

# Loomis Community Preschool



## While Sitting in the Playhouse...

Normally I look from the outside in. Normally I watch through the window as the kids make mud pies and paint the walls with water. But today, I got to sit inside the playhouse. As I waited for the kids to come knock on the door and yell, "Trick or Treat," I had some time to reflect on Loomis Community Preschool. It seemed appropriate that this reflecting would happen inside a playhouse filled with mud-filled cupcake pans. The expectation of the parents here at Loomis Community Preschool is very high. LCP demands so much of our time, our energy, and our creative minds. Sometimes this expected commitment can feel so burdensome. It is hard to go to preschool with your child and work a station. It is tiring to stay up late at night preparing crafts for the Holiday Store. Required Maintenance Days are not necessarily how I would choose to spend my Saturdays. But as I sat in the playhouse and looked out, I felt thankful that LCP expects so much. I am only one of many parents who have sat inside the playhouse, because that is who we are. We are a preschool of parents who feel comfortable sitting inside the playhouse, digging in the sandbox, sliding down the slide, sticking our hands in the gooey pumpkin, dancing to the hokey pokey at circle time, getting paint on our clothes, and putting on silly puppet shows. Thank you, LCP Parents. You are a rare group of people. Our children are reaping the benefits of all of our effort.

## Community Events

November 1<sup>st</sup>-January 19<sup>th</sup>: Galleria Ice Rink Open

November 4<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting

November 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: turn in Holiday crafts, purchase tickets, and sign up for an event job

November 14<sup>th</sup>-November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Seussical, The Musical (performed by an amazing youth drama group, Take Note Troupe)

November 18<sup>th</sup>: General Meeting (Nutrionist Michele Fisch)

November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>: Mountain Mandarin Festival

November 26<sup>th</sup>: Day Before Thanksgiving Parade (bring your trike or wagon and wear your LCP shirt as we proudly walk down Loomis' main street)

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Store (tell your friends!)

December 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>: Old Town Country Christmas in old town Auburn

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting



## A Note from our Teachers



As a working parent in the classroom, you will have many opportunities to help guide children's behavior. Since the teachers can't be everywhere at once, we depend upon you to step in when children need support. Our goal is not only to help children understand rules and limits, but also to help them understand how to make appropriate choices and feel successful. Here are a few strategies you may find helpful:

- Offer clear, direct instruction. "It's clean up time now. Please put away three toys." (Sometimes we phrase things as a question—"Can you please clean up?"—making it seem like the child has the option of choosing not to do something.)
- Offer choices, allowing the child to choose between two acceptable options. "It's time to put our coats on to go outside. Would you like to put your coat on by yourself, or would you like me to help you?" This helps give the child a sense of control while guiding the child toward an appropriate outcome.
- Use non-sarcastic humor. Playfulness and laughter can do wonders in helping diffuse tension or redirect a child's behavior. Or make a game of it: "Look at all these blocks on the ground! Let's see how fast we can put them all away! Ready, set, go!"
- Redirect the child to a more appropriate activity or outlet. "The sand is not for throwing. If you would like to throw something, let's go find a ball to throw instead."

During circle time, children need support as they learn to respect the space, words, and ideas of others. Sitting still on the carpet, raising a quiet hand when they have something to share, and keeping their hands to themselves are all skills that they will need for kindergarten; but these skills are developmentally still very challenging for young children. Our preschool circle time offers lots of opportunity for practice, as we demonstrate patience with the fact that children are still very much developing the self-control to master these skills. When a child needs guidance during circle, it is often most effective to move closer to that child. Whisper a quiet reminder of appropriate participation, give him/her a gentle pat on the back, and if necessary invite him/her to sit on your lap. It is not disruptive to the teachers if you need to move around. If a child is not ready to be at circle—meaning he/she is not stopping a behavior after several reminders—you may invite that child to sit with you at the yellow manipulatives table.

Thank you for all of your participation and support during circle time. It is a huge help to the teachers to have you sitting with the group, modeling listening skills and appropriate participation, and quietly guiding children who need support. Sometimes it feels a little embarrassing to sing the songs, do the silly dance moves, or act like an animal; but your participation helps the children feel more comfortable and engaged. This is a very special time for building community; so let yourself get caught up in the preschool fun!