

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 ■ Summer 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the school year coming to an end there is so much going on at Forest Hills. We had a wonderful graduation ceremony and reception for our Pre-K graduates. Most of the students who graduated on June 5th had been in our school for the majority of their early childhood. Six of the students had been with us since infancy. It was a pleasure seeing 26 of our children graduated and well prepared in every way to face the next stage, building up independence, maturing socially and emotionally to be able to stand on their feet through the stages of education that are ahead of them. Our sincere appreciation and admiration is extended to the parents for allowing your children the learning opportunity to attend preschool, to go beyond day care and to experience a well-rounded learning opportunity. The expectations were high for them and the academic challenges kept them in line, without stealing the happiness of childhood.

All of you are sacrificing in some ways, to give your children this invaluable opportunity, even in this time of financial crisis, economic hardship and uncertainty, you still continue to make this commitment to your children, which in turn allowed our teachers to realize their role in teaching and pushed them that much harder to give your children the very best they can.

Summer Program

Our summer themes will begin from the week of the 15th (please refer to the attached summer schedule) and end the week of August 21st. Our curriculum for the summer is geared towards respecting the environment, learning about what is in it and bring up the awareness of becoming earth friendly children. August 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th will be spent transitioning to the new school year. During this period, our classes will be conducted in the outside space (weather permitting), making use of the rest of the summer days. This year, Labor Day falls in to the 2nd week of September. Therefore, our In Service Days had to be scheduled in early, for August 28th and 31st. The school will be closed for students on those two days as notified to you in the list of holidays for this year, and will be reopened on Tuesday September 1st as the first Day of School for the school year 2009/2010. Most of us will work throughout Labor Day weekend to get the school sparkling pretty and exciting when our students return.

This year, several of our graduated Eagles left at the end of the school year leaving a considerable amount of room for the remaining students to transition to their new class for the following school year. As a result, we have been allowing our students to visit their new teachers and classes in order to help them in their up coming change. During the summer weeks most of the preschool children are in transition moving to the next level depending on the space availability or getting ready to move to the next level for the new school year. You will receive a note from the teacher prior to the transition or an updated class list will be posted for your information. New students will also come in to take the places created by the students who moved out.

Summer is the time most of families will go on vacation, or have altered schedules because the older children are on summer break. Please establish a system between your family members to check with each other after you drop off children at child care, get more support to remember everything you are expected to do that day. After hearing about the recent death of a child left in a parked car, I was happy to have a system already in place where parents are expected to call if children are not coming to school and our staff is also in the habit of inquiring about children who did not show up without prior notice of being absent that day. In the infant room, Aruna must have called you, if you had not brought your child to school. I am sure more and more child care providers will adapt this system after realizing the need to do so. Please develop the habit of keeping the school informed if you are not sending the child to school. Emails, phone calls and journal entries are effective ways for us.

During the summer our staff uses their vacation time to take a break away from the day to day stress. Miss Jaconda has decided to go back to school in the mornings and work only in the afternoons. We were able to accommodate

her needs this summer to give her a part time, afternoon schedule to work with the Dolphins. We are in the process of searching for good team members to our teaching staff to be recruited towards the end of the summer. As you can see, the summer is a time when changes can happen. Although we keep parents and children informed of any changes, some children can react to the changes in their environment. Please communicate with your children as much as possible and keep them informed of any changes that you may be aware of, such as family vacations, relatives visiting, class changes, etc.

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE SUMMER

There are no significant changes in the staff assignments for this summer.

CLASS ROSTERS FOR SUMMER

New class lists are posted for your information. As graduated Eagles leave our school, Dolphins, Giraffes and Bears move up to the next level depending on their readiness and age. Class rosters will be updated as the group changes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BACKPACKS

The Emergency Backpacks are out now. Please pick up your child's bags and update for the next year. Graduated Eagles backpacks can remain in the school until their last day with us. Continuing student's backpacks must be returned to the school promptly, for us to be better prepared for any kind of emergency that may occur during school hours.

SUMER WEATHER

Thank you for remembering to put on sun block on the children before school. Weather has not been consistent but it is a good practice to continue.

We wish you a wonderful summer.

Marla and the Staff

