



# The Keystone Voice

May/June 2011 — Volume Number 5, Issue Number 3

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Happy Spring to everyone! It is finally starting to warm up after all that rain!

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos originally set up for April 28 had to be re-scheduled due to Teacher Edna Herrin's family emergency in the Philippines. Photos have now been scheduled for Thursday, May 12— we hope that is also a good date for all of you.

### SECOND ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

Our 2nd Annual Spring Picnic will take place Sunday, May 22, 2011 at Arlington Park

**11:00-2:30.** The picnic is organized by Margo and Joe Parisi (Luca's parents). Please sign up on the sign-in clipboards for your child's class to let us know if you're coming, and what you would like to bring. You can also R.S.V.P. by email:

[margoparisi@yahoo.com](mailto:margoparisi@yahoo.com)

The Spring Picnic is a great way to get to know other parents and network play groups for

your children.

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, May 16. Please be sure to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher on the same clipboard where you sign-in every day. We are looking forward to getting a chance to talk with each and everyone of you.

### KEYSTONE'S ORGANIC GARDEN

The Snowy Egrets have just finished harvesting an enormous crop of radishes and have been enjoying the fruit of their harvest with organic salads. The children are now planting tomatoes, beans, and strawberries, etc.

### SPRING CLEANING MAINTAINANCE

Now that the rains have stopped the yard is getting the necessary maintenance: new redwood woodchips for ground cover, a new low fence

in the bench area so the children won't trip over the bench, new awnings for the structure, new support braces for the fence in the toddler yard, new ball bearings on the gates and many painting touch ups. Now our yard is beautiful again!

### GRADUATION CEREMONY

All of the Snowy Egrets (whether they are leaving or returning to Keystone) will participate in the Graduation Ceremony on **Friday, June 24, 10:00.** This is a **mini-mum day for the entire school – 7:30AM-12:00PM.**

Graduation practice has begun. Every Monday, Music teacher Jonathan Green is helping us with the Orff instruments and every Wednesday with the songs. Teacher Jacqueline Jones is also working with the children on the songs every day. This year the class will be performing an operetta, "The Snowy Egrets Take Flight" using a full orchestra with Orff xylophones, metallaphones, glockenspiels, djembe drums, and



## Keystone Montessori School

6639 Blake Street  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Office: 510-236-7479

Classroom: 510-236-8247

Email:

[info@keystonemontessori.org](mailto:info@keystonemontessori.org)

Website:

[www.keystonemontessori.org](http://www.keystonemontessori.org)

rhythm instruments. You do not want to miss this if you are a Snowy Egret Family. We are hoping to get a professional photographer to make a DVD of the program.

Hope to see you at the Spring Picnic. -Linda

## ~Words From Maria Montessori~



Keystone's Organic Garden (SE class)

"Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education."



Carter Kim (SE class) with mom Marlowe Kim's garden presentation on planting seeds for the Spring Season.

## PARENTS' CORNER—by Margo Parisi

### Annual spring picnic:

Please join the Keystone community for the 2nd ANNUAL KEYSTONE SPRING PICNIC on Sunday, May 22nd from 11-2:30 at **Arlington Park (1120 Arlington Blvd.) in El Cerrito**. The picnic is the perfect opportunity for the adults among us to hang out with Keystone friends and to get to know each other beyond the hectic morning drop-off and evening pick-up times. It is also a great opportunity for that weekend playdate that you

just haven't had time to organize :). Keystone will provide the burgers, hot dogs, and drinks, and we will be seeking folks to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We have several picnic tables reserved (next to the lawn and swings in the back of the park), and feel free to bring a blanket to enjoy the lawn. Hopefully the weather will cooperate!

Be on the look out in the next week or so for sign up sheets so we can determine how many people are

coming, what delectable dishes you plan to bring, and if you would like to volunteer (for set-up, manning the grill, or facilitating a fun activity such as soccer, wiffle ball, or a tag game). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via our Keystone mailbox, email ([margoparisi@yahoo.com](mailto:margoparisi@yahoo.com)), or phone (234.7464). Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you all on the 22nd!

