

Tall Pines Tidings

Important Dates



February

- 1 Feb + May tuition (2 months' worth) is due – see your contract.
- 6 PT classes -- Valentine's celebrations
- 9 Board Meeting at 6:30 pm at school
- 11 & 12 Mon/Wed & Tues/Thurs Valentine's Celebrations in class
- 13 & 16 Presidents' Holiday – no school
- 17 Take Out for Tall Pines – **MINER MOE'S PIZZA** in Nevada City – 4–8 pm
- 18–19 Chinese New Year
- 25–26 Parent Teacher Conferences – See schedule by sign-in sheets. **No school on these days. Please arrange for child care.**

**** Registration for next school year begins now, after conference & letter of intent**

March

- 1 March tuition is due – late after the 10th
- 7 Saturday, Special Person's Day – 9:30 to 11 am
- 9 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at school
- 9–13 School pictures. 9th MW–Y. 10th TTh–Y. 11th MW–O. 12th TTh–O. 13th PT
- 16 & 17 St. Patrick's Day Celebrations
- 18 SVC/CCPPNS Meeting – 6pm Bright Beginnings in Folsom
- 19 General Meeting 7 pm at school. Speaker TBA
- 20–21 SVC/CCPPNS Convention – San Jose
- 21 **Spring Benefit** 7–9 pm at Grass Valley Elks Lodge. Babysitting available on site. There will be entertainment and auctions!! Bring Friends and Family.
- 25–26–27 Easter Celebrations and Egg Hunts
- 3/30 – 4/3 Spring Break – No school
- April 6th Return to school

Tall Pines Tidings

Kids Are Cooking in February and March

February

- 4-5 *Quesadillas*
- 11-12 *Valentine's Celebration in class. Sign up to bring something.*
- 18-19 *Chinese New Year celebrations.*
- 25-26 *Parent-Teacher Conferences at school. No class these days.*

March

- 4+5 *Kerri & Samuels energy balls*
- 11+12 *Picture week – keep it clean: popcorn, cheese & fruit*
- 16+17 *St. Patrick's Day celebrations*
- 25+26+27 *Easter celebrations – Sign up to bring something to share.*



President's Message

HI Tall Pines Families,
 Welcome to 2015. For some us 2015 means Kindergarten, for some it means moving to the older side in Fall. For others it may mean nothing more than remembering to write 2015 instead of 2014. Whatever it means to you may you make it a great year! So far at Tall Pines I've seen growth everywhere on so many different levels. For us parents and this age of our preschoolers, it means lots of firsts, what feels like an everyday occurrence. Let's make this final half of the school year grow for new friendships both for our kids and us, new involvement and new memories all which will last a lifetime.

 Stephanie Harvey-Statler



Business Office

The New Year brings lots of projects to the Business Office ~ the first of which is preliminary work for Registration! I know it's hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about next school year. You can help us plan for the Fall by turning in your "Child Placement Intent" form by Friday, February 6th. "Child Placement Intent" form by Friday, February 6th. This will help us get an idea on class sizes and schedules for next year. And remember, this is just an intent form, you can always change your preference. 😊 As current membership, you will have priority when we begin registration at the end of the month. Fall registration will be open to the general public by the middle of March ~ so let your friends know!

Also, February marks our double tuition month. Please don't forget to include May's tuition with your February payment. Many of you have been adding a little each month, or have paid in

Tall Pines Tidings

advance, so if you have any questions concerning your balance, please check with the business office. If this double payment causes any financial difficulty, please stop by and we can set up a payment plan that works for you! Thank you!

Since I see many different amounts on checks, here is a reminder of what THIS year's tuition is ~

Parent Toddler ~ \$51/month
 2 day/week ~ \$123/month
 3 day/week ~ \$185/month

As always, thank you for all you do for Tall Pines! We have such a wonderful school because of our GREAT membership and teachers!!

 Nicole.

MINER MOE'S
Pizza

102 Argall Way, Nevada City, 265-0284

Take Out for Tall Pines is at Miner Moe's Pizza in Nevada City February 17th, 4-8 pm. No need for coupons. Just let the cashier know you are with Tall Pines Nursery School! A percentage of sales donated to our wonderful school. Bring family and friends!

Spring Benefit !!

Hello friends!

