

January 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!

2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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!



New Year's Resolutions: From PACCC Kids!

Happy New Year! Resolutions are the brunt of many a joke as earnest people around the globe gather up their hopes, dreams, and goals, determined that this year will be different! And...as we know, sometimes those good intentions fall to pieces by noon on January 1. We thought it might be fun to ask PACCC students about their New Year's Resolutions!

Be on top of my class and make a secret language. - Judi, Age 8

Learn how to do a backbend and eat more veggies. - Alexa, Age 7

Do more sports because I don't do that many. - Adam, 10

I will read 100 books in the school year. - Azedah, 4th Grade

Listen to more Eminem and Tupac. - Archie, 3rd Grade

I will stand up for others. - Theo, 3rd Grade

Always remember to brush my hair. - Ada, Age 9

I want to do everything on my bucket list - Petra, Age 8

I want to read 40 books by the end of the school year. - Reagan, 4th Grade

To master fractions by the end of the year. - Aidan, Age 9

To waste less food. - Vera, 4th Grade

Get better with reading, writing, and math. - Victoria, Age 6

Stop fighting with my brother, drink more water, and improve on informational writing. - Rui An, Age 7

No soda, no red meat during the week. - Jack, age 11

Stop sharing food, get good grades, be kinder to my brother, be kinder to the dog, read more books, be kinder to daddy, be kinder to mommy, and find many crystals in Hawaii. - Isabella, Age 7

Staying happy all year around. - Ravichandra, Age 8

SPOTLIGHT: Nathalie Moutal on Adult Role Modeling

This month's Developmental Asset is Adult Role Models and we had the privilege of talking to Hoover Kids' Club Site Supervisor, Nathalie Moutal on the importance of Adult Role



Modeling and the crucial role we all play in the early education and care of children. PACCC is also aligning with **Project Cornerstone**, “a community initiative with the mission to create an environment where adults support and value all youth so they grow up feeling valued, respected, and known.”

“When you’re a parent or an educator in our PACCC community, like us, whose place it is to support children, it’s both a major responsibility and a privilege to realize that you are a role model for these beautiful aspiring young minds,” shares Moutal.

“One way I know for certain that our kids enjoy our presence and look up to us is when they imitate us. They walk around pretending to be us with their walkie talkies and especially when they start to use our ‘isms. It’s endearing and a little

reminder of how much they pay attention to what we do - even when we don’t realize it!

“It’s natural to have emotions flow through us and on display for others. Throughout the day we feel happiness, sadness, excitement, and an array of emotions. When you’re around children, it’s vital to be self-aware and reflective of your own emotions so that you avoid lashing out at anyone else’s expense. Kids are especially receptive to changes in our tone and attitude. This keeps us in check and ensures we approach situations with patience and tenacity.

“But we’re also all human and we all make mistakes. It’s important that we give ourselves grace and kindness and to be transparent about these mistakes with our kids. When we’re able to talk to them about our mistakes, it lets them know they aren’t alone and that no one is perfect. It gives them an opportunity to see that everyone makes mistakes and that making a mistake doesn’t have to be negative. We learn, we grow, and we make progress.”

Moutal says that at the end of the day, being a role model is an opportunity to offer up our very best at work, home, and in everyday life. Still, educating and caring for children and being mindful that they are always watching, listening and modeling us can be a tough job – but one she welcomes with open arms. “Even though I’m wiped out on a daily basis, I’m grateful that every day I get to go to work! I look forward to it because of our kids.”



2024 and There's So Much More!

So much more to do, that is! We're excited to see how fast our calendar is filling up at PACCC because it gives us an opportunity to meet, mingle, and advocate for Palo Alto's children and their families. Our days don't start and stop with the school day, because to serve a community, we must be out and about *in that community*. In alignment with our **Strategic Plan** objectives, PACCC is committed to *Supporting Families and Building Communities and Cultivating Valuable Partnerships*. Here's a glimpse of our upcoming calendar where our CEO, Lee Pfab and PACCC leaders will be in attendance, speaking, or facilitating – and as always, eager to meet you! Here's a sampling of our whereabouts over the next month:

YCS MLK Day Events, PAUSD Board Meetings, Kiwanis Grantee Dinner, Santa Clara County ECE Policy Forum, Stanford Children's Community Benefits Advisory Council, Santa Clara County ECE LPA Winter Retreat, Common Sense Summit on America's Kids and Families with Incoming Chair, PA Chamber Nonprofit and Volunteer Match.

Palo Alto Nonprofit and Volunteer Match Event

***"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve."* – Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Join us for this unique networking event designed to match volunteers with nonprofits! Nonprofits are looking for interested business leaders and volunteers as potential committee members or Board Members for their Nonprofit. **Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 **Location:** Avenidas, 450 Bryant St. Palo Alto,

CA 94303. Here's some of the nonprofits you can match with: Achieve Kids, Avenidas, Gamble Garden, Karat School Project, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC), Palo Alto Community Fund, Palo Alto Players, PAST Heritage. RSVP to Lee Pfab at lpfab@paccc.org We look forward to seeing you there!



Palo Alto Children's Theatre

There's nothing like children's theatre for a good-natured laugh and depending on your sentimentality level – a bit of a cry to see the little ones give it all they've got on the big stage. Now in their 90th season, the **Palo Alto Children's Theatre** is offering some great productions. Up next – Meerkats, on a 2-week run starting January 26 – February 11, 2024. If Children's Theatre makes your heart glad, sign up for PACCC's F.A.M.E. Camp, coming in Summer 2024!

Here's to a great start to the new year!

-Your Friends at PACCC



STAY CONNECTED!

Be with PACCC all day long.

JOIN THE FUN
#PACCCKIDS



Stay tuned for next month's Curious Minds newsletter!



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