

Directors' Newsletter September 2021

Happy Fall! It is hard to believe that school has already been in session for a month. We are so pleased to report that the children are settling in nicely to their preschool routine, exploring their classrooms and enjoying their new friends and teachers. We thank you for your trust and confidence in our school. We are extremely proud of our teaching teams – the teachers and assistants create a caring, loving, engaging and stimulating environment that not only nurtures the children's minds, but also helps them develop key social skills like parallel play, friendship and self-confidence.

Our Enrichment Classes for our 3's and Pre-K students began this week. It is wonderful to see so many students excited to eat lunch with their friends and then participate in the extra-curricular offerings. There are still a few spots available in our enrichment classes. Please contact Dee Gray at deegray@laumc.org if you are interested in registering.

Although the Covid-19 protocols have changed some of the ways we operate, including our drop-off procedures, the office staff loves greeting the children each morning and walking them into class. Working together, we can keep the children and staff healthy. As the first round of autumn colds makes its way through the school, we ask you to kindly keep your child home if he/she is coughing or has a runny nose.

So far this school year we have been blessed with beautiful weather, but know that we monitor the air conditions on a daily basis. If the air quality ever shifts to an unhealthy level, please be assured that we will keep the children inside to ensure their safety.

In October, we will be participating as a school in the Los Altos United Methodist Church's Compassion Week. During this week, the children will learn about helping others who are less fortunate in our community. Classes will be decorating placemats and lunch bags for use at Hope's Corner in Mountain View. We have been told that the children's drawings and stickers bring smiles to the recipients' faces when they collect their lunches or eat a hot meal. If as a family you would like to get involved with Compassion Week, please check out the LAUMC website <https://laumc.org/compassionweek/> to see other volunteer opportunities.

In addition, here at the Children's Center we will be hosting a Book Drive to support the African Library Project. If you would like to participate, please bring either new or gently used books (ranging from baby board books through 8th grade level books) at drop-off. Dictionaries and Thesauruses are also desired. For more information on the African Library Project, feel free to check out their website at: www.africanlibraryproject.org.

Since October is just around the corner, we will soon be preparing for Halloween! We will celebrate Halloween on Thursday, October 28th for our T/TH classes and on Friday, October 29th for our M-F and M/W/F classes. Children are encouraged to wear costumes to

school on these days (please no masks, weapons or scary costumes). Each class will celebrate with special Halloween-themed activities and games. Stay tuned for more details.

A few important reminders:

- Please turn in your back-to-school forms including the signed copy of the protocols.
- All children in our 3's and Pre-K classes are welcome to participate in early care, lunch and Kids' Club. No advance reservation is needed – just inform us at drop-off if your child will be staying. Kids' Club is available to you even on days when your child is not at the preschool. (Our two's classes can participate in January).

Thank you, again, for a wonderful start to the new school year!

Heidi Bliss & Denize Gray

Children's Center Co-Directors