The Spring Benefit Committee and volunteers are in full swing, working to bring you another exciting night out with incredible food, music, drinks and silent auction items for this year's event on March 21st. The Spring Benefit is hugely successful every year because of the tremendous effort of volunteers like YOU! And we still need a few extra hands in the following jobs:

In the kitchen:

- Do you have a special recipe for a dessert or dinner appetizer?*
- Could you help in the kitchen on the night of the event to refill platters and set out food?*

Décor:

- Can you share some of your DIY talent to create centerpieces or add flair?*
- Is graphic design your hobby? We could use your help making our posters this year.*

Auction items:

- Do you own a business and can make a donation in kind?*
- Are you out and about in town and have time to drop off donation requests with local businesses?*

Tall Pines Tidings

-Are you an artist and have some of your own work you would like to donate?

Childcare:

-Are you good at commanding a room full of kids? We could use your help checking in on the babysitting room periodically through the night.

If you would like to lend a hand to any of these projects please contact Monique at mderenia@gmail.com or 615-8675. Your help is much appreciated!

This is going to be a wonderful night out in support of our amazing little co-op preschool. Mark it on your calendars and plan to be there with us to celebrate!

Many thanks,

Your fundraising team,



Mishelle, Monique and Jamie

From Teacher Michelle

Parenting Perspective:

The Terrible Two's or The Terrific Two's



Why is having a two year old child so difficult? For many parents, the joys of parenting a two-year-old through a beautiful stage of child development are overshadowed by the

fear of a tantrum. If you have ever experienced a two-year-old in a full blown tantrum, it is quite a scene to behold. When it is your own toddler, it

can be frustrating, confusing, heart-breaking, overwhelming, and embarrassing.

At age two, parents are still learning about their child's personality and the more parents understand their toddler, the easier the parent-toddler relationship. While we cannot prevent every tantrum, we can use parenting strategies to prevent some from occurring or escalating.

1. Attend to the basic needs. Make sure your toddler is well rested and fed. The daily rhythm of the young child needs to be consistent.

2. Look & listen for early warning signs. Changes in appetite, sleep or naptime, general mood and appearance can all be early indicators that something is not right with your child.

3. Control the amount of stimuli. We cannot always change how our toddler will react to noises, crowds, or new environments. By knowing your toddlers threshold for stimulation, you can modify or avoid situations that are likely to cause sensory overload.

4. Know yourself and when to stand firm and when to let go. Even if you haven't figured out your toddler, they know you! The toddler needs to know that you can set limits and keep them. One more story or five more minutes in the bathtub are small compromises to avoid upset. Always, holding hands tight to cross the street was worth any tantrum my toddlers could make.

Being frustrated or disappointed at not getting what you want or not getting it how you want is inevitable. Upsets and tantrums will happen for parents and toddlers (yes, I mean both) and, we can minimize the terrible tantrums and focus on the terrific-ness of these stages of growth and development.



Teacher Michelle

Tall Pines Tidings

Hair by Kristen

**Mobile hair services
in the comfort of your home!**

Don't have 3 hours for an appointment at a salon? Don't want to pay a babysitter while you're there? I will come to you!
15 years of experience with an extensive, full clientele in the Bay Area.

Cuts, Color, Highlights, and Smoothing Treatments are my specialties.

(I've been doing this with a couple Tall Pines Moms and it works out great for everybody!)



Kristen Adams
415-599-6366
hairbykristen@gmail.com

From Teacher Kelsey

Hello Tall Pines Families. We have been doing the snow dance at my house as well as in class in hopes to bring some weather our way :) The children are all falling back into the routine of school after our holiday break. They have grown so much since the beginning of the year! One of my favorite growth periods to watch is that

between the children and the friendships they are making here at school!

In a side note, we are asking families if they may have any quality dress up clothes, dolls, and/or Hotwheel



type cars they may want to donate to the classes. Happy Winter!

 **Teacher Kelsey**

Teacher Debby's Reminders

Please Sign up:

Parent/Teacher Conferences are going to be held on February 25 & 26. There is no school on these days. They start at 9 am and go every 15-20 minutes. This is a great way for you to meet with your teacher and chat about "your" child. This is for parents with children in M-W Older/Younger and T-Th Older/Younger. If your child is in the Parent-Toddler classes and you would like a Conference, please check in with Teacher Michelle.

DON'T FORGET:

- Please bring back library books that you and your child have checked out before you check out more.
- You can bring in a book to donate to our library on your child's birthday day.

Tall Pines Tidings



Make your Valentines!

Please regard the following requests when helping your child prepare Valentines for their classmates.

Homemade cards are great! Keep it simple and have your child do a few at a time. **START NOW!**

No Candy please (we will be having treats during the class party).

