

Jumping Jack Journal

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Extended Day	3	4
5	6	7 Extended Day <i>Group I Post Office Field Trip 9:15 AM</i>	8 <i>Group II Post Office Field Trip 9:15 AM</i>	9 <i>Groups III & IV Post Office Field Trip 9:15 AM</i>	10 Valentine Party Groups III & IV	11
12	13 Licolen's Birthday, No School	14 Valentine Party, Group I & II	15 Board Meeting	16 Extended Day	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day, No School	21 Extended Day <i>Evaluation Workshop Group I</i>	22	23 <i>Evaluation Workshop, Group III</i>	24 <i>Evaluation Workshop, Group IV</i>	25
26	27 <i>Evaluation Workshop, Group II</i>	28	29			

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Director's Message:

Happy New Year to everyone! I must start off with my exciting personal news—I'm going to be a grandma in July! My son and his wife are expecting (we learn the sex this week) and my husband and I are beyond thrilled. I'll keep you posted!

Here are some well-deserved thank yous:

Many thanks go to:

- Those of you who are reading this and marking your calendars for upcoming events!
- The board of directors for the holiday bonus given to the teachers. We appreciate it!
- Don Wennkamp (Gp. II & IV) and Javier Vicencio (Gp. IV) for picking up the snow for us to enjoy.
- Cezar Rossell, Lisa Sherman, Roxanne Cuevas for volunteering their time as this year's President, Vice President, and Treasurer.
- Laura Inoue for handling our See's candy fundraiser. We made \$769! Thanks for all those who ordered also!
- Jeri Saab and committee for the fabulous raffle/silent auction. We made \$3542! More is expected when we offer donated Children's Place clothing at our Family Fun Day.

- Shanda Kreidt for ordering all those special scrip orders before the holidays. Thanks also to those who ordered! Let's keep it up since it costs you nothing, yet makes money for the school!
- Heidi Timmerman for tallying up all those receipts and scrip orders.
- Cezar Rossel for organizing and working Babysitting Night with Shanda Kreidt, Andrea and Adrian Beruman, and Carrie Hanzel. Thanks to the Vicencios and the Castros for donating the pizza that night. Thanks to their efforts we made \$410. A special shout out to Cezar for being the "teacher" that night as none of our staff were able to attend.

Our financial situation has recovered from a low year in 2009/10 and we are looking good! Thanks to all of you!

Accreditation

We have turned in our second Annual report to NAEYC to keep our accreditation current and were informed that we have maintained our accredited status for another year. I have applied for a scholarship to recover some of that cost. Hopefully that will come through, as it has in the past.

News

Imagine coming back after the two-week break, and having just washed toys, clothes, surfaces, etc. (due to the hand, foot and mouth episode) and finding a cupboard in the 4 yr. old classroom that REEKS of urine and tiny mouse poops are all over! Next imagine Robyn, Micky and I looking at the damage when Micky sees the critter and lots of screaming and jumping ensues. You should have seen us! The good news is, Micky was able (with Robyn's assistance) to capture the mouse and release him into the YMCA parking lot (he!he!he). We are in the process of bleaching and cleaning all of the stuff we didn't throw away, and putting it all back in containers with lids. Then, last Wed. Micky finds we had another critter in the office in the Community room—getting into our stuff and peeing and pooping! Again, the multi-talented Micky captures the varmint and releases him into the YMCA lot (he,he,he!). Micky then cleaned up the mess. Thank you Miss Micky and Robyn for your efforts on our behalf! We are blaming the construction for sending the mice our way.

Speaking of construction, notice the parking situation has gotten worse? This particular phase should last until the end of February, depending on rain. At that time the new lot on the other side of the Child Guidance Center will open and relieve us of the green screens, and the extra people in our lot. They will begin work on the new parking arm soon after that and our cars will be re-routed through the other lot for awhile. It's going to get tricky, but we must look at the bigger picture! YMCA will be getting restriped and configured to add 35 spaces and they will continue to valet park on Mon./Wed./Fri. This should be a huge help for us. Not sure when that will happen but it's all supposed to be over in May. You may have to add some drive time at drop off and pick up!

