

October Member Newsletter



Nothing Teaches Children More Than a Parent That is Willing to Learn

Thank you—yard day success!

Our first yard day, held 10/11, was a very productive and successful day! Lots of dads and moms showed up and jumped enthusiastically right in and worked their magic with cleaning, weeding, sweeping, fluffing, fixing, painting, refinishing, organizing and more! There was just the right number of people for the number of jobs to be done. **Thanks to all who contributed!**

If you missed the fun this time, mark your calendar...**yard day #2 is Jan. 31st.**

Upcoming Dates

Thursday October 23

October Parent Meeting: 6:45–8:45 p.m.
Snack: Wendy's M/W Toddler Class

Monday October 27

Read-a-thon begins

Monday November 3

November tuition due

Wednesday November 5

Board Meeting: 7–9 p.m.

Saturday November 8

Fall Festival & Read-a-Thon Story Time

Tuesday November 11

Veteran's Day: No School

Friday November 14

Yankee Candle orders due

Monday November 17

See's Candy Sale begins

Thursday November 20

Parent Meeting: 6:45–8:45 p.m.

Maggie's MWF Class brings snacks

Wed–Fri November 26, 27 & 28

Thanksgiving Holidays: No School

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

Welcome to the SCPENS Community

Though last week it was 85 degrees, today it is an Autumn-like 68, and all of our children are back in school (or in school for the first time.) It feels just right to be walking down the corridor holding my child's hand, headed for a classroom filled with friends.

At this very special preschool, the kids are not the only ones who learn new things. Each of us will come away from the year with new skills, new friendships, and a renewed commitment to raise our children with:

- humor and a sense of play,
- positive discipline and a deep well of patience,
- the confidence that comes from experience,
- and the stress relief and laughter that comes from community commiseration.

Parents often look at their child's "school years" as a chance to separate and create distance, yet SCPENS has taught me differently. The enjoyment, enrichment and involvement you have with your children's education make all the difference! As I begin my 4th year with SCPENS (with my second child), I am eternally grateful for not only making the decision to take this path for preschool, but to also stick with it. The early foundation in learning alongside my children has successfully prepared me for the insane transition into Kindergarten. My son, who attended SCPENS for two years, has checked in to Kinder as a reader, a diplomat, a friend and a leader. And we have our SCPENS "toolbox" to thank for that!

Over the next few months, explore, grow, share and commiserate with your new community. Take every opportunity to challenge yourself and your child. And always remember to ask questions, laugh often and enjoy the ride!

Shannon Blount
SCPENS Co-President



SCPENS October Member Newsletter

Woodstock's Fundraiser Success!

Thanks for everyone who joined us for pizza and fun on 9/25—we raised \$270!

Positive Discipline... What exactly is it?

Referenced from positivediscipline.com

Positive Discipline is aimed at developing mutually respectful relationships based on kindness and firmness at the same time; it is neither punitive nor permissive. It teaches important social and life skills in a manner that is deeply respectful and encouraging for both children and adults.

Recent research tells us that children are “hardwired” from birth to connect with others. Children who feel a sense of connection to their community, family, and school are less likely to misbehave. To be successful, contributing members of their community, children must learn necessary social and life skills. Positive Discipline is based on the understanding that discipline must be taught and that discipline teaches. Click [here](#) for more information.

Watch the [video](#) with parenting expert Dr. Jane Nelson as she explains the Five Criteria for Positive Discipline.



Reading to your child at a young age is beneficial. [Watch this video](#) and attend an after-class parent seminar in Oct/Nov to learn more!

October Parent Meeting: *Introduction to Positive Discipline* presented by Jane Weed Pomerantz

Come and hear about Positive Discipline!

- Want to feel more joy in the task of parenting?
- Ever feel like there's no end to the 'gimmies'?
- Is there a way out of feeling like you have to do it all?

We want to cultivate a sense of belonging and significance in our children. This empowers them to contribute in meaningful ways and find solutions to common problems. This evening will be a general overview of the theory and approach of Positive Discipline. Come, have fun, and learn new skills! A selection of Positive Discipline resources will be available for purchase. Bring cash/your check book if you choose to make a purchase.



Jane Weed Pomerantz has been teaching Positive Discipline since the mid-1990s, is a Lead Trainer and the current President of the [Positive Discipline Community Resources](#) (PDCR) Board. PDCR is a social change nonprofit transforming

lives through respectful relationships. Jane's children are now 32, 29, 25 and 22.

When: Thursday, October 23 from 6:45-8:45 p.m.

Where: SCPENS Toddler Room

Snack: Wendy's M/W Toddler Class

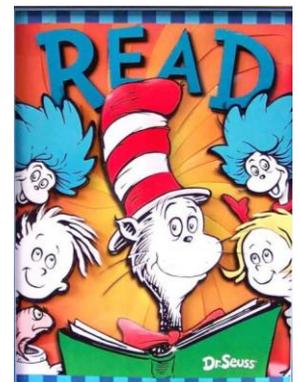
The content of this meeting is adult-specific, so no children please (babies in arms are okay.)

Get Ready. Get Set. Get Reading!

It's our annual Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

Our Read-a-Thon runs **Oct. 27th – Nov. 7th**.

Forms will be in your parent pockets starting 10/20 and more information will be provided during the October Parent Meeting. This fun event is traditionally one of our BIGGEST fundraisers (and an all-around enjoyable activity with children.) Let's put a big dent in our fundraising goal of \$17,000!



SCPENS October Member Newsletter



Births and birthdays!

Congratulations to our 4-year-olds!

