

FOREST HILLS PRESCHOOL

"WHERE EDUCATION AND CARE COME WITH HIGH QUALITY AND STANDARDS"

■ Forest Hills Preschool ■ 5834 Alhambra Ave ■ Martinez ■ CA 94553 ■ Ph: (925) 370-1601

■ e-mail Foresthillsschool@sbcglobal.net ■ September 2011

Director's Corner

On behalf of the staff at Forest Hills Preschool, I welcome all new and continuing families to our school and to a new school year!

On the 1st of September, at the starting point of the new school year, the children who transitioned during the summer from their younger class to the older one and the children who entered our school as new students will gather around their teachers to begin a new chapter in their lives, learning to take another step forward in their early childhood growing. Children are still going through the transition of accommodating to their new classrooms and learning about the people and the environment of their space. At the drop off time we think it would help if you shared a short but unrushed goodbye. Always bring the child to a familiar staff member when you drop off. **No child should be left in the lobby or sent upstairs alone.** At the end of school time, when you come to pick up, please take a few minutes to find out from your child how their school day had been and allow the child to take you to his/her class to show you something that is of interest to them. As a school and a team of teachers, we have carefully planned systems and procedures, put together classes and curriculum to help children feel comfortable in their new environment in these first few weeks of the school year.

This year as well, we are starting the school year with

full enrollment, especially in the older three classes. As usual, we have reserved some openings in the Dolphins room for our own toddlers on the cusp of transitioning so that they are able to continue to grow at Forest Hills.

In the Preschool section, the children who are listed in the classes at this time will most likely finish the school year in the same classes until the beginning of summer, 2012. It is not possible for us to move a child, even though they have reached their next birthday, without an appropriate opening in the next age level. In some cases, moving a child late in the school year can be more of a disadvantage to the child than an advantage; there is a large gap in the age groups of children. As the children in a class develop, it is the team of teachers responsibility to develop their curriculum accordingly to the needs of their class, so that the children who have the capacity to learn more advanced material than their peers are ready to, and offer activities that stimulate and challenge them.

New Class for Older Two's – Penguins

This year we are starting a new group called "Penguins" in addition to Dolphins as the class becomes a bigger group. As the younger children

enter the Dolphins room from the Ducklings Class, the older Dolphins will form in to a group of Penguins in the first room of the Dolphin's class.

Staff News

I am so excited to inform you this year two of our long term staff members who remained as teachers aides became teachers. Ms. Bonnie, who has been working with our Duckling and Dolphins for the past five year, completed the initial course work to become a teacher. She finished her classes with "A" in both classes completed and have joined DVC this semester as well to finish the rest of the classes.

Kulanga, who has been a part time teacher's aide and a substitute, too has completed classes with flying colors that would upgrade her to a teacher position while finishing her studies towards an associated degree.

Spanish for Preschoolers

Please sign up to reserve a spot for the Spanish Program for our Giraffes, Bears and Eagles. More information is on the Sign in/Out Counter.

JumpBunch

The Thursday afternoon physical education and sportsmanship-building program, JumpBunch, is now enrolling for the new school year. This is an excellent opportunity for our children to work with male coaches to

learn and engage in group sports.

Music at Preschool

Julia has taken the fall semester off to take care of some medical issues this year. She is planning on coming back from the Winter Semester.

Back to School Night

Forest Hills will be having its Back to School Night on the 16th of September from 6:30 – 7:30 PM for the Preschool portion (2 year old and up). If you child is turning two years old in the next few months, this would be a good time for you to visit the Dolphins class, meet the teachers and learn about the procedures in the class. Please mark this day on your calendar. **This is an event for parents and guardians only.**

School Picture Day

Fall picture day is being held on the 23rd of this month. To minimize stress on the children and staff we ask you to kindly do the following:

Please give your completed envelopes to Marla or your child's teacher by Wednesday September 21st.

Please turn in a separate envelope for each individual setting per child or per set of siblings.

If Friday is not a school day for your child, please bring your child in by 9:30 AM for pictures.

Emergency Backpacks

We still have not received backpacks from several students. Please turn them in as soon as possible.

Updating Emergency Information

Please make sure your Child(ren)'s emergency contact information is updated with current addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contact people, allergies and special needs, if any.

For increased safety, please do not allow your children to run free in the parking lot at any time.

Leaving children unattended in the parking lot in your car is not acceptable at our school. If you have a sick child in the car or need emergency assistance with walking a child to the car, please call the school for one of us to come and help you.