Kindergarten

If you have a child entering kindergarten next fall, now is the time to be deciding which school you want them to attend. In Fullerton, there is a window of opportunity to get an intra-district transfer if you do not want to attend your home school. You may also get *inter*-district transfers if you want your child to attend a Fullerton school but live in another

city. I visited the District website and did not see any dates listed yet, but last year the window was in February/March. If this applies to you, you may want to make a phone call to the District office or your home school to get more information. Kindergarten registration is in March. I will try to get more information and post it on the outside bulletin board.

Upcoming Events

Post Office Field Trip

All classes will be walking (weather permitting) to the Sunny Hills Post office to purchase a stamp and mail home a valentine to their parents. Groups I will go Tuesday, Feb. 7, Group II will go Wednesday, Feb. 8, and Groups III & IV will go Thursday, Feb. 9. Extra parents are always welcome to come along, however strollers are not! They slow down the walkers and are too big for the small post office to accommodate. We ask that each child bring 44 cents for his/her stamp the day of the trip. The teachers will collect the money at school and give it back to the kids at the post office.

Valentine Exchange

All classes will be having Valentine Exchange parties also next month. Groups I & II will have their party on Feb. 14 and Groups III & IV will have theirs on Feb. 10. Please send signed, but UNADDRESSED valentines with your child. Putting children's names on the envelopes makes handing them out VERY difficult and slow so we ask that you NOT do that! Thanks.

Group I: 19 valentines Group II: 20 valentines
Group III: 18 valentines Group IV: 20 valentines

Evaluation Workshops

Our fourth mandatory meeting is coming up in late February (check the calendar on the front of this newsletter). We call this the Evaluation workshop because we will be asking you to fill out a questionnaire about the school, evaluating the program and giving constructive criticism and/or lavish praise! We will share the results of the questionnaires at the workshop and go over issues specific to each class. Please mark your calendars. Also, check the work schedule carefully. We have scheduled the other classes' parents to work in your

child's class so you may attend the meeting. Check both classes on the days of the workshops!

—Miss Sally



President's Message:

Greetings FCNS families! My name is Monica Taylor and I am honored and excited to be your new President of the Board at FCNS. I'd like to first thank Cezar Rossel for his tenure as your leader for the past two years. His enthusiasm and dedication to our school reflected his leadership! Also, thank you to the teachers and to the FCNS Board for believing in me and in my commitment to our school. I very much look forward to working with you.

I'd like to share a little bit about me. My husband, Mark and I are both teachers. His background is in P.E. and mine is in Art. Our three children, Gabriel (9), David (7) and Miranda (3) have had the great experience and opportunity of being in Miss Sally's, Miss Robyn's, and in Miss Micky's classes. We live in La Habra but I seem to spend most of my time in Fullerton. Since I am primarily a stay-at-home mom, we have sought out programs, like FCNS, that have allowed me to be fully involved with our children's education. We believe that involved parents are their children's biggest teacher. It is our role to foster a love for learning, a love for their school, and help develop a sense of community and belonging. As an advocate for the arts, creativity, and imaginative play, I love that FCNS encourages such an engaging environment. I am happy to say that my children have felt enthusiastic, safe and proud to be a part of our school. Looking ahead...

- Keep an eye out for the evaluation questionnaires. I encourage you to fill them out AND turn them in promptly when they're due (before the workshop). Parents, we do not have a great track record for returning these forms. Usually only about 50% of us do so, or turn them in on the day of the workshop - which is too late because the data needs to be collected and organized. I learned this the hard way, my first year here! Also, sign ups for board positions for next year will be passed around at the workshops. I encourage you to sign up if you're thinking about joining me on the board.

- We are working on creating a private Facebook page for our school, and one for each group. Group 3 already has one and we hear that it is working well with about 16 members. Thank you Bridget Vornholt, Lily's mom—group 4, for volunteering to create the page.