-Margo Parisi (Luca's mom)

### LETTER FROM DAWN NASH HEAD TEACHER— SANDPIPERS

I hope everyone had a nice break. It was fun to see each other again. There were lots of stories to tell, adventures had by all. The classroom is bustling as usual. We will be studying Ocean life this month of May, lots of art projects, puzzles, matching work, etc. -Dawn



### Happy Birthday

#### MAY BIRTHDAYS-

Snowy Egrets: Alma, Gunnar, William W.,  
Blue Herons/Fledglings: Lucia,  
Mikayla R.F., Jonas,  
Sandpipers: N/A  
Staff: Ginger, Rosi



Gunnar's Birthday in the Snowy Egrets class with dad Bill Chapman and brother.

#### JUNE BIRTHDAYS-

Snowy Egrets: Will H.  
Blue Herons/Fledglings: Luca,  
Juliana  
Sandpipers: N/A  
Staff: Juana, Eugenia, Ana

## CALENDAR FOR MAY/JUNE 2011

**May 12-** Picture Day 9:00AM

**May 16-** Parent Teacher Conferences-  
School Closed

**May 19-** Berkeley Ballet 10:00AM (for  
previously R.S.V.P. tickets only.)

**May 22-** Spring Picnic 11:00AM-2:30PM

**May 30-** Memorial Day - School Closed

**June 9-** Zoo Mobile from Oakland Zoo  
(SE class 10-10:30, BH class 10:40-11:10)

**June 24-** Graduation Day 10:00AM  
Minimum Day 7:30-12:00

**June 27-July 1-** Summer Break-  
School Closed

**July 4-** Holiday- School Closed

**July 5-** Teacher Workday-School Closed

**July 6-** School Reopens/Summer Pro-  
gram begins



## LETTER FROM JACQUIE JONES– HEAD TEACHER– SNOWY EGRETS

It was fun to welcome the children back after our spring recess and notice that most of them looked taller, older, and more confident! They were eager to share their stories, give me a hug, and be back to work.

Before our break, we finished studying the continent of Europe. A highlight was a presentation by Miguel's mother, Mar Kuykendall, who shared photos, stories, and objects from her native Spain and then did a traditional dance for us. We'll miss Miguel and his family who since then have moved to Spain.

Our final two continents are South America (in May) and Australia

(in June). Your child is welcome to share any materials, regional dress, story-books, music, or cultural artifacts from these continents that you might have. If you would like to give a presentation or share an activity related to these continents, please let me know.

We also got a great start on our organic garden, thanks to Marlowe Kim, Carter's mother. She worked with the children to prepare and plant the garden. Lately, we've been harvesting radishes and lettuce, washing our produce, and enjoying it for snack. Our carrots are still growing, and we'll be planting more vegetables soon.

Our May biology focus is on the

final class of vertebrates, mammals. In addition to learning specific horse nomenclature, an example of a mammal, the children are doing matching activities, making books, learning why bats are mammals, listening to books about mammals, and doing related art projects. In June, our mammal focus will be on humans.

Both language and math activities are popular. We've been delving into poetry since April was National Poetry Month. We also continue to use the beautifully designed Montessori materials as well as our own games and enjoyable activities to reinforce basic math and language concepts.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### Congratulations!

To Kathleen Rai (Mikayla's mom) and her new daughter, Milana, born April 4, 2011.



### Thank You

#### **Snowy Egrets-**

Laundry: Trader's, Lockett's

Flowers: Staib's, Piersol's, Urban's, Schmitt's, Trader's, Harrison-Stubbs', Sun's

Food Prep: Staib's, Trader's, Sun's, Huddacko's, Urban's, Harrison-Stubbs', Luo's,

#### **Blue Herons/Fledglings-**

Laundry: Parisi's, Vilorio's

Flowers: Scarcella's, Aujla's, Park's

Food Prep: Ruiz's, Parisi's, McCullough's, Peterson's, Zeitler's

Parents' Corner: Leslay Choy



Gracias-Thank you in Spanish

## LETTER FROM JOE WEAVER- HEAD TEACHER- BLUE HERONS

It's hard to believe that it is the beginning of May. It seems as if it was just January with fish on the class curriculum. Now it's early May and we have just finished our reptile unit. Everyone had fun counting turtles, making reptile letter pictures with initial phonetic letter sounds, doing reptile puzzles, matching reptile cards and making parts of the turtle books. One of the favorite activities has been coloring pictures of reptiles such as alligators, rattlesnakes and turtles and making labels to stick on them.

