



The Keystone Voice

July/August 2010 — Volume Number 4, Issue Number 4

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hello Keystone Families!

Horse Camp

We've just finished Horse Camp with the Snowy Egrets class this week.

We had about 24 Keystone "fillies" and Keystone "colts" learning many aspects of working with horses: 1) grooming-brushing – the horse's body, mane, and tail- all of the children were invited to brush the horse 2) tacking-learning the names of the halter, blanket, corona, saddle, crupper, stirrups, etc. 3) riding- Windy sat on the horse with the children. All of the Snowy Egrets were invited to ride (a few declined). Even some of the toddlers volunteered to ride with Dawn!

Unfortunately the Blue Herons never got a turn because the horse got sick

and had to be returned to the ranch. All of the horses at our ranch (Rancho del Paraiso) are Peruvian Pasos known for their smooth gait. The horse that we brought to School is named "Candela"-a 20 year old mare. It is so amazing that these tiny children are willing to get on top of this huge full-size horse. It just goes to show that if you start exposing them early to animals they will lose their fear of them. The children were all so gentle and respectful to the horse- they were very quiet while waiting for their turns and most wanted to touch, pet and brush her. Thanks to cowboy, Farrokh Shehabi for driving Candela back and forth from Vacaville and directing all of the horse activities!

Reviews for Keystone

Summer is always a time to sit back a little and reflect about the wonderful staff we have here at Keystone and such a supportive group of families. Thanks to all of you who have written reviews for the school for various websites such as Yelp, Berkeley Parent Network and Google. Every little bit helps during these hard economic times.

Summer Pool Party

We hope to see everyone at the 3rd Annual Summer Pool Party on Sunday, August 22. See the Parents Corner for more details. Thanks to Kelly and Michael Scribner (Avery's parents) for organizing the Pool Party!

Let's hope for warm summer weather. -Linda



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CALENDAR FOR JULY/AUGUST 2010

July 6: Summer School Begins

July 13: Swim Lessons Start

July 19: Library Field Trips Start

July 28: Steam Trains 3:30-5:00

August 16: Last Day of Library Field Trips

August 19: Last Day of Swim Lessons

August 22: 3rd Annual Summer Pool Party, 12:00-1:30 El Cerrito Community Swim Center

August 23-27: School Closed End of Summer Break

August 30: Teacher Workday-School Closed

August 31: School Begins

September 6: Labor Day-School Closed

PARENTS' CORNER

Celebrate Summer with Fun in the Sun!

There is no better way to enjoy summer than to play in the water and lounge in the sun.

I would like to invite you to an end of the summer celebration. Along with the opportunity to make friends in and out of school, Keystone offers some very unique opportunities for our children during the summer. Many of the kids are walking to the library each week. Many are also taking swim lessons at the El Cerrito Swim Center. They walk with parents and teach-

ers in tow, brave the El Cerrito fog and have a blast in the water. What better way to celebrate summer than to have a pool party!

All Keystone families are invited to the 3rd Annual Keystone Summer Pool Party.

WHEN: Sunday, August 22, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

WHERE: El Cerrito Swim Center
7007 Moeser Lane El Cerrito, Ca

WHAT: BBQ, open swimming, general fun in the sun

Keystone will provide burgers, hot dogs, all the fixings and drinks while families are requested to

bring their favorite picnic side dish or dessert to share. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets at the end of July or early August.

Everybody had a blast last summer at this official Keystone tradition.

See you at the pool! -Kelly Scribner (Avery's mom)



LETTER FROM DAWN NASH HEAD TEACHER- SANDPIPERS

Please help me welcome our new families to Keystone: 1) Ezra joined us in June 2) Elai joined in July 3) Tom has joined us in July. 4) Ava joined in July and 5) Henry has also joined us in July. It's so much fun having new friends to play with. The hard part is saying goodbye to our old friends. The best part is that they are not far away. Jamie and Lane have moved to the Blue Herons class. It's a lot of fun watching them grow.

The month of July we have been studying the wild animals of Africa, so if you hear loud roars from the Sandpipers you will know why. August we will be studying caterpillars to butterflies. I hope everyone is having a great summer.

-Dawn

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to . . .

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Snowy Egrets: Calvin, Jeremy, Maeve, Maggie, Sabir

Blue Herons/Fledglings: Lucy

Sandpipers: Alice Z., Ava A.

