

Redeemer Preschool

Newsletter - April 2009

www.redeemerkids.com



The Spring Auction is only 3 Weeks Away!!

Save the date May 16th for a Night of Fun, Delicious Food, & Great Bargains.



Please turn in your parent donations:

Parent Donations are due Friday **May 1st**. Your donations to our auction of goods and services are a critical component to our auction's success. We truly appreciate your generosity in supporting our school. Every effort, large or small, helps our kids. so, please donate whatever you can.

No time or energy to be creative: then please donate to our **General Fund**. The monies will be used to supplement our package deals and auction items.

Make your check payable to "Redeemer Preschool"

and put "General Fund" in the memo line. Envelope for checks is in Teresa's office on top of the filing cabinet.

Raffle tickets will be out soon. Watch your child's mail folder. Fantastic Prizes. Tickets are \$5 each in a book of 10.

First Prize: Panasonic Blue Ray DVD Player

Second Prize: Pelican Inn in Muir Beach with dinner

Third Prize: \$250 tuition credit

We also have some amazing **live auction items** this year.

Monterey Bay Escape--Hilton Hotel & Aquarium tickets

Sea Ranch Getaway--2 nights at the Sea Ranch Lodge & dinner

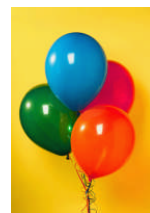
Gone to Maui Dream--a condo in Kihei, Maui

Desert Delight--a condo in Palm Springs, La Quinta Resort

Living Green--1 night at the Orchard Inn, SF (a green hotel)

Plus Fabulous bargains for our **Silent Auction**.

We promise you a fun evening with delicious food, great prizes and a chance to relax, see friends, and rub elbows with elite & exciting people (that's you) who make Redeemer Preschool a uniquely enriching environment for our kiddies.



See you on Saturday, May 16th, from 6 p.m.—11 p.m.
at the San Rafael Community Center on "B" Street

Grandparents Can Come for Free!

And \$25 per Ticket for Other Family Members and Friends.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent-Teacher Conference

Friday, May 1

8:15 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

No School

Parenting Today Workshop

Wednesday, May 13

Why Kids Do the Very Thing that

Drives Their Parents Crazy

6:45—8:00 p.m.

Free childcare available

Auction Dinner

Saturday, May 16

6:00—11:00 p.m.

San Rafael Community Center

Field Trip

Wednesday, May 20

Loma Vista Farm in Vallejo

Gymnastic Bus Fundraiser

Saturday, May 30

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Outside of Andy's Market



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High Chair and Stroller Recalls

Nearly 100,000 Majestic high chairs made by Evenflo have been recalled after reports of dozens of injuries to children when the seat backs fell off. Some 1,600 Phil and Teds Dash Buggy strollers, made in China and imported by Regal Lager, Inc. have been recalled because the frame handle could fail to latch properly and break, posing a fall hazard to small children. For up-to-date recall information, visit the California State Department of Consumer Affairs' website www.consumeraffairs.com and click on "Recalls" at the top of the webpage.



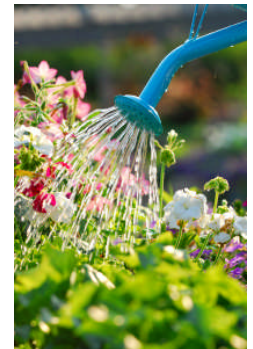
Successful Parent Work Day

Kudos to the following parents and teachers who helped on the April 4th parent work day.

Parents: Janet Bell, Sam Black, Phil Brown, Steve Fegan, Mark Gates, Caroline Jensen, Jim LaFleur, Susan Marrinson. Teachers: Trisha Coulter, Kelley Maddox, Jacki Tarantino. Many tasks were completed in a productive morning.

- The Dragon sandbox was refilled—children are making volcanoes and valleys with the new sand.
- The light switches for the Dragon classrooms have been rewired so each classroom can monitor its lighting separately. The same work will be done on the GF/YD side at a later date.
- Interior and exterior doors and lights were checked and repaired as needed.
- Outdoor toys and smocks were cleaned.
- A mirror was installed in the Green Frog classroom.
- The gate adjacent to the children's bathrooms was painted.
- All the classroom vacuum cleaners were cleaned.
- The school garden was weeded.

