **There will be no class on January 18.** The following Monday, January 21, is a holiday.

Thank you for giving us the grammar school recommendation forms with plenty of lead time, allowing us to thoughtfully compose them to best reflect your children.

The Child-Guest Dinner will be held on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 P.M. in the social hall. Each child may bring one guest to the dinner. Please save the evening.

If we haven't told you, thank you for making the time to come in and spend the day in the classroom with us. It is a busy time and we may not have the time to chat, but we do appreciate your presence and hopefully, it helps you to better understand what we do at school. Your support allows us to accomplish all that I do with your children.

- Molly Wardell and Kerry Dickson

Miss Michele, Miss Lupita & Miss Megan's Classes

Happy New Year! Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to class! The Christmas Program was lovely, and the children did a beautiful job performing their songs. They worked very hard in December learning the words and it really showed. We are all so proud of them! Miss Michele, Ms. Lupita, Miss Megan, Chika, Maritza, and Jenny would also like to thank all of the families who so generously gave to us at Christmas time. We really appreciate everything.

We are starting our new year with 2008 calendars and some special winter projects. We might even have our own "snow" in the classroom. The children will also be continuing their ABC books that they have been working on throughout the school year. We will also talk about Martin Luther King Jr. and the unity he brought to our world. Pajama day is also coming up this month. The teachers and students wear their pajamas to school. On that day we will be making pancakes and hot chocolate - it will be a warm, cozy day!

The child/guest dinner is also taking place in January for the PM and kindergarten children. This is a special dinner for your child and one guest. The boys and girls will each make their own invitations in the classroom. Also, this is a great time for the children to practice their dinner manners. Please remember that it is only one guest per child.

On Thursday January 17 and Friday January 18, we will be having parent/teacher conferences for the PM classes only. If you have not signed up for a conference yet, please do so right away. The sign up sheets are located outside our classroom by the parent mailboxes. If you are in the AM class and you received a letter from us requesting you to sign up for a conference - please do so also. There are no regular classes on these days.

As always, please come to us with any concerns or questions that you may have. We hope everyone stays warm this winter season.

Miss Michele, Ms. Lupita, Miss Megan, Chika, Maritza, and Jenny

Miss Kerry's Pre-K Class

Happy New Year! Welcome back. Hope everyone had a joyous holiday and is eager to begin the New Year. The Christmas program and all of the holiday events at Lakeside were wonderful; it sure put us in the Christmas spirit. This year the children were busy decoupage their parents' Christmas tree gift along with a special picture, thanks to Santa. The children loved seeing their creation and were very excited to give it to their parents. The children enjoyed their class parties and all the wonderful treats that were brought in. We even celebrated several birthdays in our class. Can you believe it? Five birthdays in December. We fit them all into one week.

The month of January we will be focusing on studying sea life, as well as getting ready for conferences. Concepts will be reviewed and reinforced in preparation for conference time. The children will be learning about the many different creatures that live in the ocean. Several of our projects this month will have an ocean theme to them. We will be learning poems about sea creatures as well as reading many stories about their habitat and their bodies. If you have any books or movies about the ocean and its creatures, please bring them in. We would love to share them with the class. When focusing on math concepts, we will be classifying and sorting as well as playing games to challenge the children.

Our pre-K conferences will be January 17th and January 18th. Outside of the classroom there is a sign-up sheet with various times. Please sign-up as soon as possible and see me if there is any conflict with the times given. Child Guest dinner for PM classes will be January 9th at 6:00 in the Social Hall. This is a special night for the children, so don't miss it!

Winnie and I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts we received this Christmas from all of our families. We hope everyone has a wonderful 2008! We look forward in sharing it with you and your children.

Kerry Dickson and Winnie Kwong

Extended Care program

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday vacation. December was a busy month in Extended Care. We centered our projects on a winter theme. The children had fun decorating glittery snowflakes, Christmas stockings, star-shaped Santas, snowmen, a handprint Christmas tree, and our classroom "Giving Tree." We also had a holiday celebration to wrap up 2007. Thank you to our room parents, Deirdre & Sean Lewis, for putting together a delicious holiday snack and for the parents who signed up to bring in snacks. It is important that Extended Care children aren't forgotten about, so please keep signing up on our snack calendar.

