



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!

Welcome 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 and tidbits about our unique community! Feedback, requests, and ideas are welcome!



The Magic of a Strategic Plan

The phrase 'strategic plan' seems like it belongs on a Formica desk, buried under paperwork and tattered to-do lists, but for us – it represents a reason to CELEBRATE! After nearly two years of meticulous planning, researching, writing, and refining – we are happy to announce that the PACCC Strategic Plan has been approved by the board! Why is this magical? Because the Strategic Plan is a blueprint for creating the future of PACCC and its ability to provide quality childcare programs that reflect the needs of parents and children in the community through 2030 and beyond. It is our deepest honor, our mission, and our purpose to serve Palo Alto's children and we couldn't be more enthusiastic about the future! A heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed their time, expertise, and passion to this crucial project.



PACCC Welcomes an Additional 70 Children from ELOP Waitlist!

PACCC actively works to eliminate barriers to access and advocate for affordable and accessible childcare options for all families. We are thrilled to announce that we accepted another 70 children into our Kids' Clubs from PAUSD's Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) waitlist! We are honored to expand our programs and continue to look for ways to expand our reach to Palo Alto's children.

As noted in PAUSD's recent newsletter, "PACCC continues to support local working families via government and private funding. As part of the Education Code, the legislature has focused on programs that supplement school-day learning. Such additions are intended to not only augment academic needs, but also support the emotional, physical, and social needs of children both before and after school and also during summer or intersession learning programs."

Equity is a core value that guides our work at PACCC. We seek to understand and celebrate the unique strengths and backgrounds of each child. We are dedicated to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and cultural responsiveness in our programs and policies.



Solving Problems is Supposed to be FUN!

As adults, we tend to see a problem, furrow our brow, 'hunker down' and get to work on a solution, as our minds sift through a bevy of obstacles including timelines, budget constraints, and what-ifs. But for children – problems can be an opportunity for FUN! So, when the [Solving Fun Learning Kits](#) arrived at PACCC, we didn't furrow our brow; we handed them over to the experts – our students! There were giggles and smiles all around and we are humbly reminded once again that children are the real teachers and custodians of our future! Thank you, Solving Fun. Do they make these kits for adults?!

PACCC has Partnered with Site for Sore Eyes!

We're thrilled to partner with PACCC parent, [Dr. Cindy Pouw at Site for Sore Eyes in Palo Alto](#)

Did you know that 80% of learning occurs through vision? 1 in 4 children have an undetectable vision problem that can affect school performance, confidence, and behavior. According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), children should have their first eye exam at 6 months of age. By this age, babies should be able to focus, see color, and have depth perception. Optometrists make sure their eyes are developing normally, checking for signs of near or farsightedness, lazy eye, crossed eyes, or severe cases such as cancer. Dr. Cindy stopped by the center last month to perform a quick and simple vision screening on the children. A copy of the results has been sent home with your child. If you'd like to opt out of this event in the future, please let us know. In addition, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our center as well. Thank you, Dr. Cindy!

Back to School for Parents!

PACCC hosted a Back-to-School Night Child Watch on **August 15th and 29th** – meaning, we kept an eye on the children so that parents and caretakers could relax and have an opportunity to talk with teachers about what their children will learn during the school year. Cheers to our staff members for making the night such a big success.



National Hispanic Heritage Month

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) celebrates “the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.”

PACCC is deeply committed to serving the needs of its community and joins the nation in recognizing and celebrating our Hispanic Heritage students, faculty, and board members, not just on **September 15th through October 15th**, but every day. Inclusivity has no stop and start times at PACCC! Stay tuned for more educational events and celebrations.



Share Your Passion for Helping Children Thrive!

With our Strategic Plan in place and our mission and vision operational throughout our 18 locations, there's never been a better time to get involved at PACCC! We invite you to share your passion for helping children thrive, where educators are valued, and families are supported – and become a PACCC Board or Committee Member!

The Board and committees provide critical input and valuable oversight at PACCC. As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Palo Alto with program delivery contracts with the City of Palo Alto and Palo Alto Unified School District, PACCC services 900 children at 18 locations throughout Palo Alto, with an annual budget of approximately \$12 million. Not to mention the new friends you'll make! We need you!

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



Join us at the Downtown Children's Center Open House!

On Saturday, September 30, DCC will host an open house from 10am – 12pm and yes, bring the children! This is a great opportunity to visit the PACCC community and get a firsthand look at the environment where your child will flourish, learn, and grow in preschool or childcare. Interested in enrollment? Tour the center, meet the staff and explore the activities and learning centers with your child. We're excited to welcome the entire family and we'll see you there!

We Want Your Feedback! No, really!

Nowadays, it seems like every service provider and retailer wants a survey before you can even open the package or use your new service! We're not going to bog you down with survey questions, and we're not going to ask you to rate this newsletter, but since it's designed with you in mind, we'd love to know what you'd like to see within its pages. It takes a village! Thanks in advance for your input.

Here's to the beauty of a curious mind and the future it promises.

Leadership Team

Executive Director
Lee Pfab

Chief Financial Officer
Dicie Hinaga

Director of Programs
Melissa Roth

Director of Administration
Kristina Tominaga

Human Resources Generalist
Erin Fox



STAY CONNECTED!

Be with PACCC all day
long.

JOIN THE FUN
#PACCCCKIDS



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