A very special thank you to Jim and Joanna LaFleur for building us a planting box so the Yellow Ducks can grow some vegetables in a sunny spot. Our gratitude also goes to the owners of Marin Sanitary Company Joe and Sally Garbarino for donating a dumpster for our on-going use. Joe and Sally are also the grandparents of Purple Dragon Nicky Minton.



Children's Relationship with Nature



Children today have few opportunities for outdoor free play and regular contact with the natural world. It is during early

childhood when children's experiences give form to the values, attitudes, and basic orientation toward the world that they will carry with them throughout their lives. Regular positive interactions with nature help children develop respect and a caring attitude for the environment. Not only are regular experiences in nature important, but also adults, both parents and teachers, need to model enjoyment of, comfort with, and respect for nature. Nature is also children's best teacher. Young children tend to develop emotional attachments to what is familiar and comfortable for them. The more personal children's experience with nature, the more environmentally concerned and active children are likely to become. They also learn best by constructing their own knowledge through exploring natural environments.

At Redeemer, our playgrounds are built in a beautiful natural



setting with big trees, a school garden and an adjacent creek. Children play and learn outdoors through exploration, discovery and imagination. They can also experience the changing seasons and weather. Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and they are sick less often (Fjortoft 2001).

Animals are part of nature and can play a significant role in children's learning and development. They can also provide children with companionship and entertainment. Thanks to an alumni family (via Chevron) and parents who participated in the Football pool, we have raised \$1,000 to expand our animal program. The new rabbit hutch will arrive at the end of April. We will soon start hatching chicken and duck eggs in our new incubators. We adhere to health and safety procedures pertaining to school pets to ensure that the animals are healthy and well cared for; interaction between children and animals is always supervised; and hand washing is frequent.



Field Trip to Loma Vista Farm & Neighbor's Garden

A field trip to Loma Vista Farm in Vallejo is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 20**. The farm is a program of the Vallejo School District specializing in environmental education. The five-acre site includes horses, goats, sheep, pigs, cows, rabbits, chicken and a pond full of ducks and geese. There is also one-acre of organic vegetable gardens, herbs, and orchard and a large greenhouse with plants for sale. The field trip will start at 9:30 a.m. with an orientation by farm staff, followed by farm tours and small-group activities. We will have lunch at the farm at 11:00 a.m. before returning to the preschool. Carol Campbell, the owner of our neighboring mansion, has invited us to visit her beautiful new garden on May 5 and May 6. Besides giving us a tour, Carol will also talk to the children about the history of the house along with some Indian heritage.

In Loving Memory

Rich Roberts, the father of Yellow Duck Lucy Roberts, passed away peacefully on April 23. The funeral service will be held Wednesday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at Redeemer Church, followed by a reception at Peacock Gap Golf Club. A fund has been established to benefit Lucy's education.

If you would like to make a contribution, please send it to:

The Lucy Roberts Fund
2030 Union Street, Suite 205
San Francisco, CA 94123

Please make checks payable to Lucy Roberts



Kids' Quotes



A boy said to Teresa while touching her watch, "Wow! Your clock looks really small."

A Green Frog, "I'm a police officer. You went invisible, so here's your ticket. Show me your license then you can go to jail. OK?"

A Yellow Duck, "I'm crying because my tummy decided to give me a bad attitude."

"You can pick your friends and you can pick your nose. But you can't pick your friend's nose!"

Parking Lot Safety

When teachers, children and staff practice proper school parking lot safety, it makes it easier to keep everyone safe. Our parking lot can be an incredibly busy place in the morning when children arrive and in the afternoon when it's dismissal time. Ensuring no one gets hurt is a primary concern of the school staff, but it requires everyone's participation, including parents. **Drive slowly** and do not park along the red curb or in any **undesigned parking** space. Any blocked vision for either adults or children is extremely dangerous!

Gymnastics Fundraiser

Issac Notman, our gymnastic teacher, offers his gymnastic bus and time to do a fundraiser for the preschool. It will take place on Saturday, May 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., outside of Andy's Market. The limit is 20 children for \$25 per child.

Lion Dance Performance



The Chinese **Lion Dance** goes back some one thousand years. The lions express joy and happiness. Lions are also respected as agents from Heaven in some parts of China. On April 25, our Redeemer families enjoyed a delightful lion dance performed by the Marin Chinese Cultural Association. For additional information about MCCA, please visit their website at: www.marinchineseculture.com