We are excited that January has arrived. We have some fun and exciting projects for the children that will take us "around the world." But to start off 2008, we'd like to give some reminders:

1. Please make sure your child is dressed in warm clothes when coming to school. Although the weather continues to get cold outside, we will be going to the yard unless it is raining. If you have an extra jacket at home, it would be a good idea to leave it in your child's cubby. If your child has misplaced or lost a jacket, please check the lost and found located in the office in front of Denice's desk.
2. Remember to check in with us in Extended Care if you would like to drop off your child or add an Extended Care day. If you are thinking about changing your child's schedule, please fill out an Extended Care change form and hand it into the office. Please do not assume your child's schedule has changed once the form is filled out. The office needs to process your request and will let you know when the new times you are requesting will start.
3. Pizza lunch will start up beginning January 4th the first Friday back at school. Remember it is \$2 for pizza, and we need you to sign up for it before 10:00 a.m. the day of. We call the order in at 10:00 a.m. and we have to get the count correct before ordering.
4. Colds are very common during this time of year. If you think your child may be coming down with a cold, please do not bring him/her to school. A few days of rest at home will help prevent colds from spreading. Thank you!
– Melanie Turner, Michelle Dimapasoc and Extended Care Staff

Lakeside Community Notes

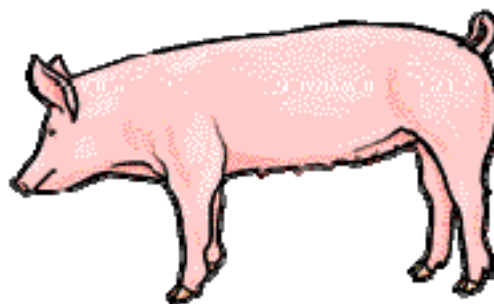
San FRANCISCO FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY IS Sunday JANUARY 13th

Much has been written about the exodus of families from San Francisco. On Sunday January 13th, the city is celebrating SF families with the 3rd annual "Family Appreciation Day", with free entrance for the entire family to 35 attractions, including:

- Asian Art Museum
 - Cable Car Museum
 - Zeum
 - Contemporary Jewish Museum
 - deYoung Museum
 - Exploratorium
 - Haas-Lilienthal House
 - Museum of Craft and Folk Art
 - Legion of Honor
- Adults must accompany children ages 0 to 18 years and provide proof they live in San Francisco.
 - Proof can be driver's license, or state ID card with address, or utility bill, or rent receipt.
 - For more information check out www.dcyf.org

NEED POINTS?

**Help coordinate the Spring Family Picnic (in May)!
It's worth 15 points.
Please let Caroline Bankhead or Monica Morse know
if you are interested.**



PVO President's Note

Dear Parents:

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and joyous holiday, and that you had the chance to celebrate the season through your child's eyes. My highlight was driving through the neighborhoods to check out the holiday lights, and hearing the squeals of delight from my children as we took in all the decorations.

It now seems so long ago, but we want to thank all those who made the Lakeside Christmas Season so special.

Thank you to **the teachers, the staff** and **Miss Winnie Kwong** who helped produce a wonderful Christmas program. Thanks to parent **Alex Tirion** for photographing the event (see note below) so we could enjoy it. Thank you to **Heather Spear** for her creativity and energy in organizing a fun and festive Christmas party. We also appreciate all the families who contributed to the delicious pot luck.

Before the Christmas Program, Santa visited Lakeside and we thank **Beth Fergus** and **David Baker** for facilitating his visit (along with his helpers, **Chris Spear** and **Pastor Kim**.) We hope Santa was able to grant some of the children's wishes. A very special thank you to **Pastor Kim**, and the **Lakeside Church community**, for the personalized children's Bible each child received. It is a keepsake treasure, which will be cherished for years to come. Thank you.

In the spirit of giving, the Lakeside annual Christmas Toy Drive, in conjunction with the SF Fire Department, was a great success thanks to your generosity. Thank you to all who contributed and to **Meredith Mannion** for coordinating it. Finally, thank you to **Linda McKenna** for coordinating the Holiday Family Outing; we will miss the McKenna family, as they have relocated to Australia.

Stay warm, and mark your calendars for the Child/Guest Dinner. Here's to a great 2008.

Thank you,
Monica Morse
President, PVO
650-245-8600

Note: Alex's photographs from the Christmas Program are available at:
<http://www.kodakgallery.com/l.jsp?c=7qj57i.6b58d8en&x=0&y=-7uzlnl>

Parent's Corner

A Selection of free Children's Activities in January

Saturday, January 12, 4-4:30pm, Chinese Lion Dancers. Come celebrate the Year of the Rat with a traditional lion dance. Parkside Branch Library, Taraval at 22nd Ave.

Wednesday, January 30, 7-7:45pm. The Magic Makers. The Magic Makers bring animal stories and magic from around the world to the Parkside Branch Library. Taraval at 22nd Ave.

ALL MONTH: Paintbrush Diplomacy: Sports and Games at Museum of Children's Art. Exhibit of children's art depicts games and sports from diverse cultures that show others how to play. www.mocha.org FREE

ALL MONTH: SFFD Museum, Take a look at the heritage of the SFFD. Thursday-Sunday, 1-4 pm. FREE

--Compiled by Maureen Kosewic