No need to put classmates' names on each Valentine. Just have them put their own signature (some children may need help with this part). It makes it simpler for your child to "mail" them.

You can use stamps and stickers in place of your child "writing" his/her name.

Please check your new class lists to know how many to make, or ask your Teacher.

Some ideas:

Cut out heart shapes and glue them onto doilies.

Cut out hearts from a finger-painted paper and add stickers.

Use your imagination or go online for cute ideas

Keep it simple!!

Here's the count: make Valentine's only for your class. It's not so overwhelming.

MW Older: 16

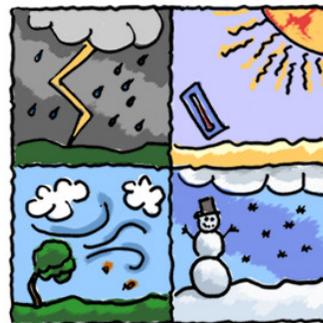
MW Younger: 15

TTh Older: 18

TTh Younger: 15

PT I: 20

PT II: 12



REMINDER:

The weather is changing. We hope we sometimes do have snow days because of weather. Please listen to KNCO 8:30am or KNCO.com for school cancellation information.

When it rains you can drive in and park by the school. Go through gate 5, no faster than 5 mph at all times!!

Do NOT park on the grass. Park by the school in back.





Teacher Debby's Parent Pages

Using All the Senses to Learn

By Robert Wortman

*"When I hear, I forget.
When I see, I remember.
When I do, I understand."*

Introduction

This old Chinese proverb shows the importance of the senses in the learning process. The five senses of hearing, touch, sight, taste, and smell are the primary means we use to gain new knowledge. We rarely experience with one sense alone. Our senses work together to give us a total picture of our experiences.

People of all ages learn best when involved in meaningful experiences. Learning takes place when the mind is able to put together information from all the senses and make a connection with past learning. Using many senses to gain information helps learning to be more meaningful and useful. Children naturally learn with all the senses. From birth, children are experts at learning with all five senses active. They have not learned to select the information from any one sense as more important. They are interested in everything!

Children Use the Senses to Learn

The function of the brain is to sort out the information gained from the senses into meaningful learning. The brain is always working, just as your lungs breathe and do not stop unless there is a major interference.

It is interesting to see how young children experience new situations as they play. Young children make sense of their world by hearing, touching, seeing, tasting and smelling. When they are offered a new toy they squeeze it with their hands and rub it on their cheeks. They want to feel the toy in a variety of ways. They put the toy in their mouths and around their noses to taste and smell. They listen to sounds the toy

makes. Then they notice if there is a relationship between squeezing the toy and the sound it makes.

Children delight in learning. They continue to test out their ideas to make sure their information is correct (squeezing the toy and listening in varying time gaps or changing how hard they squeeze). Often, they will offer their toys to adult caregivers to see how adults use the toys. This is how children learn more from birth to four than during any other phase in life.

Children Learn by Active Involvement in Experiences

To help children learn most in a situation, parents should involve as many of their child's senses as possible. Children learn that stoves are hot not just by hearing adults say, "This stove is hot". Nor do children learn about hot stoves by watching adults act out "hot". Children learn when adults talk about hot stoves while the children feel the heat and watch the reaction of adults in the same circumstances. It is the listening, watching, feeling, and language happening at the same time that helps the child learn about hot stoves.

Children do not learn best by listening or watching the adults around them. Children are active learners who need to be involved in activities which use as many senses as possible. Language is the "glue" that helps the child make sense of all this sensory information.

Use Describing Words for Different Senses.

1. **What do you see?** pretty/ugly, dirty/clean, big/little, colors (red ball), numbers (two dogs), shapes (everyone hold hands-form a circle.)
2. **What do you hear?** loud/soft
3. **How does it smell?** nice/stinky
4. **How does it taste?** sweet/salty/sour, good/bad
5. **How does it feel?** hot/cold, rough/smooth, soft/hard, wet/dry

Do Language Activities While Making Play Dough

Learning is easy if the activity involves the senses. Offering children experiences with play dough is one good way to encourage *concept* development and language development at the same time. Children can use their sense to smell the play dough, to see different

Tall Pines Tidings

colors and shapes, to feel the texture, and to hear the language that goes with the experience.

Using the recipe at the end of this article, children from two to ten years old can enjoy making play dough. Help the children make the play dough. In the process, talk with the children and encourage them to talk and ask questions. Involve the children in the whole process.

