

# FOOTSTEPS@NESBIT PUMA CUBS

VOLUME 7

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013



## FEB. AND MARCH AT A GLANCE



### PICTURE DAY!

DATE: Friday, March 8, 2013



### FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

DATE: Friday, March 8, 2013

TIME: 6:15-9:00 PM

LOCATION: Footsteps@Nesbit - Please read article



### PRE-K FIELD TRIP

DATE: March 12, 2013

TIME: 9:30 -11:30 AM

WHERE: Central Park, San Mateo



### PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Date: Friday, March 15, 2013

TIME: 6:00 – 11:00 PM



### SITE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2013

TIME: 5:15-6:00 PM - RSVP to Rebecca



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

DATE: Friday, March 29, 2013



### APRIL PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 12

TIME: 6 – 11 PM



### SPRING FUNDRAISER

DATE: Friday, April 19, 2013

TIME: 6:00 – 9:00 PM - Please read article and invitation

## FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

WHAT: Family Bingo Night

WHERE: Footsteps@Nesbit

WHEN: Friday, March 8, 2013

TIME: 6:15-9:00 PM

Food for sale - baked potato bar, Mac & Cheese & fruit salad. Separate Bingo Games for children, adults, and fun prizes for all including gift cards and a cash prize at the end of the evening.



## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WHAT: "It's Magic"

Our Annual Spring Fundraiser!

Dinner, Auctions, & Children's Performances!

DATE: Friday, April 19, 2013

TIME: 6:00-9:00 PM

WHERE: Elks Club, San Mateo

DINNER: Ages 12 and Up: \$20.00

Ages 2-11: \$8.00

Family Value Pack: \$50.00

2 Adults and 2 Children (2-11)



**Last year our event sold out!** Please purchase your tickets early!

**AUCTIONS** – Large Silent Auction! Live Auction! Wonderful items available!

This event is our largest fundraiser of the year and the proceeds support our Specialist Programs - including Art, Language Enrichment, and PE, and our Fee Subsidy Program.

We still need donations of gift cards, services, gift baskets, vacation rentals, airline miles, etc. Please ask your employer, friends, and merchants you frequent for a donation. We also need volunteers before, during, and after the event, so please consider volunteering.

## STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce we have hired an Infant-Toddler Teacher, who will begin mid-March. Please welcome **Noehmy** to Puma Cubs! Noehmy comes with many years of Infant-Toddler experience.

## FEBRUARY FUN AND ACTIVITIES

**INFANTS AND TODDLERS:** In February, we worked on our gross and fine motor skills. We played with balls and practiced jumping (fun to watch, you should try this at home), we painted with our feet and a big favorite: A PUFF PARTY! The children explored coloring on paper taped to the floor, drawing with chalk, and painting at the easel. The children are enjoying outside when the weather



cooperates.

cooperates.

### **PRESCHOOL UPDATE:**

February was so much fun! We explored our Five Senses and did pretty cool science projects. The children loved watching the soda volcano erupt, they stepped in gooey gelatin with their bare feet and painted their waffles with colored milk. We taste tested sweet and sour foods, smelled different scents and felt different textures.

**PRE-K ACTIVITIES:** In February, we discussed our favorite healthy

foods, made a healthy food plate, and a food pyramid. The children learned about the different food groups and categorized a



variety of foods. We discussed safety, and held a fire and earthquake drill. The class made a list of healthy habits, which included bathing, eating right, exercising, washing hands, and brushing their teeth. They loved the field trip to Mountain Mike's Pizza, toured the kitchen, made their own personal pizza, and ate them in the party room. We experimented with an egg in vinegar and an egg in soda and then discovered what happened the next day to both eggs. We were very excited to see the outcome.



## MARCH ACTIVITIES

**INFANTS AND TODDLERS:** In March, we will talk about and explore farm animals! We will create our own farm scene complete with animals we make. Projects will include sheep,

pigs, and cows! We will walk and make noises like animals, so if you hear your child mooing or quacking, it is okay. Towards the end of the month, we will get up close and personal with some farm animals.

**PRESCHOOL:** This month we will study Animals. We will explore different animal habitats. We will make animal masks, ocean scenes made of Jell-O, have a few friendly pets come visit and enjoy every Friday as "Animal Paint Fridays". The Friday before St. Patrick's Day will be "Taste of Green" Friday and we hope parents can bring in healthy food items that are green. We are excited about March!

