

Skye's Newsletter
May 2025

This year is coming to a close, and once again I am amazed by the growth I've seen in your children. Thank you for letting us be a part of their preschool and kindergarten years. It's the most satisfying job in the world! Thanks, too, for all the support you've given us with your child's class parties and trips.

This time last year I had just finished the book The Anxious Generation, by Jonathan Haidt, and I highly recommend it for all parents everywhere! The author beautifully articulates best practices for children for them grow and thrive and stay healthy, both mentally and physically. With so many messages in our culture to go this way or that I believe you will find good, clear direction, something very calming for us parents. The author describes a play based childhood and tells how it benefits your children and our society. It's very affirming to what we believe here at Gingerbread. Thank you for understanding this and supporting play for your children. There is also a podcast on spotify: Good Inside with Dr. Becky-The Anxious Generation with Jonathan Haidt. Take a listen and let me know what you think!

Thank you for continuing to order books online. We love books!

It's that time of year--the time for our Mothers' Day Tea Parties! I'd like to remind everyone to be thoughtful of our neighbors when parking at Gingerbread. The back field is available, as is the parking lot, and actually these places ensure that you don't get blocked in--always a good thing! Please use the northeast corner (where there is no curb) to enter onto the field (as always, watch for Alameda traffic). DO NOT cross the neighbor's yard to the south. Please note--if it's rained, the north part of the field is more stable than the south part, you can fill up the front drive or you can park across Alameda and walk over. Car pooling is also helpful. Thanks.

Mother's Day Tea Parties are May 2-9. If you aren't sure of your child's tea party date, be sure to check with your child's teacher. These are very important and you won't want to miss it--or even be late! So sorry but we don't have facilities for siblings.

Our Crawdad Fishing Trips are this month as well. See your class calendars for these dates.

We will be having an End of School Picnic in our play yard Monday, May 12 from 5:30-7, and we hope you can make this fun evening! We will provide hot dogs, buns, fixings, chips, drinks and paper goods. Please sign up to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. There is a sign up at the end of this note that you can send back to your child's class so that we can purchase enough food and have some idea of what you plan to bring. If it's pouring down rain, please look for a text or call 321-0087 (in the afternoon) and I'll leave a message on the answering machine of any cancellation.

Beach Days will be Thursday and Friday, May 15 & 16. See your child's class newsletters for details about this fun day. Everyone is welcome!

If your child is missing a coat or other item, please email your child's teacher so that we can look for this and hopefully get it back to you. We'll begin putting a coat rack out by the drive for you to check as well. Thank you for checking this out.

Please be sure to apply sun screen to your child as the days get hotter and the sun gets closer to us. If you send a hat we'll see that your child wears it. Feel free to send sun screen for your child's longer day (we will reapply at lunch time and remember to put your name on it, please).

Finally, our last days of the 2024/2025 school year are Monday, May 19 (MWF Elves and Giants) and Tuesday, May 20 (TTH Elves and Giants, Scotties and Kindies). The children are always really excited but it's certainly with mixed feelings that we say goodbye for the summer. We hope that you will stay in touch with us wherever your path leads! Remember that we love Christmas cards and graduation announcements! We will have a sing a long each of these last days at 11:30 and again at 2:00 if you would like to stop by for a hug.

I also wanted to mention that I will open Gingerbread several days this summer and will let you know the dates before the end of school. If you'd like to stop by to play, work in the garden or visit please pencil these in when I post them!

Next year we will be adding some volunteer opportunities and bringing some old ones back. We'll be creating a parent support group for our teachers (you have already done this with your wonderful breakfasts and lunches-we're so grateful!) and will add a group for helping around school (projects on the yard, trimming trees and cleaning gutters, etc.). It's really fun to have a helpful group getting things done around our sweet school and you know we always say "many hands make light work." We will also be bringing back our "table parents", so if you would like to spend a day a week helping with a lunch table, family style. This time (12-1) allows teachers to meet and plan on a regular basis.

Finally, we will be having our observation for our NAEYC accreditation and we know this will go well and will benefit our school and our families. I'll let you know when all this is official! It's been a lot of work but we're excited to be part of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

I think that's all for now. I know I keep saying it, but I am so full of gratitude that I've had a chance to get to know and love you and your children. Thank you for choosing to join us. We will remember you always!

Love, Skye

Please return this slip to your child's teacher. Thanks!

_____ 's family will be at the
End of School picnic May 12 and will have _____ hungry family
members looking for a hot dog. We plan to bring a large SALAD,
SIDE or DESSERT (please circle one) to share. See you then!