

October 1, 2008



Where a Lifetime of Discovery Begins...

From the Board

The Board has been very busy the past few months working on fundraisers and upcoming events. We would like to thank everyone who showed up for the Open House; it was great to meet some of our new families and hear from the Board and Staff.

The Board would like to thank Tony Burgess and Elissa Tomlin for their commitment to CCSLV and the Board of Directors for the past one-and-a-half years. The Board will miss you two, but we know that CCSLV will always be in your hearts.

We would like to welcome Angela Allabach, Jaida's mom, to the Board of Directors. We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you in the future. Thank you for making this commitment to CCSLV and excellent childcare in the San Lorenzo Valley.

Bella Notte is five weeks away, and there is still a lot of work to be done! We could really use help by anyone willing to give as little as 20 minutes to help make this exciting event a big success. We have some great auction items, but still need at least 40 more so we have a lot to offer and can make a good profit from this event. Please ask the office how you can help, or feel free to come to our Bella Notte meetings, which will occur every Thursday night at 6pm from now until Bella Notte, November 15th.

Please remember that our next Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 22nd at 6pm at CCSLV. Coming to a Board meeting is not only required once annually, but it also gives you the opportunity to find out what the Center is doing, how it is running, the financial status, and it is a way to make your voice heard by bringing up ideas or sharing your opinions on possible new policies. Free childcare is provided, and there are snacks during the meeting. Most Board meetings are finished by 8pm, so you still have time to go home and enjoy the rest of your night. The Board hopes to see you at a future Board meeting soon.



From the Office

Time is flying by, school is back in swing and the Holidays are right around the corner. Our annual fundraiser, Bella Notte, is rapidly approaching and hopefully, everyone has noticed that we have changed the date of the event. It is now on Saturday, November 15, from 5-9 pm. There are many volunteer opportunities available and it is a great way to bank parent hours plus you get in for free after two hours of volunteering. What a deal!!

In other news we have had two teachers, Erika and Aggie, move on and we wish them lots of luck. We have been fortunate enough to hire two of our long-term subs, Megan McKenzie and Kaitlin Moore. Both will be working in the Toddler and Toddler Plus rooms.

Rainstorms and power outages are coming. Emergency packs need to be swapped out for winter clothes for the fall/winter. Amy will be following up with each of you to make sure your child is taken care of. Amy will be resuming our monthly fire and earthquake drills starting in October so it may be a topic of conversation for your child.

Just a reminder that we will not be wearing costumes for Halloween as CCSLV practices anti-bias curriculum. If you have, questions please feel free to contact us.

Fall and Winter Holidays/Breaks:

November 27th and 28th

December 24th through January 5th, 2009

Office Hours:

Kelli Polite: Monday and Wednesday 7:30-4:30, Tuesday and Thursdays 7:30-12:15 & 1:30-2:30pm

Amy Mireault: Mon-Friday 12:30-6:00pm

Heather Henderson: Wed-Friday 8:30-1:30pm

Toddler News

The month of October is going to be filled with new and exciting activities and events.

We begin by welcoming back Head Teacher, Kat and her son Andrew into our Toddler classroom.

Teacher Meghann McKenzie has been hired to permanently fill the 8:30am to 2:00pm shift.

We are excited to introduce two new friends, Harmony Filippi and Jacob Jordan into our program, welcome!

John Clinkenbeard and Nathan Seelman have recently transitioned to the Toddler Plus program and we wish them and their families all the best.

We will be changing our curriculum theme from farm to harvest this month, and hope to cover the outdoor playground in straw. A pumpkin patch may be added later. We have also been exploring in our recently renovated garden with the students.

Basil, mint, lemon grass and white strawberries have been planted. In addition, each student is attempting to grow a lettuce seed in an individualized hand painted pot. We will be ordering new classroom supplies, including a multi-sided easel and balls for the playground.

Another focus this month will be on safety issues. A fire drill and earthquake drill are scheduled for

this month. Circle time will be used to discuss and practice safety concerns. We will be asking and reminding parents to update their emergency pack and emergency card for each child.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone who participated at our open house night. And we send a special thanks to Teacher Kaitlin Moore (now working in the Toddler Plus Classroom) for being such an amazing support to both the staff and children during a time of transition

Lori Duino
Head Teacher, Toddler Plus



Why Whole Dairy?

Recently we switched sources for our dairy to a local natural foods store and the dairy we serve at our school is free of hormones and anti-biotics.

We are currently using milk from Clover/Stornetta Farms, a local humane and sustainable dairy producer. Grass-fed dairy has more vitamins and happy cows make happy milk.

We use whole dairy here for many reasons:

- It is required by the USDA Food Program we participate in.

(The FDA does not support the purchase of soy milk which is why we ask parents to bring their own dairy substitutes and provide medical evidence of a dairy allergy.)

- The soluble fats in dairy support the myelination of a developing child's nerve cells and brain.