"How does the flour feel?"

"Have you seen it before?"

"Where does it say flour on the bag?"

"What do we use flour for?"

"What does it taste like?"

"Would you like eat it this way? Why not?"

Ask similar questions as children help measure out the ingredients. They need the experiences of spooning, scooping, pouring, stirring and kneading. Pouring salt is different than pouring oil. The difference is how it feels to the children who do the pouring. Talking about these experiences with adults or older children helps young children learn concepts.

More Language Activities Using Play Dough:

After the play dough is made, do activities to build concepts and language. Use words such as see, feel, taste, smell, etc. to identify what is being learned through different senses. Use blunt scissors to make snakes that are long and short, fat and thin, or straight and curly. Now you can talk about comparing the different sizes.

Use characters made of play dough to tell a story together. Children and caregivers can make up a story or recreate a favorite story. The play dough can be colored with food coloring to provide color mixing experiences. Use orange juice containers as rolling pins and cookie cutters or other household objects for imprinting and cut-outs. This helps children learn and talk about cause and effect and shapes. When play dough is flattened out, it becomes a writing tablet where children can draw or write their names. The surface is easily flattened again for different experiences.

The possibilities are endless. The value of using play dough is the variety of ways and situations in which it

can be used. Once isn't enough. It is only through lots of meaningful practice with materials that children gain control over how the material is used.

Other Multi-Sensory Activities:

Similar learning possibilities are available with:

Tub toys in the bath

A pan of bulk rice & various-sized containers

Sandbox experiences

Bits of extra pastry dough or bread dough

Making cookies with cookie cutters

Stringing "O"-shaped cereals and candies

Painting with water on the sidewalk

Making bubbles in a dishpan



Play Dough Recipe

1 cup flour

½ cup salt

½ cup water

1 Tbsp cooking oil

A few drops of food coloring

Mix thoroughly!

Play dough can be used over and over again if you put it in a plastic bag in the fridge. Cookie cutters and a rolling pin add to the fun. Press on designs with a pencil, toothpick, fork, stick or nail.

Concept: A general idea or characteristic applicable to several objects or events, which helps organize knowledge about the world.

Tall Pines Tidings

More fun recipes Science Corner

FLUBBER

1. Mix 2 cups of water and 1 ½ cups Elmers glue in a big bowl
2. Add a squirt of liquid water color and stir
3. In a separate bowl mix together: 2 cups water and 4 Tbsp Borax.
4. After it's completely dissolved, pour the Borax mixture slowly and a little at a time into the glue and water mixture. Pour a little, mix a little, pour a little, mix a little. Mix with your hands or a sturdy wooden spoon. As you mix it, it will become a flubber ball! NOTE: You might not need to use all of the Borax solution!!
5. Store it in an airtight container or Ziploc for a few weeks. When it begins to flick apart or gets too hard, it's time to make a new batch! Play with it, explore it, try to get it to blow a bubble with a straw! Watch it stretch as you hold it!
6. Vinegar takes it out of clothes, carpet and fabric. Mayo will take it out of your hair!

BEST BUBBLE SOLUTION

The formula is 6 cups of water to 2 cups of dish soap. Simple and easy. Try blowing bubbles using: TP rolls, berry baskets, 6-pack rings, PVC pipes with some cheesecloth on the end, even your hands! Add some bubble bath liquid!

Bubbles are the best example of surface tension. Surface tension causes the surface of a liquid to pull together, creating a "skin" on the surface.

What Your Children Said they LOVE...

McKinley: "I love my Mommy. Love makes me happy."

Bella: "My Mom and Dad love me because I'm the little girl. They hug me and kiss me and make me feel good."

Sierra: "Lots of hearts. My heart is big because it has love inside. I love my Mom, my Dad and my brother."

Frankie: "I have love."

NovaLee: "I love my Mommy and Daddy and my Grandma. I love Sierra, my friend."

Cody: "I love my Mom. I love her because she's nice".

Keira: "I know... I don't know. You kiss and hug. That's all I know."

Conner: "My Mommy loves me and I love Mommy. I feel happy about love."

Samuel: "About love... I do hugs and kisses."

Nicholas: "I love my Daddy. He plays tag with me. Love makes me happy."

Jack: "I love my Mom because I like her. She's really love."

Nico J.: "I know people love me. It makes me feel happy inside."

Austin: "I love opening the door for my Mommy and Daddy. Love makes me feel great and like a gentleman."

Preston: "I love my Grandma because she loves me A LOT."