- FCNS is a member of OCCPPNS, Orange County Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. This year the CCPPNS (the Statewide council) is hosting its 63rd Annual Convention on March 9-10 in Burbank. Anyone from our school can register. The convention offers workshops with world-class speakers and presenters on various parenting topics. For more info, see Miss Sally and visit the website: <http://www.ccppns.org/convention/home.php>

And last, I'd like to welcome our newest families to our school. We hope that you find our parents to be helpful and full of tips as you ease your way into our co-op community!

Have a great Valentine's Day with your loved ones and enjoy your three-day weekends!

—Monica Taylor



Teacher Reports

Groups I & III:

Well let's recap December. Some of us were busy making our family gifts, while others were away no thanks to our hand, mouth, and foot. Robyn, Sally, and I spent a lot of time washing down the school and bags of clothes, capes, puppets, all play food and things that might have wanted to go in our mouths. We even took more precaution and washed door knobs.



SOOOOOO glad to be back in this new year. Happy New Year! So glad to see all of my friends back. We had our snow days thanks to Penny's and Elaina's dads for being our snowmen and delivering our snow. We enjoyed playing in it and some of us, eating it. We did not have pajama day so I would like to have it on January 31

for grp.1 and February 2 for grp3. We will have breakfast for snack and have night stories and you can bring a snuggly friend to hang out with you. Working parents, wear your pj's.

We have been so busy playing with things of white, snow and icicles that the month is almost gone, with the exception of our annual daddy and me breakfast on the 28th. We will begin February with our second walking field trip. Our love will be coming home in the mail as we mail our valentines to you.

We will also be having a friendship-Valentines day celebration on 2-10 for grp.3 and 2-14 for grp1. You may bring in valentines for your friend in class, but please do not address them to specific friends so that each child can deliver them. Heart is the shape that we will be focusing on. If you would like to incorporate that into snack by using cookie cutters or having healthy food for our heart that would be great. I hope to borrow a 3-d heart model from my friend to bring to class.

At the end of the month, we will have our evaluation workshop so please don't forget to attend and fill your evaluations. Thank you. Well, our friend Ava needs some extra time with grandma, so she will be back in September and our friend Kaitlyn was needing a more flexible sitter. We will

miss them, but in return we gain two new friends Quinton Dale and Jaeger Nelson. Welcome! We are so glad you have you joined us. Well that is all for now and have a very happy valentines day. Thank you for all of the treats that you brought in for our friends and thank you for all of my treats and gifts. I had a very fun holiday going shopping for myself and thinking of how grateful I am to be where I am and how you all are so nice to have given me my gifts. I can't say it enough but GRACIAS!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Xooxoxxo,
Miss Micky*



Group II:

Happy New Year once again! Is it really February (or almost!) already??!! It's not only me that thinks this month is going by fast but several other moms have commented the same thing! Group II came back to school after winter break raring to go. Friendships have resumed, and it is as if we were never gone for over two weeks! We came back to sunny, really gorgeous days, but to me still a bit too chilly! As I write this we are expecting a big rain storm this weekend and possibly into next week. I know we need the rain but. . . maybe the weathermen will prove to be wrong. That doesn't happen, does it, ha-ha???

We started our celebration of Christmas by making gingerbread men thanks to my snack mom and dad, Kami and Todd. They sort of tagged teamed it. Kami helped us roll out the dough, cut and decorate them. Then the kids watched as we put the cookies in the oven to bake. Later, as we prepared to sit down for snack we found that the men had run away! So we went on a hunt outside and found clues, which actually led us back inside where Todd had found the very tasty gingerbread men and set them up for snack. Yum, Yum, thanks so much Kami and Todd!!! We were very busy with all the holiday art and stories. I

hope you enjoyed the ornament frame they made for you. When your kids are 20 years old, it may be something you appreciate even more! We also talked a bit about Hanukkah. I brought in my menorah and showed the kids how we light the candles but don't blow them out. The kids were very intrigued and excited to watch the candles burn down! And again thanks to all of you and especially Angie for all the very special holiday gifts. You make a teacher feel very appreciated!

