



## SCPENS NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2014

### Upcoming Dates

**Monday, November 17**

See's Candies sale begins

**Thursday, November 20**

Read-a-thon ends

**Thursday November 20**

Parent Meeting: 6:45–8:45 p.m.

Snacks: Maggie's M/W/F Class

**Wed–Fri November 26, 27 & 28**

Thanksgiving Holidays: No School

**Monday, December 1**

December tuition due

**Wednesday, December 3**

Board Meeting: 7–9 p.m.

**Friday, December 5**

See's Candies orders due

**Saturday, December 6**

Santa Cruz Downtown Parade

**Thursday, December 18**

Parent Meeting: 6:45–8:45 p.m.

**Fri-Sun, December 19–January 4**

Winter Break: No School

Access the [SCPENS 2014-15 Calendar](#)

### How's your support job going?

A big thanks to everyone who has been participating and fulfilling their support job role! These jobs are critical to keeping the school running safely and smoothly throughout the year.

If you need any assistance with your support job, or are unsure about what is required, please contact one of the support job coordinators for help, [Lindsay](#) or [Carly](#).

### Changing seasons and good reasons to read

With Fall in the air and darkness drawing in earlier and earlier, the focus of our family free time has made a gradual shift from outdoor to indoor activities. Blocks, puzzles and coloring abound, however, the one constant activity that keeps my children amused AND quiet is reading.

The feisty 2 and-a half year old is enthralled with the concepts of good and bad that come with Fairy Tales and is amused with the offerings of anything Dr. Seuss related. The analytical, almost 5 year-old is grounded in fact, with dinosaur and wildlife books the current subjects of choice.

Do I read? Yes, lots to the kids. For myself, not as much as I want to, but I fit in bits and pieces here and there. My latest read was "Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers" by Mary Roach. A compelling, witty read on a subject matter few of us consider. I also have a soft spot for the blog "[Illustrated with Crappy Pictures](#)" no sanctimonious parenting advice, just musings and illustrations about the things that happen to parents.

Here's some of the books treasured in our family by the reader and listener alike:

**All the World** by Liz Garton Scanlon

**Locomotive** by Brian Floca

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble** by William Steig

**The Secret Box; Rainstorm** by Barbara Lehman

**No, David!** By David Shannon

**Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale** by Mo Willems

**We're Going on a Bear Hunt** by Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury

My favorite part of reading to my children (other than the quiet) is the snuggling, connected time we have together. Also I get to absorb the world through their eyes as they comment on the story and ask questions. It's amazing to see how immersed in the story they become and the magical world that opens through the power of books!

Sarah Moody  
SCPENS Co-President



*Children are made readers on the laps of their parents –Emilie Buchwald*

# SCPENS Newsletter: November 2014

## Fall Reading Festival— Thanks for making it a success!

THANK YOU to all of our families that donated time, rummage items, food & over-all support to our Fall Reading Festival. We hope all of you who attended had fun!

**The great news—we raised \$1,200** for the school!

Special thanks for helping out go to:

- Elisa Digeon & Bau Southerland
- Julieanne Jones & Adam Borcharding
- Gareth Bowles & Cory Beardsley
- Carly & Tim Galarneau
- Jessica Gallione
- Carly Perlman
- Mary Lecklitner
- Janet Herman & Galt Barber
- Taryn Bentley
- Heather Griffith
- Shannon & James McDermott
- Sarah Moody
- Tenolian Bell
- Lindsay Clayman
- Amy Hsiung & Kevin Coldwater
- Drea Bibl-Lambros
- Lucinda Chrisman
- Shannon Blount
- Chelsea & Pierre Harper
- Rob Mullen
- Jennifer Torborg
- Joanie White

...AND our fearless Fundraising leaders, **Oriana Willingham** and **Erika Taylor**!

Big thank you also goes to **Santa Cruz Fire Department** & **June Bugs Gym** who provided great excitement and tumbling action on the day.

*Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving. – Henry Rosso*

## November Parent Meeting: *Supporting Early Literacy Development* presented by **Jeanne Carriere**

Come enjoy an interactive evening of sharing and discovering fun and meaningful ways to support your child's early literacy growth. Send your child to kindergarten feeling capable and competent, as well as loved and respected, as they journey down the road of literacy development.

Jeanne Carriere has been teaching at the Westside Parent Education Nursery School since 1994. Jeanne has also passionately worked as an Early Literacy Foundations Coach and Trainer for First 5 of Santa Cruz County, since 2006. In 2008, she received a Community Hero Award from the Santa Cruz County Assessment Project for her work with First 5 as a SEEDS quality coach. Jeanne proudly received the Community Hero Award again in 2010 for her dedicated work at the Westside Parent Education Nursery School.



**When:** Thursday, November 20 from 6:45-8:45 p.m.

**Where:** SCPENS Toddler Room

**Snack:** Maggie's M/W/F Class

The content of this meeting is adult-specific, so no children please (babies in arms are okay.)

## Community Outreach—helping those in need

As the holiday season approaches, the SCPENS community has a tradition of helping those who are struggling in our community. We do this in two ways:

### Second Harvest Food Barrel

Each classroom will host a food barrel for two weeks. Please make donations of non-perishable food items. Barrels will be in class around the end of November.



### Adopt a Family

Our school adopts a family in need. We provide the family with food gift certificates, clothing and a gift for each family member. Once we have our adopted family, we'll let you know the specifics of what they need. This will be in early December.



**Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate.**

—Unknown

# SCPENS Newsletter: November 2014

## Births and birthdays!

### Congratulations to our 3-year-olds!

Scarlett McBurnie	11/15/2011
Madison Garcia	11/18/2011
Daisy Bowles	12/6/2011
Stephan Fouksman	12/7/2011

### Birthday wishes to our 2-year-olds!

Evie Coldwater	11/4/2012
Clara Demongeot	11/25/2012



## Congratulations & welcome!

Uliana Popov & Eugene Fouksman have a new baby girl named Lucy, born October 10. Big brother Stephan is in the MWF preschool class. *Welcome to baby Lucy!*

Kerry Hunter & Ian McBurnie have a new baby boy named Winter, born October 18. Big sister is Scarlett, who is in the MWF preschool class. *Welcome to baby Winter!*

## Positive Discipline Community Resources—a resource for you!

Jane Weed-Pomerantz, our excellent October guest speaker, and PDCR president, spoke about:

- Children do better when they feel better
- Understand the belief behind the behavior
- Mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn

Visit the [PDCR website](#)—it's a great parenting resource!

## Did you notice...?

Did you see the beautifully-restored gas station at the playground?

Ernie's dad, Rob Mullen, went above-and-beyond to fix it up. Rob, a big thank you for all your efforts—it looks fantastic!



## Read-a-thon end date extended—Thursday, Nov. 20

Due to such a positive response to our read-a-thon and helpful member feedback, we are **EXTENDING** the deadline of our read-a-thon to **Thursday, November 20th**. Bring your sponsor tracking sheets and donations (cash or check made out to SCPENS) to the November parent meeting and receive your participation award for your child.

We truly hope **everyone participates in this event** and is having fun raising money to support your school and early childhood literacy.



## Order your SCPENS t-shirts

**ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 20TH AT PARENT MEETING!**



Get your SCPENS t-shirt just in time for the December 6th Downtown Holiday Parade! This year we are offering 5 fit-styles in 4 different colors. All t-shirts will have the SCPENS logo across the chest.

Cost is **\$13 per toddler/juvenile t-shirt** and **\$15 per adult/junior t-shirt**.

## See's Candies is coming!

See's Candies order forms are now in your parent pockets! Complete the form and return it to school by **December 5th** for Christmas delivery.



See's Candy is the perfect gift for anyone on your Christmas list. Having a holiday party...serve See's Candy. Going to a holiday party...take a box as a hostess gift. Have a lot of stockings to stuff...See's Candy is perfect!