Mason Galarneau 9/4/10

Ryder Galarneau 9/4/10

Happy returns to our 3-year-olds!

Ryan Fakhraei 10/17/11

Darla Stettmeier 10/26/11

Birthday wishes to our 2-year-olds!

Wesley Clayman 9/4/12

Zac Messer 9/16/12

Amara Ansgarius 10/8/12

Anderson Willingham 10/15/12

Ernest Langseth-Mullen 10/18/12

Kian Orthner 10/25/12



Congratulations to the McDermott family!

Shannon gave birth to baby Fiona on September 7th. Big brother and sister Vincent and Matilda are in the Tue/Thu preschool class. Fiona is settling in beautifully as the newest addition to the classroom.

SAVE-THE-DATE for our Fall Reading Festival:

Saturday, November 8th from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

This year, we will celebrate the completion of the Read-a-Thon at our **Fall Reading Festival!** Come join *The Cat in the Hat* in the SCPENS courtyard for a morning of carnival games and prizes, live entertainment (music, storytelling, performances,) food for purchase and a boutique rummage sale of children's items and books.

How can YOU help with the Fall Festival?

- Do you have a business you would like to promote? You can have a booth OR can sponsor the event with a donation! We will have signage identifying sponsors.
- Volunteer to work the event. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the classrooms later this month.
- Are you a creative storyteller? We need lively readers to entertain our littlest guests during 3 story time shifts.
- Bring in your gently used, non-stained children's items for our rummage sale! We are looking for clothing (pre-sorted and labelled by size), shoes, toys, furniture, and kids' gear. And of course, BOOKS for all ages! Start bringing in your items now.
- We also need a face painter and a photographer. And we need pop up tents for the booths!

Please contact [Oriana](#) and [Erika](#) with details of you can help out!

Community News

- [Capitola Children's Halloween Parade](#)
October TBA. Line-up at 1:30 p.m. in the Pacific Cove Parking Lot, parade begins at 2 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, entertainment, goody bags, balloons, and trick-or-treating.
- [Wilder Ranch State Park - Heritage Harvest Festival](#)
Saturday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the acquisition of Wilder Ranch State Park with apple tasting, live music, square dancing, draft horse rides, costumes for dress-up, and – just for kids – pumpkin painting, crafts and old-fashioned games.
- [Santa Cruz Museum of Discovery \(MOD\)](#)
The mission of the Santa Cruz Children's MOD is to delight, inspire and challenge by providing an exciting and interactive learning environment in which children and their adults can explore the wonders of Santa Cruz County. **Opening Saturday, Nov. 1st**, located inside Capitola Mall.
- [Seymour Marine Discovery Center](#)
Free Admission Friday, Nov. 7th from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Halloween Can Be Scary for Kids

Excerpts from "Becoming the Parent You Want to Be" by Laura Davis and Janis Keyser

When Halloween approaches, many of the places we go are filled with scary masks and costumes, pictures of ghosts and other ghouls. As adults we may be amused or even excited by this. But for young children, especially toddlers, Halloween can be an altogether different and very frightening experience.

Toddlers know enough to know that weird faces and costumes at Halloween are unusual and, therefore, scary. Even a benign "giant bunny" has been known to scare toddlers, because they have enough experience to know that bunny creatures don't come in that size so something must be wrong (especially if the bunny tries to talk.)



What can parents do to minimize children's fears around Halloween?

- Take your clues from your child. No two kids are at the exact same stage of development. What may scare one won't necessarily scare another. If you can stay flexible in your expectations, it will help keep things relaxed.
- Get into pumpkins. Going to the pumpkin patch and finding one just the right size to carry home is a wonderful achievement for a toddler. Since toddlers and preschoolers cannot use sharp knives safely, carving is basically an adult-centered activity. Some children enjoy drawing on their pumpkin and having you cut out the design.
- Forgo elaborate costumes. Some children love fantasy clothes and enjoy putting on funny hats, bunny or kitty ears, purses, neckpieces, shirts, vests. Problems may arise when parents spend many hours or dollars creating a costume that their child doesn't want to wear. Remember to separate what is important to you and what is important to your child. Know that your child may change her mind at any time.
- Toddlers are less likely to be scared if costumes don't cover faces. Preschool children may enjoy experimenting with face paint or with paper-plate masks that they can decorate and hold up to their face.
- Hold off on trick-or-treating or do so in a very controlled environment. Going to unknown houses at night, passing unexpected scary creatures, and then getting more candy than you're allowed to eat may be overwhelming.
- Offer support to your child. Have someone who doesn't have to answer the door available to be with your child, so she can keep as much distance as she wants between herself and the goblins.
- Continue to assess children's needs as they get older. Many preschool children continue to be scared by ghouls and goblins and surprises in the night. Using simple costumes, visiting familiar homes, and sticking to before dark activities can benefit many three-, four-, and five-year olds. Other preschoolers are thrilled to be out after dark and may even enjoy being "scared" in manageable doses. Know your child can help you assess what's appropriate.

And in brief...



Connect with [SCPENS on Facebook](#). Like and share us with your friends and family.



Active on Twitter? Then follow [SCPENS on Twitter](#) too!

Support Jobs

All families have been assigned a support job and received a job description. Lindsay and Carly will touch base with everyone over the next month to see how their jobs are going and offer support.

Membership

We are always looking to boost our wait list. Please spread the word to your friends about our program.

Amazon shopping?

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

Keep selling Yankee Candles!

Orders need to be turned in by 11/14.

Remember easy dinner options with [Fresh Prep Kitchens](#). Give it a try and let us know what you think!