Staff: Jacquie, Carmelita

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Snowy Egrets: -

Blue Herons/Fledglings: Carter, Ethan, Kaylie

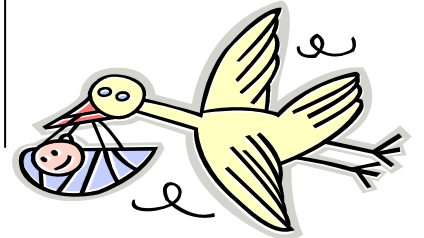
Sandpipers: Henry, Rocco

Staff: -

New Babies & Babies On The Way!

Lily Scarcella (Rocco's mom),
Due in August.

Kathy Rothberg (Joy's
mom), Due in November.



Words from Maria Montessori



"We are the sowers- our children are those who reap. We labor so that future generations will be better and nobler than we are."



LETTER FROM CARMELITA LLAMAS CULTURAL STUDIES COORDINATOR

Dear Parents,

I would like to congratulate the class of 2010. The graduation ceremony was a memorable event for all and the children did a splendid job! They were able to share with you a little piece of each of the continents through song, language, costume, and dance. The children learned that it truly is a small world. As we reflect on all the things they learned about the world it is important to keep in mind how children can absorb the concept that we come from different cultures. As we learn about each other it brings a better understanding to relate, appreciate and accept our differences and that no matter where we come from we are all people who love our families and friends. Thank you all for contributing the many presentations that enhanced the children's cultural experience in the classroom. It will make a lasting impression in their minds that they can cherish always.

As the summer months pass the children are enjoying the walks to the pool and story time at the library. In addition, they learned about "Candela" the

horse and had a wonderful time getting to know about horses. We are now moving on with learning about another source of transportation which is the train. Our study of trains consists of learning the variety of train types and how they are used. The children shared ideas of how they would like to travel to school as we introduced transportation and the transformation from nature to machines. Some said by butterfly, dragon, dinosaur, robot, and motorcycle. Max Chien said that he would travel by a watermelon car pulled by turtles because he could also travel in water and that he would not have to use gas or electricity! We built our own trains out of wood pieces and they are very impressive. The children brought in things to share, interesting books, films, different kinds of tracks for various trains and even Ashley's Hello Kitty engineer had her own train. David brought his Santa Fe electric locomotive train set while Madison shared her steam engine. Walker, Avery, Julia, Abigail, and Nora brought

in interesting books to read at story time. Please continue participating in having your child learn to share and take turns with the class materials. We have been working on the railroad and are getting ready for our trip to the steam engines at Tilden Park. Please come and join us on Wednesday afternoon on a beautiful ride through the redwoods. All aboard!

-Carmelita



Announcements

"Nap Zone" 11:45-3:00: There is a very large bright orange cone inside the front door during nap time to remind parents to close the door quietly so children do not wake up.

Evening Pickup: Please leave the building once you have collected your child so staff can go home. Conversations with other parents can continue outside.

"Snowy Egret Class Pickup Policy": If children are inside the classroom, please wait at the class door for a teacher to help collect your child. If children are outside, walk through the classroom to the yard.

THANK YOU!!!

Snowy Egrets-Laundry-the Marchetti's, the Hastings's, the Abee's

Flowers: the Smith's, the Lim's, the Chapman's, the Trader's, the Abee's, the Sikand's, the Pawlowski's, the Ta's, Chichilli's

Food Prep: the Crebbs' the Luo's, the Chien's, the Feinstein's, the Pena's, the Abee's, the Smith's, the Sikand's, the Hasley's, the Peterson's

Blue Herons & Fledglings-Laundry: Sun's, Chan's, Harrison-Stubbs

Flowers: the Park's, the Kim's, the Harrison-Stubbs', the Lebeck's, the Mires, the Urban's, the Schmitt's, the Vilorias, the Sun's, the Luckett's, the Hudako's

Food Prep: the Go's, the Harrison-Stubbs'. the Kim's, the Lebeck's,

the Sun's, the Rixfords, the Hudacko's, the Mire's, the Urban's, the Schmitt's, Shizaki's

Review's on Yelp, Berkeley Parent Network, Google: Thanks to Brent McCullough for alerting us to a hacking job on our website. Thanks to Jon Mires for helping to correct that problem.

Thank you Josh Hastings (Abigail's Dad) for the review in Yelp. And Thank you Evelyn Smith (Nora's mom) for the review on Berkeley Parent Network!

LETTER FROM JOE WEAVER- HEAD TEACHER- BLUE HERONS

Dear Keystone Families,

I hope all are having an eventful summer. School has been very busy. We are learning about mammals and enjoying the visits by the Shehabi's horse, Candela. Another activity has been caring for the garden with its fresh strawberries and squash. Soon we will begin ice cream making with the school ice cream maker.