# SCPENS Newsletter: November 2014

## March, skip and jump with us—Downtown Holiday Parade



group photograph! We TRULY hope EVERYONE can participate and walk. If there was ever a year to show our community who we are and why we are an important, vital preschool, this is the year!

Each year the three PENS schools band together and walk in the Santa Cruz Downtown Parade. This year our theme is "**Super Heroes of our Community.**" Dress up your child (or the whole family) as your favorite super hero or make up a hero of your own. We gather downtown (on Pacific Avenue near the Walgreens parking lot) beginning at 9:30 a.m. and start our parade walk at 10 a.m. The parade finishes at Jamba Juice, so we recommend parking your car at that end of Pacific Ave. At the conclusion of the parade, the three PENS schools gather on the Post Office steps for a

**When:** Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.

**What:** March, run, skip, hop and jump in the Downtown Parade with our sister schools—Westside PENS and Soquel PENS

**Theme:** Super Heroes of our Community

**Got questions:** Ask your class teacher

## How to Give Experiences (Not More Things!)

*Written by Ginger Carlson on Savvy; 12/17/2008*

Steam escapes from the open mouth of the engine's stack as we pull away from the station. Chugga-chugga-puff-puff is all we can hear as my son's nose is pressed against the glass with the force of gale wind. With every ounce of his being given to this moment, it seems nothing could pry him away. We smile and breathe in his joy, thankful for this atypical holiday gift and the other ones like it.

As parents, it's a given that we want our children to be happy and healthy. We also want to make sure our kids have a good example of the kind of people we hope they will become. The example we set by how we approach gift giving can set the groundwork for our children learning many things. "We are teaching children to value the concept of how much they can get from the outside. The idea is to teach them to feel, grow, and think from the inside out," says Dr. Sally Goldberg, early childhood educator and author of *Constructive Parenting*. "It is from this strength that they will become less dependent on gifts and presents from others. They will be better able to select and understand what would make meaningful gifts to others. They will focus more on giving and receiving the true gifts of respect, appreciation, time, and attention."

After a few holidays with a new baby and watching piles of toys enter our house, enough to fill a dozen childhoods, we suggested friends and family give experiences, not things. Once explained, it was a welcome suggestion, they say. And we weren't the only ones to benefit.

### Ideas for experience gifts

- Membership/day out to Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Art lessons
- Gymnastic classes
- Membership to Gilroy Gardens
- Swim lessons
- Membership/day out to the San Francisco or Oakland Zoos
- Train rides at Roaring Camp
- Go to a Children's museum: Bay Area Discovery Museum; Children's Discovery Museum; Tech Museum
- [Check out other ideas here](#)

[Click to read the rest of the article](#)

# SCPENS Newsletter: November 2014

## Community Calendar Dates

### Life on the Ranch Day at Wilder Ranch

November 23, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Santa's Reindeer Round-up

Nov. 28 – Dec. 21 Downtown Santa Cruz  
Help Santa find his reindeer!

### Tree Decorating Contest

Nov. 28 – Dec. 21 Downtown Santa Cruz

### The Train to Christmas Town

Nov. 28–Dec.28 from the Watsonville Depot

### Music Family Jam Night with Music

Together 239 High St. Santa Cruz

Nov. 28 & Dec. 26 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

### Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train

Nov. 28, 29 Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22,  
& 23. Departs from the Santa Cruz Beach  
Boardwalk.

### Holiday Tree Walk – at Roaring Camp

Nov. 28 – 30 Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14

### First Friday Frosty Fun Fest--Snowflake create

Dec 5; 5 – 8 p.m. Louden Nelson  
Community Center

### Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

December 6, from 2 – 7 p.m.

### Lighted Boat Parade

Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Harbor

### Downtown Holiday Parade

Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. on Pacific Ave.

### **SAVE THE DATE – SCPENS is in the parade!**

### Winterfest

Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. on Pacific Ave.

### Victorian Carriage Rides

Dec 13-14, Dec 20-21 Downtown Santa Cruz

### Santa at Marini's Candies

Weekends in December. Ho ho ho!

