

Loomis Community Preschool HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

2016

Teacher Letter– Written By Teacher Robannie

On December 1st, the 2-Day Class had a very special enrichment presentation by two dancers from Sacramento Ballet Folklorico. They showed our students photos of dancers wearing attire from different regions of Mexico; they brought scarves and necklaces for the children to wear; and they taught the children a series of simple dance steps and then performed a dance together. Each student in attendance participated in his or her own way. Some were standing in the front row, eager to wear the costumes and learn the dance steps. Others were more comfortable watching from the sidelines, subtly mimicking the dance steps from a chair or standing close to a trusted adult. One child, during introductions at the beginning of the presentation, introduced himself as "George" (not his name), much to the amusement of his classmates. One of the dancers, Manuel, didn't miss a beat. "Can I call you Jorge? In Spanish, George is pronounced 'Jorge'." And throughout the morning, Manuel called this student Jorge. Jorge was not comfortable with the dancing; but he was intrigued by the recorded music Manuel and his partner played for the dances. Recognizing this, Manuel invited Jorge to help him start and stop the music. Jorge, instead of standing on the sidelines, became directly involved in the activity. He clearly took pride in this responsibility, and remained engaged throughout the presentation. Afterward, when a few of the adults were talking with Manuel about this dynamic, he said with a smile, "You have to meet kids where they are, right?" What a wonderful perspective and reminder he offered us in that simple statement!

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2-Day Class enjoying Ballet Folklorico.



Getting to Know Our Teachers

What is your best Holiday memory?

Teacher Sherry: "We lived in Texas and had a large family with lots of cousins. We would get together for dinner on Christmas Day. For us kids, it was a lot of fun!"

Teacher Becca: "My favorite holiday memory is that every Christmas, before we opened presents, my family took the time to read the Christmas story together, passing the family Bible around so everyone could get a chance to read!"

Teacher Robannie: "My favorite part about the holidays is the ritual of finding and decorating a tree! And I have always loved watching my Mom decorate our home with such creativity and care!"

What is your favorite rainy day activity to do with kids?

Teacher Sherry: "I love to read stories by the fire... it's so warm and cozy!"

Teacher Becca: "I love to suit the children up and go puddle-hunting. To make things even more fun, we sing songs about the rain as we go!"

Teacher Robannie: "Save a big cardboard box and bring it inside for all kinds imaginary play. Q used one as a train for weeks!"



Cont. from pg. 1

*Teacher Letter– written by
Teacher Robannie*

At LCP, we strive to offer a rich array of activities, materials, and experiences. And each child will respond to these opportunities in her/his own unique way. Some children prefer to work independently, while some love to be with a group. Some children love to get messy, while some are taking a big risk just by putting one finger in the shaving cream or ooblick. Some kids will move from activity to activity, while some would happily stay at the play dough table all day if they could. We, as teachers and parents in a cooperative, play-based classroom, are afforded an amazing opportunity to observe our students and try to “meet them where they are.”

It's not always easy, but with patience and careful observation, we can strive to provide students the chance to engage in our classroom in ways that feel authentic, interesting, challenging and safe. Thank you, parents and grandparents, for all the care, patience, and insight you offer to our children!

*- A very big THANK YOU to
Board Member Kathy
Kobayashi for arranging this
visit with Los Altenos Mexican
Folklorico Dance Company,
and to Manuel Perez and his
partner in dance!*



Children's Holiday Store

One of the most rewarding, joyful, and just plain FUN experiences for my kiddos at LCP every year is the Children's Holiday Store. For me as a parent, however, one of the most DAUNTING experiences is *preparing* for the Children's Holiday Store. Searching for the perfect craft, successfully completing FORTY of the perfect craft, and managing to submit them all on time can be nothing short of exhausting! Because of that... it never ceases to amaze me how very worth it all of that stress is once the day of the event arrives! The magic of giving our children the gift of independent *giving* (for lack of a better phrase) simply cannot be any more worth it!

- Nancy Masterson, Board President

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

Winter Break: December 19, 2016– January 3, 2017 (school resumes January 4th, 2017)

Maintenance Day: January 28, 2017, 9am– 12pm

Parent Education Meeting: February 7, 2017 at 6:30pm

If you haven't yet followed Loomis Community Preschool on Facebook, please do so! We will be noting upcoming community activities throughout the Winter Break, and will also organize any school-wide activities during break through the school's Facebook page.



Students in 3/4 Day Class working hard to keep our schoolyard clean!