Please drive slowly and carefully, especially when backing out and driving in and out of the school. We thank you for your careful eye on our school at all times.

We are teaching our children how to be safe pedestrians by using every opportunity we get. We would appreciate it very much if you can be mindful about not disturbing the pedestrian crossing lines on the parking lot when parking your vehicle, so that a

child can continue to practice good pedestrian practices.

Requests from Forest Hills

- Please bring your child to school before circle time. Circle time is from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM. If you arrive during this time, please bring your child to the office. We will take him/her to the class when circle time is over.
- Please call us when your child is absent or arriving late.
- Please sign in and out with your full signature.
- Please come with a few minutes of undivided attention to your child when you come to pick him/her up.
- Please have your child's emergency information updated.
- Please have your child's immunization records updated.
- Please read the newsletters, journal entries and notices posted to stay informed and involved.
- Please take your child's work daily or at least once a week. Your interest and involvement in their work increases their potential.
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- Please turn off cell phones when you are dropping off your child and picking up. They need your undivided attention.
- Please send a complete change of clothing to school daily.
- Please follow the sick policy. Let us know any sickness your child may be experiencing as soon as possible.
- Please send share items only on your child's turn to share. **Please keep all super heroes, weapon-like toys and violent action figures at home. They are not allowed in classrooms.**
- Please send your children to school in clothing that does not promote super heroes or their aggressive behaviors.
- Please feel free to speak to Marla or any other staff member when you need assistance or have concerns. Your continued positive relationship with the school is an asset to us as well as to your child.

Book Orders

The orders from the book clubs will be out soon. When you purchase books for your children or as holiday gifts, the school receives free points for books, increasing

our chances of having more books for children.

We wish you a peaceful month of September and your children a productive and happy school year!

Marla

Duckling's Developments

A warm welcome back for all of our Duckling's families! We are excited to start a new school year, and with fall comes a chill in the air, so please make sure to send a jacket to school with your child when appropriate, as well as a daily change of clothes for accidents.

This month, we would like to wish Cole a very happy 1st birthday and a wonderful 2nd birthday to both Elliot and Sophia who will be joining the Dolphin's Class, we'll miss you! We would also like to welcome Charl and Dylan and their families to our class- we're glad to have you!

Many of our toddlers have moved up to the Dolphin's class over the summer, so we're beginning our year with a very young class, lots of infants and just-barely-one year olds. It's going to be a busy, fun year of growing and learning. The younger group will focus on simple finger-play songs, "reading" books, and exploring textures. The older group will be introduced to basic puzzles, enjoy listening to books read by their teachers, play pretend, and explore the classroom as much as possible!

While the Duckling's class will not be participating in Back to School Night on Sept. 16th, please attend the Dolphin's presentation if your child will be transitioning soon.

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*Ms. Aruna, Ms. Teen,
Ms. Korene, Ms. Myrna,
Ms. Shakila and Ms.
Kulanga*

Dolphin's Dateline

Hello Dolphin Families! Wow, what a summer! We did so much over the past few months. Water play was a blast and kept us nice and cool- even when the sun decided to hide a few times! It was fun learning to cook too; we made fruit salad and lemonade. Sadly the summer has to end, but the school year has begun and we have lots to look forward to. While some of our Dolphins will be moving to the Giraffe's room, some friends from the Ducklings class will be joining us! Our new curriculum will be starting and there will be tons of fun activities, projects and new things to learn. We are very excited to start the new school year with all our old and new dolphin friends!

Just a few reminders this month, please make sure your children have **labeled** spare clothing. Also, circle time starts promptly at 9

o'clock. Please bring your child before 9 o'clock so that we can give them an individual special hello before we start circle time.

On the 16th of September will be our Back to School Night, a parents only event. It will give the parents a chance to meet with the teachers and hear what their children will be learning during the school year.

On the 22nd we will be having a teddy bear picnic, so please bring your teddy bear to school. Also, the 23rd will be photo day so remember to look your best!

This month, the theme will be "Awareness of Myself and Others". We will be learning about the letters T and M and the number one..

Sincerely,
Ms. Ravi, and Bonnie

Giraffes Jottings

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. We would like to welcome all our returning families with a special greeting to those families who are joining Forest Hills for the first time. We are so happy to have your little ones be a part of our classroom.

