

# SCPENS Newsletter: April/May 2016

## Upcoming dates

**Mon. 5/30** Memorial Day – no school

**Tue. 5/31 & Wed. 6/1** – class

Graduation party: (times are approximate)

8:30-9:15 – inside play

9:15-10:00 – play on the playground while food gets set up

10:00 – 10:30 – joint snack with toddler class outside in small yards.

10:30 – 11:00 – ceremony inside classroom, yearbooks, farewells

**Thu. 6/2** – Clean and pack up classroom, 8:30-11:00. Kids play on playground with a couple of parents while the rest of us work in the classroom. Please bring your own snack.

**Summer Yard Care** – if you weren't able to fulfill the two yard days this year, or if you just want to help out, you can sign up for one session of minimal yard upkeep over the summer. Wendy has the schedule to sign up. Thanks!

## What Do You Do With An Idea?

Like most of you, my Husband and I had the “idea” that our son was ready for preschool. We started our search (our son almost 2yrs old) with zero clue as to what constituted a “great” preschool. We only knew one thing; we didn't want our “baby” to grow up in the presence of others – we wanted to be involved. We found SCPENS and sent our deposit in, sight unseen. Teachers not formally met. It was a gamble that has paid off tenfold.

Oddly enough, it didn't take us long to realize our “idea” was turning into something really special. We decided to keep giving this program back as much as it was giving us. We

vested ourselves. We demonstrated its value to our family by committing to everything it had to offer: seminars, yard-days, mixers, monthly meetings, parent-board positions and fundraising. The results? Our “idea” had become more than just a preschool, it had become the way in which we lived our lives.

SCPENS not only prepared our children to be confident, kind & diplomatic little people. But it also

prepared my Husband and me for being the parents that EVERY teacher wants in their classroom, the parents that every-other parent wants to hang out with and the type of person people want as their neighbors. SCPENS took us from singularly-focused parents to global-minded/responsible parents. Our experience has become like the children's book “*What Do You Do with an Idea*” by Kobi Yamada. We BECAME our “idea” and our “idea” grew into everything. For that, we are eternally thankful to SCPENS.

Never in our wildest expectations did we ever think selecting a preschool for our son (and then our daughter) would result in us (not just our children) gaining priceless memories, lasting friendships, relatable & relevant parenting tools, community wide accomplishments and village-acceptance. SCPENS truly is a special place.

Parenting; you never really know if you're getting it “right” until the present moment of question is gone. So, I say stick with it! And know you got it RIGHT when you selected SCPENS as your preschool. Surrender to the journey and foster the entire experience. It really does go by quicker than you think & payoff way more than you could imagine.

See you on the Alumni side,  
The Blount Family



## Want to be a BIGGER part of SCPENS?

*2016 – 2017 Board Nominations and vote coming soon*

Why join the board?

Get a chance to voice YOUR opinions about speakers, fundraisers and school future.

Build/Strengthen friendships with fellow SCPENS Parents

No additional support job required  
Have an ADULT conversation & night out once per month with ZERO guilt!

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## End of Year Member & Alumni Picnic Potluck

*Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:30pm  
Harvey West Park: Club House*

Join SCPENS on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for the last “Parent Meeting” of the year!

We will party with fellow classmates

Welcome our Alumni back

Share yummy dishes & drinks

Play games

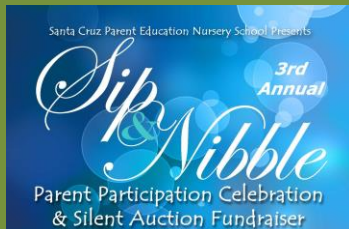
Music & Dancing

Raffle

Look for information in your classroom to sign up for potluck contributions. This event counts as your last “Parent Meeting,” so please make every effort to attend. Children and extended family WELCOMED!



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Thank you to all of the families that helped support our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sip & Nibble Silent Auction Fundraiser! We couldn't have held such a successful event if it was not for the group of parents that worked hard to solicit so many amazing local businesses & provide such YUMMY food.

Thank you to Nancy & The Crooked Branches Band for performing. It was a true pleasure to have you play! Hope to have you back again next year!