(Myelin is the fatty coating on all your nerves that helps electronic impulses travel as well as helps your nerves regenerate from damage)

- Non-fat and Low-fat milks are made by adding percentages of water to whole milk. Pure economics demands we get the best bargain for our purchase.

- Milk provides vitamins and calcium for growing bones and teeth.

- Great research is being done on the digestibility of animal fats vs. hydrogenated, non-natural, vegetable fats. Milks of any animal are designed to be easily digestible and provide a rapid release of hydration, proteins, sugars, fats, and vitamins.

Toddler Plus

We are happy to announce that we have hired Kaitlin Moore for the afternoon position. If you have not met her yet, please stop by and say hi. Aggie Delucchi had her official last day on Sept. 19th. She will be able to sub for us so this was not really good-bye. We miss her daily enthusiasm and wish her luck in her next adventure.

This past month we have been learning about farm animals, what they look like, and what sounds they make. Old MacDonald has been a favorite song along with books such as "Daisy and the Monster", "Barnyard Animals." I am glad some of you were able to get to the county fair. Some of the children talked about what they saw there. If you did not make it this year, maybe try for next year.

While Halloween is a very fun event for older children and adults, it can be scary for young children. Some costumes are not suited for active play and not all families observe Halloween. We ask that the children leave their costumes at home and not bring them to school. If your child does dress up, feel free to bring in a photo to share with the class.

Our next theme will be about Fall. We will do an Apple Tasting, make applesauce, learn about fall squashes, and the falling leaves.



A couple of reminders:

1) If your child will be absent please call and let us know. The classroom phone number is 336-3868. and the office is 336-2857. The numbers of children in the room can effect staffing and the amount of food prepared. Thank you.

2) The Lost and Found is overflowing! If you are missing anything, please check the large basket by the sign in book.

Thank you for all you do,

Ann Chandler
Head Teacher, Toddler Plus



Emergency Preparedness

Parents need to be ready for the adverse conditions that come with winter in the Coastal Redwoods.

- Update your emergency card with **your closest contact** in case you are blocked from picking up your child due to a road closure or cannot pick them up due to work concerns during a power outage.
- Please provide us an emergency pack or update your emergency pack with clothes that fit your children and clothes for colder weather. Check with the office to see what an emergency pack is! Staff need to make sure they have emergency packs ready too.
- Help the school update our emergency supplies shed. We need clean blankets, a small radio that can run w/o batteries, a box of rain ponchos, flashlights, bungee cords, and camping lanterns.
- Make sure you are ready at home. We get lots of power outage in the valley! Keep extra water, food, and lighting sources in an easily accessible place. Most importantly keep a NON-ELECTRIC PHONE around. Electric cordless phones will not run in a power outage. Sometimes cell phones will not even run due to towers losing power. Keep frozen bottles of water in your freezer; they can be put into your fridge to keep things cold and serve as a water source during long outages.
- Talk to your kids about what to do in a fire, earthquake, or storm. Make sure you have your emergency plan ready and the children know escape routes and your outside meeting place.
- When they start asking about phones and numbers, teach your child how to dial 911. This skill alone has saved many parents and children's lives.
- Keep a list of all your emergency contacts with you at all times!



Children's Center
of San Lorenzo Valley
Where a Lifetime of Discovery Begins...

**Po Box 135
Ben Lomond, CA
95005**

Phone:
831-336-2857

Fax:
831-336-3860

E-mail:
ccslvkids@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!
www.ccslv.org

CCSLV has a Yahoo Group!

Our Center has had a Yahoo Group, ccslvfamilies@yahoogroups.com, for over two years now. It is an excellent way to find out what is going on at our Center, and ask any questions to the Board and the Staff.

The Board is trying to find new ways to make sure that all families are informed of meetings, events, and other issues, and our Yahoo Group is a simple and easy way to stay informed.

E-script and You!

E-Script makes CCSLV money!

E-Script is an easy and quick way to make money for our Center.

E-Script works by giving a percentage of all, albeit a really small percentage, your purchases using certain cards to non-profit agencies like ours, all of which does not charge you a penny or a dime.

It takes just a few seconds to sign up your credit cards, debit cards, and many store discount cards all on one sheet.

It is really simple to do at
<http://www.escrip.com/>

We hope all of our current families will become part of this group in the near future. As an added incentive, every family that is on the CCSLV Yahoo Group will receive one parent hour.

Please go to Yahoo Groups, do a search for CCSLV Families, and then sign-up. Please ask the Office if you have any questions. Thank you!

E-Script forms are in the Lobby of CCSLV, and take only up to five minutes to fill-out. Each family who signs up for E-Script will receive one parent hour.

Then CCSLV sees the result by receiving money from those companies.

What a great deal!

Bring your Safeway receipts into the Office by October 13th for extra funds. We'll do the rest!

CCSLV
Po Box 135
Ben Lomond, CA
95007

