

STEP AHEAD LEARNING CENTER

January 2015 Newsletter * 1338 Las Juntas Way, Walnut Creek CA Ph (925) 943-6199

Message from the Director

Happy New Year

Despite a winter of cold morning temperatures and much needed rain your children continued thrive. All who attended our Winterfest would, I'm sure, say how delighted they were with the budding singers and dancers that entertained you. I am never sure who had the better time you or your children but I know they were very excited to show you what they learned. The teachers are always the unsung heroes...they work very hard for weeks prior and receive their just rewards from the smiles on everyone's faces.

I know that there is a week in Spring set aside to acknowledge your child's teachers. I think about their contributions all year long and hope from time to time we can all remember to say a thank you to those teachers who care for your children all year long.

Having said that, I would like to take this time to celebrate the hard work each of the Step Ahead teachers do all year long. Not only do they pull together a couple of performances a year but they put together a curriculum that facilitates the development of your children. Children learn, between the ages of birth to 5 yrs. of age through play. So whether it is story time, or music time...block play or time spent in the art area your children

are receiving the very best preschool education available. When your children are playing the teachers are often observing them so they can give progress reports, answer questions and make suggestions. They are excellent planners, the best listeners and they love to laugh and play with your children.

I know too that the teachers felt especially good because of all the warm fuzzies they received this year during the holidays.

Once again we partnered with the Child Care Council to bring Christmas to families less fortunate than our families. Each year they share a list of names of the children that come into their system. Thank you for your generosity, it made a difference in the lives of many children.

The new year like a new broom sweeps clean. So many of us make resolutions and just as quickly break them. Perhaps we are not meant to keep them but rather think what we can do to make our lives better. So in keeping with resolve we have a few things to ask of you. Resolve to make sure your child's cubbies have season appropriate clothing and don't forget extra underwear and socks. Resolve to mark all your child's clothing and bedding, especially jackets. If you send something to eat in the mornings please send

nutritious food and
NOTHING WITH PEANUT BUTTER OR NUTS OF ANY KIND.

Pre K families, please check with your local school districts for information regarding the dates to register for Kindergarten. You will need an original birth certificate and three proofs of residency along with written immunizations. Remember too that even if you want to transfer your child to another school you must register them at their home school first.

A friendly reminder that Step Ahead serves nutritious meals; breakfast, lunch and two snacks. We follow the state regulations and post our menus. Oodles of Noodles are a favorite with your children and follow the licensing guidelines for being whole grain and/or enriched. They are enriched according to the packaging and acceptable by state policies. If at any time you prefer your child not to eat them you are welcome to send along a lunch with them that day.

Remember too that tuition is going up beginning with Jan 1 2015! Please make note of the new rates and watch for holiday closures from the new holiday list provided to you.

Last but certainly not least please have a safe holiday season with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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