And last, but not least a VERY special thanks goes out ALL of our board members AND teachers that pitched in and supported Cori and I. Without a doubt all of your hard work and dedication has helped in the absence of a Fundraising leader!

We are so PROUD to report we raised a record breaking

## \$4,500!!!

## THANK YOU!

### Free & Cheap Activities by: *Jacqueline Bennett*

- [Santa Cruz public libraries](#). FREE special events, like puppet shows or story time.
- Harvey West FREE swim day: Sunday 7/10 12pm-2:30pm. If you go on regular days, rec swim is Mon-Sat 12:30pm-2:30pm Sun 12-3pm, and it cost \$4 per person or \$10 for fam of 4
- Simpkins Family Swim Center FREE swim day: Mon 7/4 12pm-4pm and Mon 9/5 12pm-4pm.
- Museum of Natural History, FREE first Friday's of each month.
- Museum of Art & History (MAH) FREE 7/1 & 8/5.
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, FREE every day. Located near the Boardwalk.
- UCSC Arboretum, FREE admission 1st Tuesday of every month.
- Seymour Marine Discovery Center, FREE community day 9/9/16.
- [Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park](#): FREE, but always check schedule for availability
- [Swanton Berry Farm](#) in Davenport looks fun
- [Harley Farm \(Goat farm in Pescadero\)](#). FREE to walk around, watch the goats, & bring a picnic lunch. You can also pay for a tour, if you want, and check out their yummy cheese shop.
- [Boardwalk bands on the beach FREE shows & FREE movies](#)  
The 6:30pm show works really well for my kids, and my 3 year old and 8 year old both have a blast dancing in the sand.
- [Music at Skypark FREE concerts](#) in Scotts Valley 7/31, 8/28, 9/25 2:30pm-6pm
- [Capitola summer twilight concerts](#): starting Wednesday 6/8/16 6pm-8pm.
- [Church street fair 8/6/16 and 8/7/16 11am-8pm](#) Live music, dance performances and hands on activities for the kids.
- [Happy Hollow Park and Zoo in San Jose](#) 1/2 price admission days: 6/21, 7/19, 8/16. Regular admission is \$14.25, so it would be around \$7 per person on 1/2 price days, plus \$10 for parking.
- [Curiodysey](#) in San Mateo. They have animal habitats, interactive science exhibits and activities for kids. \$6 kids age 2-12, \$7 for kids 13-17, and \$9 for adults.
- [Cinelux Theatres](#) offers a family film festival summer event, Wednesday and Thursday movies for \$1.50. There are locations in Capitola, Scotts Valley and over the hill, check website for schedule and participating theatres.

### SUMMER is HERE – Let's Play!

Just because summer is just about here, doesn't mean we have to stop playing together! Each summer, a wonderful SCPENS parent takes on the duty of organizing a group play calendar. Look for an email soon on a proposed calendar of meet ups. If you would like to join our SECRET Facebook group dedicated to sharing summer plans privately, send an email to Shannon ([shannybo63@hotmail.com](mailto:shannybo63@hotmail.com)) and I will send you an invite. Look for semi-regular posts regarding SCPENS playdates. Members are also welcomed to post their daily plans there as well with the comfort of community privacy.



## **Family of 3 looking for new home!**

Our family of 3 is looking for a new place to call home. After 4 years living in the same rental, our landlords have decided to sell the house we live in.

We are a couple in our late 20s, one of us is a social worker employed by Santa Cruz County and the other is a full time nanny who has been with the same family for almost 8 years.

We have an adorable and happy 18mo old daughter, and two small mild mannered middle-aged dogs who are house and crate trained.

We are more than happy to pay an extra pet deposit, as well as landlord and character references for ourselves and our pets. We hope to find a long term housing option anywhere from Scotts Valley to Aptos.

Hoping to find the perfect home for move in by late July/Early August!



## ***BIG CONGRATULATIONS***

To

**Tenolian Bell, Emy Fehmi and Big Brother Emre on the addition of their new baby boy Zeyah!!**

## ***BIG THANK YOU***

To

**Rob Mullen & Aili Langseth (parents to Ernie) for generously donating a NEW weed whacker to assist in keeping SCPENS beautiful!**