"Snow" came to FCNS via the Wennekamp and Vicencio families. Thank you very much to Don and Javier! It seemed that most of the kids loved tasting it, making snow angels, throwing snowballs and just getting wet! Miss Micky and I decided not to have a snowball war this year with each other. She told me she was too mature for that! Huh? You have a year to get "un-mature" and then we'll have at it! !! It is amazing how hard it is and how long it takes to get 20 kids ready for snow day. Just helping to put their 10 little fingers into their gloves can be a timely experience. We are very fortunate living in warm (usually) Southern California and not having to deal with that on a daily basis!

We have been talking about the importance of our 5 senses; touching, smelling, hearing, tasting and seeing. We did some fun experiments that the kids really like. We tasted food with our eyes closed, we felt objects without seeing them and we identified classmates just by hearing their voices. We even tried walking to the door with our eyes shut. Next we will get ready for the Daddy and Me Breakfast, which will be Saturday, January, 28th. We will be drawing pictures of our dads and I will be getting quotes on what the kids like to do with their dads. I look forward to seeing everyone at the breakfast, hope you can come! After that we will get busy preparing for Valentine's Day. We will be walking to the Sunny Hills Post Office on Wednesday, February 8th. **We will be leaving school at 9:15 that day, so please be on time.** Once there, we will let the kids buy a stamp (please bring in 44 cents on that day) to mail their valentine and we will go on a short tour of the back of the Post Office. Extra parents are invited to walk with us, just let me know. On actual Valentine's Day, the 14th, we will have our party. Please send in 20 **signed** valentines. But **PLEASE DO NOT ADDRESS THEM.** That makes handing them out a nightmare for this age!! Anyway, this becomes a very fun day!! Also, start bringing in your wrapped cereal boxes. We will be using them for collecting

valentines. **We need to have them all by Wednesday, the 1st.** A sample box is on top of the cubbies. See me if you have a problem or question.

A few additional thank-you's: Kami and Lyla had us roll ham and cheese into crescent rolls and Chantel and Dante and Lisa and Abbie had us make mini pizzas on two different days. Carrie and Cole had us help peel cutie tangerines and Chantel and Dante brought in the ingredients to make adorable Rudolph snacks, out of mini chocolate donuts, pretzles and red M & M's. Unfortunately Dante got sick that day so Lisa took over and made them with the kids and Angie volunteered to come back and be our 3rd working parent! You all are amazing! Cooking/preparing snack with the kids is special in many ways (even though it seems a few kids want no part of it) so thanks again everyone for your extra efforts! You go above and beyond!

Can you believe that this is all for now, although I am sure I left something out. We didn't have any kids with birthdays in December or January, but have a few coming up in the next several months.

—Miss Robyn

P.S. Please note that my conference days have changed to March 7 and 9. That will be Wednesday and Friday. Sign ups will go up next month.



Group IV:

It's been awhile since I last filled you in on our activities! After our Stone Soup celebration we began reading nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Children love to hear silly rhymes—and play with sounds. It is important in learning to read that

children can hear the different sounds and that is why rhyming is so great. You can play with sound and it's fun AND beneficial! Break out the rhyming books at home and help your child hear the sounds that rhyme. Fairy tales are also favorites for this age. When reading about the big, bad wolf, Goldilocks, and the troll in the Billy Goats Gruff it helps children process fear. We acted out the Billy Goats Gruff story, Jack be Nimble, and Little Miss



Muffet. This class, especially the girls, seem to like to act out these little plays.

We also spent a few weeks making Christmas décor and gifts. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas gift from the children. Many thanks to Anjelica Zepeda, who made gingerbread cookies with the kids. Unfortunately, when we went to get them out of the oven, they had all run away. The children followed the clues they left behind and found them ready to eat on the snack table! It was very fun. We acted out the story also. It was such a fun day for us, thanks, Anjelica!

