

St. Mark Preschool's Beachball Press

"The principle of the beachball tells us to hold the space for all perspectives.
No one can see an entire beachball from one perspective."

Friday, January 8, 2021



Dear St. Mark Parents,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

We are off to a joyful month! The children are happy to be back and the new toys are super fun! My favorite to watch is the children running with the ribbon sticks or using the new bikes!

-Thank you to Justin Wiley for moving the upper playground and basketball stand and for burying a playground board that was sticking out.

-Roxanne and Kent Strauss put together Big Wheels, toddler balance bikes, and unwrapped animals, music instruments, and rhythm ribbon sticks.

-Bill Larsen has volunteered to put up the canopies (a second helper would be efficient).

-Jamison Del Real, Matt Diaz, and Seth Anderson all offered to pick up sand!

-Joseph Bolger is coming to put more bikes, easels, etc. together tomorrow at 10:00. **If anyone else could come at that time, things could be put together twice as fast.**

We are a very lucky staff to have such a willing parent body to help us. Thank you!!

SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION GRANT

Over the break, as the toys were being delivered, I had a thought (well many actually ha, ha) It would be

meaningful if several parents wrote to the Santa Barbara Foundation to let them know why the grant money makes a difference at SMP. If you are willing to write a note I would be grateful. Here are some examples...

-Children have separate outside play spaces

-New toys, scooters, bikes make the children happy and spaces more fun and interactive

-New canopies provided needed protection from sun and weather

-New dishwasher sterilizes toys and dishes

-New walkie talkies provide immediate communication during regular hours and in emergencies.

COVID-19 RISE CONTINUES

I have watched several parents and children bypass the sink. "The water is cold" or "we used hand sanitizer in the car." (more than one person's response.)

When you use hand sanitizer in the car and then open the door or get a child out of the car seat, you're in contact with germs that could hurt someone.

I am empathetic and have to ask you to please wash you and your children's hands with soap and water before entering the classrooms. Soap and water kill more germs than hand sanitizer.

Perhaps we've been lucky...I believe we've been lucky because we've participated in doing the things that keep Covid-19 away. Thank you!

LOCK DOWN DRILL YESTERDAY

Thank you to an SMP parent for letting us know about the Stay in Place order the police had made, due to a shooting yesterday. It happened between Turnpike and Patterson.

Although this was a ways away from us, we practiced a lockdown drill. Children were napping and it was easy to keep them inside, lock the doors and close the blinds. It is an "icky" feeling having to practice this kind of a drill and safety first ALWAYS!

I was happy with the whole community communication. It appears to have worked smoothly. After about an hour and a half the order was lifted.

FIRST FIVE

I'm happy to report that I applied to be on the Advisory Board for our First Five County Commission (there are 58 county commissions in CA). I was voted in on Tuesday. The Advisory Board provides input to the Commission and First 5 staff on issues related to supporting the well-being of children prenatal through age 5 and their families and advice on determining community needs, increasing community participation and awareness.

First 5 California was created by voters under Proposition 10 to recognize that children's health and education are a top priority, especially in the early years

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of development. ... Our focus is to educate parents and caregivers about the important role they play in their children's first years.

Have a restful weekend,
Michele