



Highlights of the upcoming month include Picture Day on Oct. 7th (we get to join with the Camptonville Elementary School for this event – fliers in your child’s cubby) and Fall Break, which runs from October 17 through October 25, including the weekends on either end. We keep to the same schedule as Camptonville School, and will be closed that week, but do have a field trip to the Bierwagen’s Pumpkin Patch planned for October 22nd, with the entire family, including older siblings, invited to join us (more information within).

Birdsong, Program Manager

Parent Council Next Meeting: Thurs., Oct. 8, 2009, 9:30am, Resource Center

The Parent Council has selected some of the needed officers for the coming year, but still has vacancies. Stephanie Williams has agreed to stay on as our Secretary, and Candace DeMaranville as our Garden Committee Liaison (our representative to the joint school/123 Grow Committee). Kate Boyd agreed to be our Fundraising Committee Chair, with an immediate offer of assistance from Lacie Arena-Whittington. However, we do still need to find a President and a Treasurer. Molly Spackman, outgoing President, will give a brief description of her duties at the next meeting and we will also develop our plan for a Christmas Crafts Fair booth. Please plan to attend!

Western Sierra Mobile Clinic

Rebel Ridge Market
Mon., Tues., & Thurs. 10 AM - 3 PM
Pliocene Ridge School, Pike
Wednesdays, 10 AM - 3 PM
Walk-ins welcome!

289-3298

**Rebel Ridge Organics
Plant Sale and Flea Market**

October 10, 10 AM – 1 PM

Your chance to get fall bulbs, onion, garlic, fall plants such as brassicas, and cover crop seed! Everything you need for your fall-into-winter garden.

Classroom Corner

by Barbara Mueller-Hogan

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Infant/Todder portion of the 123 Grow parent and child enrichment program. We have a few new students and a handful of returnees. Since the first day of class, things in the classroom have changed to accommodate our very young students and yet still keep our older children interested.

This year I have brought in some “baby signs” to enhance our communication skills. The children are learning “thank you” – three fingers to the chin and out, “more” – finger tips of both hands meeting in front moving back and forth, “good job” – the thumbs up sign, “sleep” – hands together at side of head with head tilted, and “stop” or “all done”, the umpire’s “out” sign – hands open flat crossing over and out in front of the body.

I have also started to bring in some Montessori lessons:

1. The clothes pins on the rim of bowl – ages 1 ½ and up – to help with coordinatin and muscle control, discrimination and indirect preparation for reading and writing.
2. Spooning beans from bowl to bowl – 1 yr. and up – to help with hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity to help control while eating (also good for pre-writing).
3. Bean and rice table – 1 ½ and up – with pouring pitchers and scoops to help with control of movement and self-reliance while pouring, as well as experiencing different textures and listening skills.

I’ve observed already that the musical instruments are as popular as always for circle time and that snack time is still one of our best learning times. Our little ones are still grazers and prefer to be mobile while eating. Sitting at a table with others with chairs and table not quite short enough, is still a new concept to many of the children. Be assured, parents, all it takes is time and consistency.

So.... I’m looking forward to another exciting year and I again thank you as always for allowing me to be a part of your child’s life.

Fundraising

by Birdsong Sundstrom

Most of you already know that this program has been available in Camptonville at no charge since 2003. Many also know that we are primarily funded by Yuba First Five and parent fundraising efforts. Parents also contribute all of the snacks and many of our materials. Our parent organization, the Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP), is extremely fortunate to be able to put on such a high caliber early childhood and school readiness program, and to also be able to include a strong parent enrichment program, all without needing to institute fees!

Yuba First Five agreed last spring that what we do is special, unique, and effective. They also understood that we are serving an isolated, rural population that lacks the Headstart, State Preschool, and even for-profit preschools available in most communities. YF5 agreed to fund our program for three additional years while we work towards greater self-sufficiency, however this school year (2009-2010) is the only year with full funding for the current program configuration. They will be ‘weaning’

us from them as a funding source by providing only 2/3 of our operating budget next school year and only 1/3 the following year.

Cathy LeBlanc and I have spent many hours in September using the Foundation Index, an online subscription service, to help us search for potential funders to begin filling that gap. CCP continues to believe that it is important to our community and our culture to offer this program for free. We are optimistic that there are private foundation out there who will take an interest in our work.

We also need our parents to continue to assist with fundraising. There is no magic number of dollars to be raised, and then we get to stop and rest on our laurels. Every effort adds to the total picture of success. So far this school year, we plan to have the fall bulb sale (all orders to be turned in to Candace by October 13th), our booth at the Christmas Crafts Fair, a raffle of one of Teacher Susan's beautiful afghans (just before Christmas), our plant-raising efforts for Spring Plant Sale, and our Spring Appeal to Family and Friends, all proposed by the parents. We are always receptive to new ideas, and thank each of you for the fundraising efforts you put in! We can keep our program local, free of charge and open to all, if we do it together!