There are several new students the Blue Herons would like to welcome this summer: Andrew, Kaylie, Lane, Jamie, Shaun, and Shriman who have transitioned from the Sandpiper class.

A few important reminders: please put your child's name on their belongings.

Sign up for class assistance. You can sign up for food prep, flowers or help with the class laundry or write an article in the Parent's Corner of the Newsletter.

Remember Keystone closes at 6:00PM and there is a penalty for being late. A good idea is to have a back up if you find you will be late. Some parents arrange to have another parent they know pick their children up when they know they will be late. If you would like to give permission for another parent to pick up your child, the "Child pick-up by alternate adult" forms are conveniently located on the top right corner of the parent mailboxes. Please turn in the forms to the tuition box.

-Joe



Communication

Keystone wants to promote and "open door" policy with families and keep open lines of communication. There are several ways we do this:

1. **Blue Books:** to write to teachers , pull out your blue child's blue book and write your note then place in the basket. We'll respond back and place the book in your mailbox. When the exchange is done please place the book back into the black box.

2. Office Hours for:

Linda, Director, 9:00-4:00 (M-Th)
Windy, Operations Manager, 3:30-4:30
Ginger, Secretary, 8:30-5:00
Jacquie, SE Head Teacher, 11:30-12:00
Joe, BH Head Teacher, 2:00-3:20
Dawn, SP Head Teacher, 1:00-2:00

3. Email Us:

info@keystonemontessori.org

KEYSTONE SNACK LIST

As of July 2010

FRUITS

GIOVANNI'S: All Organic: Apples, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Oranges & Pears

RANCHO DEL PARAISO: Organic Asian Pears (when in season) -August and September

COSTCO: Craisins

CRACKERS

TRADER JOE'S: Organic Multigrain Crackers, Savory Thin Rice Crackers

EC Natural Grocery: Cheddar Bunnies, Whole Wheat Bunnies, Organic Stone-ground Wheat Crackers, Buttery Bunny Crackers, Bunny Grahams Honey

COOKIES

TRADER JOE'S: Organic Cracker Assortment

DRINKS

GIOVANNI'S: Organic 2% Milk, Organic Apple Juice

VEGIES

KEYSTONE GARDEN: arugula, broccoli, snow peas, endive, tomatoes, squash, lettuce

FOOD PREP ACTIVITIES

Cheese cubes, cream cheese spread on crackers, apple slices, oranges slices, mandarine orange slices, and fresh squeezed orange juice, banana slices, cucumbers boats with cream cheese

RECENT FOOD PROJECTS

For Camp Keystone's

Food Camp:

Mango Honey Lassi

Cool Cucumber Soup

Egg Salad Carrot Muffins

Fluffy pancakes

Chow Mein

Hello's & Goodbye's

Hello to:

Juliana Ruiz, Fledglings, parents: Maria & Jay

Ajith Araiza-Singh, Blue Herons, parents: Olivia & Raju

Ezra Helman, Sandpipers, parents: Rachel & Noah

Elai Klepach, Sandpipers, parents: Noga & Doron

Ava Alcivar, Sandpipers, parent:

Erika & Nick

Tom Nguyen, Sandpipers, parents: Thuy & Hung

Henry Duewer, Sandpipers, parents: Misun & Fred

Student Volunteers for the summer:

Naomi Wang-Naomi was enrolled at Keystone when she was 5!

Giulia Pessano

Amy Hintz

Goodbye to:

Lena Marchetti who graduated from the Snowy Egrets class in June and will be starting Cornell Elementary.

Ben Ruiz who graduated from the Snowy Egrets class in June and will be starting Faimont Elementary.

Maggie Pawlowski who graduated from the Snowy Egrets class in June and will be starting Walden School.

Sabir Sikand who graduated from the Snowy Egrets class and will be starting School of Madeleine.

Tanvi Chichili who graduated from the Snowy Egrets class and will be starting Quarry Lane School.

Olivia Dimidjan- who will be moving to a school in the Pleasant Hill area.

Louis and Lyla Finnochio- moved to Moraga

Monthly Themes & Cultural/ Science Units

SANDPIPERS:

JULY- AFRICAN ANIMALS

AUGUST- CATERPILLARS TO

BUTTERFLIES

BLUE HERONS:

JULY- MAMMALS

AUGUST- PLANET EARTH

SNOWY EGRETS:

JULY- HORSE CAMP,

TRAIN CAMP

AUGUST- SOCCER CAMP,

FOOD CAMP