**PRE-K ROOM:** This month we welcome Spring. The field trip is to Central Park in San Mateo and the tentative date is March 12. We will tour the koi pond, the garden, and the playground. This month we will experiment with Indian corn and celery in water to see what happens. We will graph where each child believes a specific food grows from. We will discuss family activities that take place in the spring season, as well as the season's plant and animal life. We will spend time exploring flowers, plants, and seeds using math, sensory activities, art, and science.



## FUN MOMENTS AT PUMA CUBS

### Funny Quote in Preschool:

Andrew to 'Teacher Nette': "What you eating"?

Lynnette: "Blackberries and yogurt"

Andrew: "Can I see?" Lynnette shows him

Andrew: "Whoa that's a good idea"!

### A Sweet Moment With The Toddlers:

The other day **Johnnie** was playing in our playhouse outside and she decided she needed to run to the sandbox to play with **Logan**. About half way to the sand box, she stopped in her tracks, turned around and ran back to the playhouse to close the door. Once done, she

ran over to play with Logan. It was so cute!



## VIRTUAL PRE-K!

If you are in Pre K, then you have participated in the "VPK" program. What is VPK? Virtual Pre K is a home/school connection using activities from Puma Cubs to help you create interactive learning opportunities at home, and to return a final product to school, for the children to share and discuss. This program helps children experience the home – school connection, which is even more important in Kindergarten!

### News from Darlene about March VPK:

Another VPK take home activity, or as the children call it, homework, will be sent home in March. Since we have been talking about healthy habits, the activity is the "Healthy Habits Chart". The chart is marked daily for one week. You mark each day with a sticker or some type of marking (star, smiley face, etc.) indicating your child participated in that healthy habit. This activity assists in each child's development of healthy habits and self-esteem. We hope everyone participates in this at home activity and returns it so your child can share with the class!

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## RAISING A READER!

All classrooms offer the red book bags through Raising a Reader to take home weekly. In Pre K, there is a special "Blue Bag Ceremony" in April for graduating children. The Silicon Valley Raising provides a Reader Foundation, to promote literacy, as well as encourage children and families to visit libraries the Blue Bags. The date is to be determined. We will discuss the importance of literacy and promoting visiting your local library. Preschool teacher Shabriese, who also works at a library, will come into the Pre K classroom and do a story time and special activities with the children.

## PIZZA WEDNESDAYS!

Beginning March, Puma Cubs will participate with Nesbit to have Pizza lunches for sale on Wednesdays.



There will be a weekly signup sheet posted near the Sign In/Out Binders. For \$5, your child receives two slices (\$4 for one slice for younger children) of whole-wheat crust cheese pizza, a Gogurt, and fresh fruit and milk for lunch. Cash or checks returned to your head teacher by Wednesday morning.



# ENDLESS SUMMER

## SUMMER CAMP 2013

If your child enters Kindergarten this fall, you have the choice to keep your child at Puma Cubs for the summer or attend our summer camp. Please talk to your child's pre-kindergarten teachers to determine what works best for your child. Summer Camp is closed Thursday July 4, for Independence Day, Monday, September 2, for Labor Day and Monday and Tuesday, September 9 & 10 for staff development days. School is set to start Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Our camp brochures are on our website and available at your Footstep's Site. **Camp spaces are limited, and spaces fill quickly, so start your summer planning soon!**

## NUT FREE ZONE!

Just a friendly reminder - Puma Cubs is a nut-free school. This means we do not serve the children any foods containing nuts, peanuts, or nut products. It also means lunches and snacks from home may not contain

any peanut or nut products. We thank you for your cooperation with this policy; it benefits the health and safety of children in the program!



## FUNDRAISING

We fundraise to continue offering our wonderful Specialists and to help with tuition subsidies for families who cannot afford pay in full. In early February, the Rotary Club of Belmont gave Footsteps a generous donation of \$2,500. Thank you to the Rotarians for their continued support of our program and families!

## TAX STATEMENTS

We can email tuition statements, tax statements, and receipts. If you want to receive these via email, please email Nick, [office@footstepchildcare.org](mailto:office@footstepchildcare.org). You can also drop a note in the tuition box. Our Tax ID #: 94-32062

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