### Chanukah Train

Dec 18. Departs from Santa Cruz Boardwalk

### Free Family Movie Mary Poppins

Dec 20 & 21 – 10 a.m. at the Del Mar  
Theater. Admission is a food or cash  
donation to Second Harvest Food Bank.

## “Connection before Correction” by Dr. Jane Nelsen

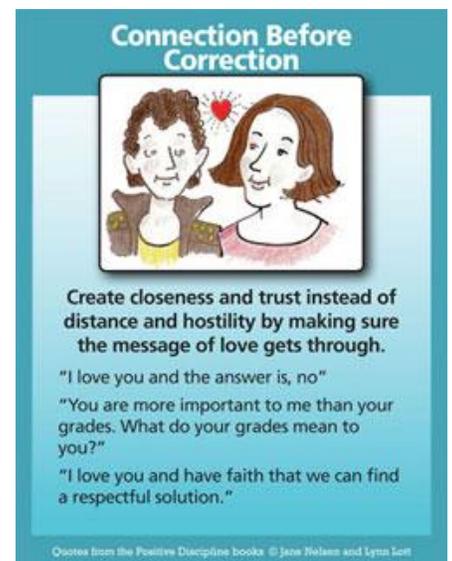
Taken from the [Positive Discipline website](#)

Research shows that we cannot influence children in a positive way until we create a connection with them. It is a brain (and heart) thing. Sometimes we have to stop dealing with the misbehavior and first heal the relationship. Connection creates a sense of safety and openness. Punishment, lecturing, nagging, scolding, blaming or shaming create a fight, flight, or freeze response.

An example of “connection before correction” is, “I love you; and the answer is no.” Ways to make a connection include:

- Spend special time with children. Your child knowing that you enjoy spending time with him/her creates a connection.
- Listen. Really listen. Stop doing whatever you are doing and give your child your full attention
- Validate your child’s feelings. Don’t we all feel connected when we feel understood?
- Share your feelings and thoughts when appropriate. Remember that children will listen to you AFTER they feel listened to. Children feel a connection when you respectfully share something about yourself. Respectfully, means no stories about walking miles in the snow.
- Focus on solutions WITH children after a cooling off period. There is that word "with" again—because it is a golden bridge to connection.
- Ask curiosity questions to help children explore the consequences of their choices instead of imposing consequences on them. Sincere questions open the heart and the rational brain—equaling connection.
- Hugs. There are times when all of us need nothing more than a hug.
- Once the connection is made, children are open to respectful correction.

It is important to understand that "Correction" in Positive Discipline is different from conventional correction. The biggest difference is that conventional correction usually involves punishment (punitive time-out, grounding, and taking away privileges etc.). In other words, conventional correction consists of adults doing something TO children. Positive Discipline correction respectfully involves children whenever possible, finding solutions WITH them. When children feel a connection, they feel belonging and significance. Often that is enough for misbehavior to stop.



# SCPENS Newsletter: November 2014

## Soquel PENS Storytelling, Quilt & Bake Sale

**When:** Saturday, Nov 22, 10 am – 1 pm

**Where:** Branciforte Small Schools auditorium at 840 N. Branciforte Avenue in Santa Cruz.

Each quilt, hand crafted from recycled material by Teacher Kim's Mom and her friends, is paired with a matching children's book and stuffed animal and sells for \$20. The child size themed quilt packages make great holiday gifts.

See the [flyer](#) for details!

## Halloween fun—preschool style!!



## Our Shopping links!

[Use our Amazon link](#) to earn money for SCPENS.

Check out the easy dinner options at [Fresh Prep Kitchens](#).

Children need new shoes? Shop online at [pediped](#) and they will donate 10% of your purchase back to the school. Use the school code at checkout: **SCHCYWH**

[Artkive](#) allows you to take, tag, share, and store your kids' art and school work AND have it easily turned into books or other products. Type in **SCPENS1** and anytime you make a purchase and [Artkive](#) will donate 10% of that back to SCPENS.

