

We will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>!



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Dear Families,

It's been a great start to the summer around here. As you may have noticed, Ms. Leah and some of our Mountain Lions have several gardens flourishing. Many of us have enjoyed the broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash and sunflowers that they recently harvested. We have had lots of gardens over the years, but none as amazing as what we have going now. Summer swim has also been terrific, as you may have heard me say before, the smiles we see in the pool rival the biggest smiles we see all year!

The first session of swim lessons ends Thursday. The next swim lesson session will begin Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you would like your child to be part of the second, and last, swim lesson session.

Attached to this newsletter is our new meal benefit form. We must ask you to fill out a new form every July. **Whether your child has been here 2 days or 4 years, all families must complete this new form and return it to the office.** While it looks similar to last year's form, it really is different and we do need you to complete it. This information is used by the Department of Education to reimburse us for some of our food costs. Your individual information is not reported to the State; we simply collect the info and report it in bulk. We don't, and are not required to, report any of your names or demographics. As a reminder, what you report on this form does not impact your tuition.

Is your child currently a Mountain Lion? Is your child entering Kindergarten? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions you also have a transportation form attached to this newsletter. Please let us know your plans for August. We do want to ensure we save a spot on our bus for current families so we will guarantee you space in our afterschool program until July 14<sup>th</sup>. After the 14<sup>th</sup> we will begin enrolling new families for the school year. We will transport children to/from Davidson, Cragin and Academy Adventures for sure. We may also transport children to/from Presidio if we have enough interest.

The last day of swimming will be August 2<sup>nd</sup> for our Mountain Lion class. The last swim day for all other classes will be Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

August 7<sup>th</sup> will be the first day of our new classes for all children who are not Mountain Lions. Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will plan on you being here for our next school year.

Thank you to those of you who walk your children all the way to your classroom. Aside from being a requirement, it is also nice for you to say hello to your child's teacher each morning. **Mountain Lion Parents – we're mainly talking to you!** Please walk your child all the way to the classroom. It is not ok to let them through the gate and send them on their way.

As you know, sometimes we get political when it comes to the best interest of children. While we don't want to preach, we do want to make sure you stay informed. We would like you to learn more about Arizona's elected officials that make children their priority. It is easy to talk about doing what is right for kids – it's apparently much harder to let a children's first mindset guide one's voting. When you have a moment, please explore the Children's Action Alliance website, [www.azchildren.org](http://www.azchildren.org) and consider letting the info presented guide your own vote in November.

Strong Start Tucson, the ballot initiative we have been collecting signatures for, will turn in over 23,000 signatures to the City Clerk on July 6<sup>th</sup>. SST will certainly meet the requirement of approximately 9400 valid signatures to get on the ballot. This means you will be able to vote to pass Strong Start Tucson which will pay for over 6000 children to attend high quality preschool in Tucson. The tax increase will cost you a penny on a \$2 ice cream cone – totally worth it!

One of the benefits of working in the office is our ability to listen to the conversations you have with your children on the way in and out. It is incredible to watch the way you interact with your kids. From parents of infants singing to their babies to school age parents discussing conflict resolution strategies – it's great to hear. If your children knew the value of these conversations we're sure they would thank you, but since they may not, we will. **Thank you!**

Reminder, there is no need to keep the attached forms in the backseat of your car – please fill them out and turn them in as soon as possible.

We will be open July 3<sup>rd</sup> but will close on July 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Independence Day. Enjoy your holiday.

Thank you for being a part of our school!

*Minnie, Blanca & Bill*