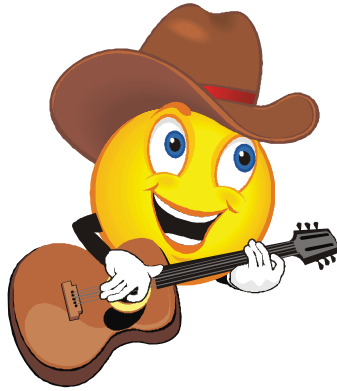


GOING TO BIERWAGENS PUMPKIN PATCH

Here's the low-down on our upcoming field trip. Bierwagens is located on the Colfax Highway (Hwy 174), which is one hour from us. We need to arrive at 10:15 AM that morning to be ready for our tour, which will be about ½ to 1 hour in length, and we will follow with a potluck picnic lunch on their grounds, including a birthday celebration for Joshua DeLisle. 123 Grow will pay the cost of the tour (\$7.00) for each enrolled student. Each child must have a parent or other adult who is responsible for them on the field trip, however no adult can be caregiving for more than three children.

Bierwagens asks that only 4-5 parents and the 2 teachers accompany the children on the tour itself, while the rest wait and visit on the grounds; too many adults make for too much distraction for the tour guide.

Those parents who need to accompany their child on the tour will need to pay the cost to Birdsong by October 15th. Older siblings may also attend, but parents will need to pay their fee as well. Those parents who would prefer to visit with each other on the lawn during the tour do not need to pay the fee. We suggest that families arrange to carpool. Please dress your child in clothing that can get dirty, and that is appropriate for being outdoors that day, whether it is cool or warm, and apply sunscreen. We will also be circulating a sign up list for those interested in staying for lunch together after the tour.



Why We Love Music

Music is a terrific learning activity.... it channels the natural desire that very young children have to make noise, teaches rhythm (a pre-math learning skill), and promotes group socialization in a much gentler way than circle time. Children don't need to sit still and listen, but can all participate at once and also get up and shake their sillies out! Here are a few simple musical activities, taken from *Early Childhood News*, to help you get started at home.

For Infants – Musical Chimes (Sensory)

Baby will experience the beautiful sounds wind chimes make with this activity

Hang wind chimes of various sounds within a low reach for you and baby.

1. Pick up baby and tell her it's time to ring the chimes.
2. Carry baby over to the chimes.
3. Gently, move the wind chimes with your hand.
4. Encourage baby that is old enough to do it as well.
5. Move between different ones to introduce different tones.
6. As baby ages, can encourage him to practice blowing at small chimes.

For Toddlers – Shake My Sillies Out! (Gross Motor)

This activity helps toddlers explore sound through movement

You need:

- Rice
- Sand
- Pennies
- Macaroni noodles
- Kosher salt

- Small empty potato chip containers (like Pringles)
- Glue gun
- Construction paper
- “Shake My Sillies Out” song by Raffi, though any other lively music will work too!

Assemble your shakers first by putting different materials into small cans and sealing with the glue gun. Cover with construction paper and decorate as desired.

1. Pick up one of the cans and shake it. Pick up another and shake it.
2. Encourage the toddler to pick up the cans and shake them.
3. Talk about the different sounds. Try fast, slow, etc. and to music.
4. If you use the Raffi song, shake really hard during the chorus... “shake my sillies out”. You will get a lot of giggles.

For Preschoolers – Carnival of the Animals (Gross Motor and creative arts)

This activity encourages preschool children to visualize music and to become acquainted with instruments of the orchestra.

You need:

- *Carnival of the Animals* CD by Camille Saint-Saens – listen in advance so you are familiar with it
 - Large pieces of construction paper
 - Crayons, markers or pastels
1. Tell your preschooler you are going to play a game with them using the music called *Carnival of the Animals*.
 2. Play “The Royal March of the Lion”. Tell the child what it is called and start marching together like lions. Play the next piece, “Kangaroos”. Ask what animal the child thinks it is about, then encourage them to move like that animal.
 3. Tell the child it is called “Kangaroos”. Ask them why it might be called that. Encourage the child to dance and move like a kangaroo to the music, and join them. Repeat for the “Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods”. Get out the paper and drawing materials.
 4. Play the “Aviary” and draw with your child various birds they are hearing in the music.

Books you can read together for children about music:

Ah, Music!, by Aiki (ISBN 0-06-446236-6)

Music from the Sky, by Denise Gillard (ISBN 0-88899-311-0)

Wooleycat’s Musical Theater, by Dennis Hyson (ISBN 1-889910-25-2)

Just a reminder...

Parents/Guardians need to be on campus at all times while their child/children are in the 1, 2, 3 Grow classroom. Depending upon the day’s attendance, we may ask you to step into the classroom to assure we always have enough adult support to keep the children safe and happy.

Thump, Thump, Rat-A-Tat-Tat, by Gene Baer (ISBN 0-06-443265-3)

Mark your calendar...

- ❖ School Picture Day: Wed., Oct. 7, 8:30 AM til done
- ❖ Parent Council meeting, Wed., Oct. 8, 9:30 AM – Family Resource Center
- ❖ Dental Discussion w/ Wendy, Thu., Oct. 22, 9:30 AM
- ❖ Fall Break, Oct. 19-23 – no school
- ❖ Pumpkin Patch Field Trip: Thurs. Oct. 22, 9:30 AM



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