Many thanks also to Paula Esterson for explaining their family traditions surrounding Hannukah. She brought in latkes for us to try and lit her menorah with us. We played dreidle and taught your children how to gamble! Thanks, Paula, for sharing with us.

Since returning from the break we spent 2 weeks exploring snow and cold. Snow day was a blast. Javier Vicencio was kind enough to purchase 6 extra bags of snow for us. Many of the kids

participated in a snowball fight with Javier. He was a good sport, letting the kids throw snow at him. I was also inundated with snowballs and had lots of fun. Javier also built an adorable "snow wolf" using Penny's wolf hat, and an Angry Birdman using Elaina's hat. Pictures will be posted on the bulletin board soon!

We are currently exploring the 5 senses. We have many tactile experiences going on from pretend snow and ice in the sensory table, to finger painting with salt. We're doing smelling, hearing, and tasting experiences also.

Anna's mom, Jiamin, is planning to give us a little presentation on the Chinese New Year. Due to Anna's illness, we had to postpone it until after the true holiday, but we are so happy to have the cultural experience!

These are some other activities we are doing to get the kids ready for kindergarten:

- 1) The children are learning to read each other's nametags by beginning sounds. For example, when we pick turns for things I will hold up a nametag and say "T is for t,t,t," and they guess Tomi or Thomas. They will get better and better at it.
- 2) I was very impressed when we did the mitten project, because many children cut all those little animals out with little help. Ask your child to tell you the story of the mitten, using their project. They will be so proud! Cutting projects are important as they do a lot of cutting in kindergarten.
- 3) We are singing an alphabet song and learning the sounds the letters make.
- 4) We will begin jump-roping. This is a complicated skill, so if your child isn't ready for it, it's OK!

You will see me taking notes and perhaps disappearing during recess to do a kindergarten readiness test on a child. This is all in preparation for our parent conferences. If you have specific concerns you want me to watch for, please let me know.

Coming up we will talk about our daddies and make pictures of them for our father's breakfast this

Saturday. Next, I will try to get the kids to explain what love is and we will learn about mail. This is a perfect opportunity to teach your child his/her address at home.

*Happy Winter,
Miss Sally*



Maintenance:

I would like to thank Aiden Sanchez, Tomi Inoue, Cole Hanzel, and Megan Rusell's parents for volunteering to be foreman for our December and January maintenance day! I would also like to thank the Cowing, Rosete, Valadez, Rygiel, Kanchanapoomi, Cobbs, Granado, Taylor, Danufsky, Freilich, and Kreidt families for all their hard work for the December and January maintenance days!

FCNS office has the updated Maintenance Master Roster available in case you forgot which date you are scheduled to work for this school year.

The following families are signed up for maintenance days in January and February:

January 28 – Daddy & Me Breakfast Setup:

Jhawar family, Saraya/group 3
Cuevas family, Jacob/group 2

February 11:

Vonholt family, Lily/group 1
Martinez family, Miranda/group 1
Arizon family, Nathaniel/group 3
Wu family, Anna/group 4

February 25:

Saab family, Lucas/group 4
Fitzgerald family, Phoenix/group 1

Nevell family, Emma/group 1
Rodriguez family, Phoenix/group 4

*Thank you,
Mayerling Castro
Olivia's mom/group 1*

Housekeeping:

Thank you to the following families for cleaning our school in January: Hawkins, Mendieta-frost, Osgood, Esterson and Maeda, Vicencio, Sndres, Saab. Gracias for keeping us clean...

For February it will be Saab, Vornholt, Lu, Wu and Arizon, De Graaf-Garcia, Valadez, and Krause. Thank you again for all or your work. You are on February 17th, that's a Friday.

SPANISH CLASS

SPANISH is being held every Monday in my class so parents please don't be late in picking up so that I can start class on time, Gracias.

*xooxxoxo
Miss Micky*

P.S. No Spanish on Monday, February 13th and 20th.

