

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, December 4, 2020



Dear St. Mark Parents,

WELCOME

Three new families joined the SMP community this week. Please welcome Hiten and Nicole Iyer and their son Bodhi (Dragonflies); Chris and Robin Deem and their daughter Raia (Dragonflies); and MacKenzie and Jack Thompson and their daughter Penelope "Penny" Caldwell (Grasshoppers). We are very happy you're here and look forward to getting to know you.

COVID-19 RISE IN NUMBERS...

Susan Klein-Rothchild, MSW, with Santa Barbara County Public Health joined a SB County Preschool Director's meeting yesterday. She spoke primarily about winter travel and PCR (Polymer Chain Reaction) tests, the most reliable Covid tests.

Key take aways:

-Preschool child care will continue to be "in person." SMP will be open.

-If you travel, you must stay home for 5 days have a negative Covid test.. If you do not get a test, quarantine is 14 days. Please schedule a test before you travel.

-Public Health is in the process of creating mobile testing that is covered by insurance.

-Face masks are working!

-Children who are schooling "in person" will continue to be "in person." Testing requirements may increase. They are writing new testing protocols now.

-If children are learning remotely, they will continue to do so until cases are lower than 14:100,000 people.

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our first meeting will be Dec. 8th, from 5:30-6:30p.m.

Toddlers: Colleen Riley, Jessica Mezzeta

Ages 2-3: Brooke Ebner

Ages 3-4: Needed

Ages 4-5: Erica Diaz

Summary of the Governor's announcement yesterday:

Yesterday the Governor announced a Regional Stay at Home Order for regions of California that have an ICU capacity of less than 15%. For the purposes of this order the State of California is divided into 5 regions: Northern California, Bay Area, Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Santa Barbara County is considered part of Southern California.

The expectation is that all regions except for the Bay Area will have their ICU capacity fall below 15% in early December. (Note. According to the SBCPHD dashboard, 57% of ICU capacity is being utilized.)

Regional Stay at Home Order:

- Temporary closure of bars, wineries, personal services, hair salons and barber shops.

- Schools with waivers, critical infrastructure, retail (20% capacity, restaurants (take-out and delivery only).

- All non-essential travel is restricted.

ANNUAL TUITION STATEMENTS

If you are in need of a tuition statement for the 2020 year, please know Pastor Cindy will be sending this information out the week of December 14th, 2020.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your participation in our Book Fair. We collectively bought close to \$300. worth of books, which raised \$75. for the teachers to spend on new books for the children. Thank you Erica Diaz and Colleen Riley for their Book Fair

leadership and follow-up. Thank you to the Ebner family for offering to be "book fairies" for several children who benefited from their help.

SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION GRANT

We received \$10,000!!! to help cover Covid-19 extra costs. I would like to thank Taundra Pitchford and Barry Cunningham for starting the process. I finished it up and am thrilled! This will help us to cover purchases already made and allow us to buy supplies that will make us safer and function more effectively such as air purifiers for all classrooms, a dishwasher to sterilize dishes and toys, new canopies, etc.

The teachers have asked me to purchase toys like [plastic people that we can wash for the dollhouse, animals, easels, balls with handles, and small picnic tables](#). I would like to start with donations and then fill in the gaps. It will help me stretch the grant money.

[If you have toys that are on the list that your children are no longer interested in, please bring them and ask your child's teacher if the toys would be helpful.](#)

REMINDERS AND INFO

-Winter Break is: Dec. 21-Jan. 3rd, 2021

-ACCESS CARD LINK

<http://axesscard.com/fundraising/>

BOOK ORDERS

-There is a new book order in your child's class. You can order online now using Class Code XLHBG or the flyer. Please order by 12/11, if you would like to get the books by Christmas.

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Thank you for trusting us to care for
your precious children! Have a peaceful
weekend,
Michele