

March 2024



Curious Minds

PACCC's Monthly Newsletter

Welcome back to Curious Minds, PACCC's monthly newsletter where you'll discover curated news on early childhood development, education and care, events and fundraising, and personal stories about our unique community!



PACCC is a community where children thrive, educators are valued, and families are supported. Providing exceptional, accessible education and care for Palo Alto's children since 1974!

Palo Alto Rotary Club Awards PACCC Endowment Funds!

**Palo Alto
Rotary
Club**
Chartered 1922



PACCC was recently awarded a 10k grant from the Rotary Club of Palo Alto's Endowment Fund! **The Rotary Club of Palo Alto Endowment Fund** provides funding to nonprofits to help meet current and future community needs in the Palo Alto area. This crucial grant will help close the funding gap for California's Expanded Learning Opportunities

Program (E-LOP). This grant aids in PACCC's effort to eliminate barriers and provide accessible and affordable childcare and education for Palo Alto's families qualifying for ELO-P. Thank you, Rotary Club of Palo Alto!

Additionally, PACCC is honored to represent all Endowment Fund Awardees as this year's *Fund a Need* program at the Annual Rotary Club Fundraiser on March 23, at the Michell Park Community Center.

The Impact of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) in the Classroom

Recently, we asked our Center Leaders and Site Supervisors to share some highlights of how adopting the ELO-P has impacted the children:



"[The children are] working on skills they wouldn't otherwise be able to [focus] on, such as communicating with mixed ages, learning their personal boundaries as well as others, and working through conflict. We also have a lot of fun while we work on different skills. An example is, this month we are working on short stories...the kids and staff began writing their story and then we're passing it on to another child/teacher to continue the story or draw a picture...These are things that are unique to HKC because we like to make memories with the kids."

- Nathalie Moutal, Site Supervisor, Erik Garcia, Assistant Director



"ELO-P children are enjoying Kids' Club a lot and learning more social and academic skills. Children have made a lot of friends, discovered and learned new games and are getting a lot of homework help. Attendance has improved, and children are showing up happy and ready to enjoy their day at Kids' Club."

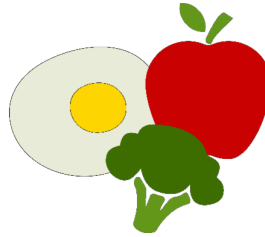
- Lenina Rubio, Site Supervisor, Walter Hays Kids' Club



"Highlights include providing daily consistency in the children's daily routines, homework assistance (one-on-one help), care for children when school is not in session, and social emotional development – building stronger relationships with peers and adults. We saw the impact that had on a child who was shy and quiet when they first started attending the program. Now she can have conversations with peers and teachers and [also] asks for help when needed with her homework during Power Hour."

- Christina Gitthens, Site Supervisor, El Carmelo Kids' Club (ECKC)

NATIONAL
Nutrition
MONTH



National Nutrition Month

It's National Nutrition Month, and as the [CDC states](#), "Good nutrition during the first 2 years of life is vital for healthy growth and development." At PACCC, great nutrition is a part of our everyday curriculum and follows CA Community Care Licensing's requirements for food service safety, quality, and quantity necessary to meet the needs of children. Each meal includes, at a minimum, the amount of food components for the age group served as specified by Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 226.20, [Requirements for Meals](#). If you, or someone you know is impacted by food insecurity, please reach out to [Second Harvest of Silicon Valley](#) for access to free and nutritious groceries.



Stay Tuned for this Compelling 50th Anniversary Story!

Stay tuned for our special 50th Anniversary Curious Minds edition in May 2024, where we talk with Monica Goodrich. Back in 1973, Monica's grandmother, Margret Ann Niven (Brostrom), was part of the Child Care Task Force who drafted a 100-page documented report, "A Plan for Child Care in Palo Alto" and presented it to the Palo Alto City Council. This task force and its mission became part of the advocacy blueprint for quality child education and care for all Palo Alto's families. In the report's very first page, the intention is clearly stated and still rings true today – some 50 years later!

"...Has as its foundation the premise that providing quality care for children is a much needed endeavor worthy of wide community support and implementation."



In the News! □ Save Crucial Funds for our Safety Net: Oppose the Governor's Proposal

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) reports in their latest newsletter, that Governor Gavin Newsom is proposing changes to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) that would take approximately \$32 million a year from the County of Santa Clara's budget. The proposed budget changes will likely result in Santa Clara County losing an important source of revenue used to fund many critical programs. This could significantly impact social services, childcare, healthcare, mental health, and other safety net programs desperately needed by our most economically disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities. For additional resources and more information on the nonprofit advocacy ecosystem and what actions you can take, check in with SVCN.



Women's History Month

March is **Women's History Month**, and we are reminded to celebrate the amazing women who make up our own history, starting at home with our families, to our workplace, out in our communities, and here at PACCC where together, we are making history every day! A big thank you to the women of PACCC and other early childhood development programs for their commitment to our youngest community members.

Interestingly, "Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California" by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women, [who] planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978." As stated by **The National Women's History Alliance**, this year's theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion."

PACCC in the Community

Catch up with PACCC CEO, Lee Pfab and our Center Leaders at these March events!

- PAACEE
- CA State Childcare Budget Hearing
- CA Early Childhood Policy Council Meeting
- Palo Alto Chamber Mixer & Business Networking Event
- Palo Alto Rotary Annual Fundraiser – PACCC is this year's *Fund a Need* recipient
- PAUSD Board Meeting



Don't Forget the Annual Infant-Toddler Family Survey!

A friendly reminder to our infant-toddler families: Please complete the Annual Infant-Toddler Family Survey in Learning Genie by 3/22/24!

**TAKE SURVEY
NOW!**



The Six Fifty Peninsula Photo Contest is Open!

Brought to you by Palo Alto Weekly and the Palo Alto Art Center, The Six Fifty Peninsula Photo Contest is now "open to all individuals who live, work or attend school in any city within the 6-5-0 area code." Early deadline is Sunday, April 14th.

ENTER NOW!



Palo Alto Community Child Care
Learning, Playing, Growing Together

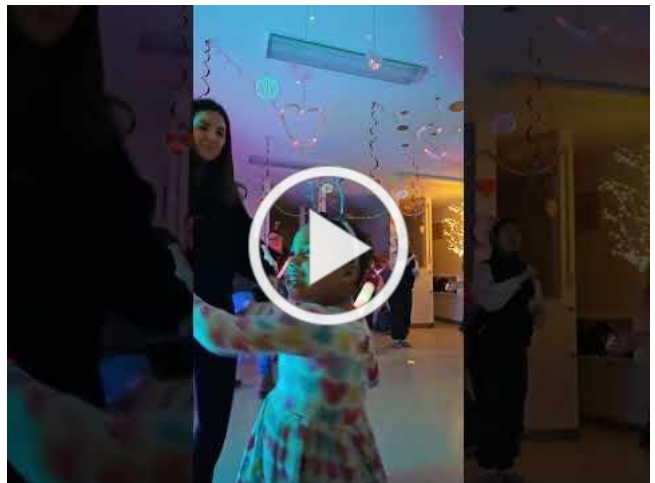
STAY CONNECTED!

Be with PACCC all day long.

JOIN THE FUN
#PACCCKIDS



Love Bug Dance



Follow us on YouTube!



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Stay tuned for next month's Curious Minds newsletter!

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