

## Mandala Children's House All School Newsletter February 2011

The Teachers had a wonderful time at the California Kindergarten Association Conference and gained a lot of knowledge. Both days (Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>) were very busy with many exhibits to see and workshops to attend. A Botanist from the Forestry Service presented information about Project Learning Tree and enthused many of the teachers to present more information to children on forest ecosystems and animal habitats. She inspired in us a sense of wonder which we will be encouraging in our small groups this month.



Another interesting workshop was on how children develop handwriting skills. We are doing lots of "sky writing" and building motor skills to improve later handwriting skills as this is the foundation that needs to be in place before paper and pencil. The teachers enjoyed learning more about this and were able to use some of the ideas the next day in class. Then on Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> we came together for our in service day and shared the information from all of the workshops as well as getting ready for Parent Teacher Conference Day.

*We would like to thank all the parents who are using their Shares cards to purchase groceries. The money from Shares was a large part of what we used to pay for the teachers to attend this worthwhile conference.*

### Parent/Teacher Conferences February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

School will be closed Thurs. Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and Fri. Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

Please, sign up for your conference in the classroom starting January 24<sup>th</sup>

This is an opportunity for teachers to talk with you about your child's growth and development. They will also, give recommendations for your child's placement for summer and next year. Please, bring your questions but we ask that you **do not bring your child to the conference**. If you have someone who can watch your child, please make arrangements with that person. If you have no one to watch your child, please call the office. We will have someone watch children in the staff room. We will send home the Spring Developmental Summary (the written form) April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Have Your Child's Vision Checked Before Starting Kindergarten



I recommend that you take your child to an Ophthalmologist or Developmental Optometrist before he starts kindergarten. Children learn to compensate and sometimes have vision problems that are not detected without a complete vision screening. The exam at the pediatrician's is not that accurate. Please, call me if you have any questions or need some resources.

**What After Mandala Workshop**  
We had a good turnout for our workshop, *What After Mandala*, and much interest in the academic demands placed on children entering kindergarten. We have heard from many parents that they are rethinking starting their child in kindergarten before they are fully five as they realize this will be a disadvantage all through school. Thank you to all the parents who currently have children in our school who came to talk about their child's kindergarten experience (Andrea Shelton, Susan Hough, Tammy Dhanota, Rose Ponce, Carrie Anderson, Gwen Sotelo, Rose Chang) and the alumni parents (Susan Peterson, Neetu Sethi, Tracey Tunnel). We greatly appreciate your time and information. There are some handouts in the office from some of the school represented (St John's, St. Victor's, Hammer Montessori, Old Orchard School and Casa di Mir) for anyone interested.

### MWF Afternoon Class News

We have a new student teacher coming on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Her name is Sharada Bellur and she is from Mission College. We are very happy to have her join our class.

### Registering Your Child for Kindergarten

If you have a child that will be starting kindergarten next year, you will need to register him/her at the school he/she will be attending. Some districts and private schools have already started the registration process. Others will start in March or April. If you are going to register your child in public school, call your local school or the district office to find out when they start accepting registration and what you need to bring when you go to register your child. Make sure you register as soon as you can. If you wait until summer to register in public school your local school could be full and your child will have to attend another school. If you have any questions about schools, call Anne or me. We have some knowledge of a variety of schools or we may be able to get you in touch with a parent attending a particular school.



## Mandala Children's House SUMMER AND FALL REGISTRATION FOR 2010/2011. Begins Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>



After brainstorming with teachers, and with all the valuable input we have gotten from parents, we are realigning the ages of our classes to better meet the needs of our children. More information on these exciting new developments will be sent home later in the month.



### Board News

#### Drop and Go Recycling Day – Every Wednesday

Save your bottles and aluminum cans and drop them off at our recycling bins. Two bins will be in the parking lot every Wednesday from 9am to 4pm. We are collecting #1 plastics (water bottles, soda bottles, juice bottles,) #2 plastics (1/2 and 1 gallon milk jugs-please no paper milk cartons) and Aluminum cans. Remember, to rinse out bottles and cans. We will continue to collect cans and bottles in the bins by the office and preschool patio.



#### Kids Night Out

We are offering a chance for your child to have an evening out with friends. On Friday February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 9:00 in the Mandala Preschool Classroom we will offer crafts, movies, pizza, and fruit. The children will be supervised by one teacher and parent volunteers. Please reserve your spot early by calling the office (408) 251-8633 or contacting Rose Chang ([rhosebud@yahoo.com](mailto:rhosebud@yahoo.com)) as there are a limited number of spaces available. The cost is \$30 per child. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Rose or the office.

#### Wanted: New Board Members for 2011/2012

We are looking for a few new board members for next year. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know more about the school and to support its policies and values. Please, don't automatically say, "Oh, I'm not qualified." The fact that you are an interested parent qualifies you. So start thinking about it and when the Board of Directors sends home more information later in the month, you will be ready to respond.



For people taking the Child Care tax credit, our tax id number is: 94-2371426.

**There is still class books left if you have not purchased one or would like an extra one. They are tremendous bargains and lots of fun to read.**