It has been a fun summer with a few changes, too! Ms. Kristie joined our

Giraffes class as co-teacher working closely with Ms. Rachel. This summer the children had some amazing experiences learning about the North and South Poles, rainforest animals, desert/grassland animals, endangered animals and enjoyed water play every Friday. The children created a classroom snake, made dinosaurs and watched our classroom volcano erupt.

This month we are introducing the children to the classroom and the classroom rules. We will be covering the five senses and the human body. One theme this month will be "All About Me." We invite all the families to come up with a creative way to introduce their child to the classroom. This can be done putting together a collage or using a poster board. We will proudly display them around the classroom.

Much more is coming too, we plan to hit the ground running with loads of fun activities and lessons from the first day back! Together we will plan and implement a strong, challenging and fun curriculum to keep our busy Giraffes interested.

Please join us [September 16th](#) for our Back to School night. This is the perfect opportunity to meet teachers and ask any questions you may have.

We look forward to a wonderful school year with you and your children!

Ms. Kristie and Ms Rachel

Bears Bulletin

Ms. Charina and Ms. Sadie would like to welcome all the incoming Bears students and parents to the start of another "school year", the beginning of fall, and usually some more hot days of an extended summer. This month we will start back with fun and simple curriculum-based themes and activities. We are going to start learning the alphabet and how to count numbers. We will be focusing on two letters this month: Mm and Tt. We will also learn colors and shapes. "Teddy Bear Day" will be on September 23, 2011.

We have some new friends to get to know better, so we start the month with the theme of "Me, Myself & I". We'll learn about what makes us unique, talk about feelings, and see what special things each of us can do! After Labor Day, the kids will make a sweet little card for their grandparents, since Grandparents Day is the following Sunday. The second week of September we will talk about our "Five Senses" we will be exploring our five senses (bodies) and we will be doing a lot of experiments like food tasting & smell tasting. On Thursday the 22nd it's the

1st day of fall, or autumn! If your child is old enough to understand the seasons, make sure to talk about it at home too. We'll sort leaves, explore whole nuts and crack them open, eat edible leaves (lettuce, spinach, etc.), and many more! We'll end the month with the apple-tasting activity that was a huge hit last fall, some fun shape face art, and a lot of painting while we listen to different kinds of Music! All this fun disguises Language Arts, pre-math skills, simple science, large and small motor skills, etc.

Ms. Charina and Ms. Sadie

Eagle's Edition

A new school year is upon us and we are so happy to have you all in our class. We know we are going to have a great year exploring the classroom and getting to know each other. To the continuing Eagles, new students, and new families, **welcome!** I know we will have a fantastic school year.

We will start the school year by getting to know our class, classmates, and teachers. We'll get comfortable with our surroundings and then dig deeper into getting to know ourselves. We will talk about our families and have a fun Teddy Bear Day. By the end of the month we'll

be learning all about our 5 senses.

The Eagles class is located up-stairs and takes the left side of the room. Please enter our class through the door on the left. Please check the bulletin board at the top of the stairs (on the left) for important information. For special occasions and field trips sign-up sheets will be posted on that board as well.

We will write to you a weekly journal to help you better know how your child is doing in school and keep an open line of communication between the parent(s) and teachers. Please read them and write us a response so that we know you are reading them. Don't forget to check your child's file folder for projects and the family folder daily. By all means, have your little one take you around the class to show you what they have learned. I will also be sending frequent e-mail reminders, curriculum, and notes to you so keep your eye out for them!

Weather is hot so dress accordingly; sweaters are recommended if

dropped off early. For naptime children are allowed one soft "lovie" to sleep with and you may bring a blanket from home to keep here at school if your child prefers to do so. If there are any allergies or any special instructions please let Ms. Marla know. If you have any questions please talk to any one of us or Ms. Marla, or you can always communicate through your child's journal as well.

Our Schedules:

Ms. Amanda – Monday –
Friday 7:45 AM – 3:45 PM
Ms. Tammi – Monday –
Friday 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM.

We look forward to seeing you all in the classroom!

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Tammi

Special Days This School Year:

Picture Day: September 23rd

**Back to School Night:
September 16th from 6:30 -
7:30 PM**

**Vision Testing:
October 25th and 25th**

Fall Festival: October 28th

**Thanksgiving Luncheon:
November 18th**

**Thanksgiving Holiday:
November 24th and 25th**

**Winter Fest: To be
Announced**

**Christmas Day Holiday :
December 26th**

**Winter Break: December 27th
to 30th**

**New Years Day Holiday:
Monday, January 2nd**