In May we started a dinosaur unit. This is always very popular for the children. The children will be learning about what dinosaurs were, what different sorts of dinosaurs we know about, how long ago they lived and what happened to them. Many children already know something about dinosaurs. This would be a good opportunity to bring something for sharing. Sharing days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays and should

be limited to things the children bring from home that have something to do with our class activities.

Please sign up for the parent teacher conferences so we can discuss your child's progress in the classroom. Sign in sheets will be posted where the sign in sheets are located in the front entrance of the school. If you can not make the conference date, ask about an alternate time. – Joe

## Communication

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

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.

Office Hours for:

Linda, Director, 9:00-4:00 (Mon-Thu)

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, 2:15-3:15

Dawn, SP Head Teacher, 1:00-2:00

Email the Office:

info@keystonemontessori.org

## Keystone Snack List

As of MAY

### Fruits

Giovanni's: Organic: Apples, pears, oranges, (cantaloupe, watermelon, strawberries when available)

Costco: Craisins

Rancho del Paraiso: Organic Asian pears  
Keystone's Apple Tree

Keystone's Organic Garden: peas, lettuces

### Crackers

Trader Joe's: Organic Assorted Multigrain crackers

EC Natural Grocery: Organic Annie's Bunny Crackers: cheddar, whole wheat, buttery, cinnamon graham and honey graham; Organic Wheat crackers

### Drinks

Giovanni's: Organic 2% milk

Trader Joe's: Organic filtered apple juice



Happy Persian New Year! Farrokh & Linda Shehabi giving out brand new money to the children for Persian New Year. Noruz Mo Barak!



The Snowy Egrets group picture after the Easter Egg hunt

## Hello's & Goodbye's

Hello to:

Sandpipers: Tara Terzic

Fledglings: Jonas Banlauro

Goodbyes to:

Sandpipers: Risa Llamas,

Jeremy Yu

Blue Herons: Alex Stein,

Ethan Yu

Snowy Egrets: Miguel Kuyek-endall who has moved away to Spain.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

As we prepare for parent conferences and graduation practice, I'm reminded of just how quickly this "school year" is drawing to a conclusion. I've truly felt privileged to have been a part of the children's growth and development, and I'm thankful for all that they have taught me. Thank you for your overwhelming support throughout the year. I look forward to meeting with you on parent conference day.

-Jacquie

## Monthly Cultural & Science Themes

### Sandpipers-

May: Ocean Life

June: African Animals

### Blue Herons & Fledglings-

May: Reptiles/Dinosaurs

June: Birds

### Snowy Egrets-

May: Mammals, Plants We Eat, South America, Cinco De Mayo

June: Humans, Food/Nutrition, Australia, Summer: Butterflies, Graduation

## KEYSTONE PHOTO GALLERY



Mar Kuykendall share a demonstration of a Castilian/Spanish dance



Mar Kuykendall and Miguel present the country of Spain, where they moved and will be missed



Mo Urban (Maeve's mom) from the Snowy Egrets class Introduces the Microscope



Vivarium owner, Owen Maercks introduces a boa constrictor snake to Ruby in the SE class



Radishes from Keystone's Organic Garden



Golestan Pre-school visit in Berkeley, California



Keystone Montessori Preschool children singing together with the Golestan Preschool children



Nori Grimes (Emerson's mom) presents Jewelry making on St. Patrick's Day



Maeve and Alma during Persian New Year

### CELEBRATING PERSIAN NEW YEAR



Jeremy T., Alma, Jalen, Maeve, Julia all dressed up in Persian New Year clothing



Jalen in traditional Persian clothing for children