



Director's Note

Parent Meeting

On Monday Feb. 16th, parents, staff and the board of directors began a problem solving meeting to address some issues that are affecting the sustainability of Kachemak Kids. For the first time in months, I personally felt a weight lifted off my shoulders. The original vision for Kachemak Kids was a cooperative-a place where parents, staff and the board worked together. However, implementing the cooperative has always been a struggle, and it is time for Kachemak Kids to make a decision: to remain a cooperative, which requires redefining what that means to the Center and adding significantly more parent help; or to abandon the cooperative model and finding a way to hire more staff. Bringing these issues to everyone's attention is the first step to a resolution. It was agreed to reconvene in hope of having all enrolled families represented. A recap of the meeting has been emailed and a hard copy was put in everyone's mailboxes. Please think about the decisions we need to make, your time at Kachemak Kids is short, but your experience and your voice is important. Mark your calendars for **Monday, March 2nd from 5:30pm-6:30pm** for another potluck. It would be best to find child care as we want all staff to participate in this meeting.

In hope of remaining and improving our cooperative model, a parent service sign-up sheet is located in the hallway of our classrooms. Feel free to get additional information from staff concerning specific tasks of each job. I will be working on task summaries to aide in the sign-up process.

Background Checks

The State of Alaska has changed the requirement for background checks. On January 15th it became regulation that anyone 16 years or older who has contact with kids in state licensed care **MUST** pass the state background screening process. That means all parents who work in the classroom must pass the screening. The new regulations require: 1 set of finger prints at a cost of \$25.00 and an application to the Background Check Unit (BCU), also \$25. For those who have not done the background check or fingerprints, we no longer need information from the State Troopers, but we will need you to go online and input information into a state database and then print out and sign a release of information form. Instructions for that will be provided this week. We are scheduling a group finger printing opportunity on Tuesday March 31st and Wednesday April 1st from 8am-930am. Once you complete your fingerprints, input your data online and bring in the release of information form with a check for \$25.00 per/person made out to Alaska BCU, we will complete our part of the process.

March Themes



- ❖ Green Things
- ❖ Oceans and other habitats
- ❖ Ecology
- ❖ Comparisons



This month at Kachemak Kids

Body and Health Continues

The kids are having so much fun with body and health we will be continuing the theme for the first part of March. On March 2nd, we will be dissecting pig and deer hearts with a nursing student. Should be fun and we'll see if we inspire any future surgeons!

Conscious Discipline

Kate LeKites attended the Conscious Discipline Parenting Class and had this to say:

I attended KKELC's showing of Conscious Discipline, Part 1. This was just an overview of the concepts behind Conscious Discipline but already I have to say, "Wow! When do I get to see the rest?" I'm going to have to wait as this series is best viewed over a period of time (8 parts over 8 months) to allow absorption and implementation of each technique before moving on to the next.

The ideas presented make absolute sense, and Bobbi has expressed more than once how successful the KKELC teachers have been with the techniques. Her sincere enthusiasm makes me anxious to learn more. I would love to see more parents from KKELC and the community as a whole--as well as other educators and childcare givers--at these "workshops" so we can share ideas and build disciplinary consistency throughout our children's environments.

Thanks, KKELC, for continuing to raise the bar and provide a great service to our kids!

We will be offering this series of classes, one part a month for 8 months, starting in March. There will be a Thursday evening session or a Saturday morning session to choose from. The Thursday evening classes will be from 6pm-730pm and no childcare will be provided. The Saturday morning classes will be from 10am-1130am, and childcare will be provided by high school students with donations from parents. These classes will be open to the public with families from Birth Two Three and Head Start attending as well. Space will be limited and sign up sheets will be available soon. The cost for the series is \$20, what a great deal!

Reminders

- Parents please check the white board and mail folders at drop off and pick up for KKELC news. Save your calendars on your fridge so you know our special outing dates.
- Please **LABEL all of your child's things** (with a permanent marker) -outdoor gear, boots & shoes, lunch boxes, cups & sippys, etc. This makes it easier for parents in the classroom, the staff and the kids!

Try this at Home!

Alien Goop

2 TBSP cornstarch

1 TBSP glue

½ tsp toothpaste

½ Tbsp water

Mix up and have fun!

Welcome New Kachemak Kids

Ethan Carroll
Page Persinger
Lilly Ellington
Apollonia Bertuccio



Teacher Tips

As spring approaches and we gain more daylight, please be aware that the extra increase in daylight can affect the kids' behaviors and moods. Your child's energy may increase and it may be harder to get your child to sleep at night. Try to maintain an evening routine, and darken his/her bedroom. An alternative to the attractive and popular tinfoil solution is to take some large pieces of cardboard that fit in the window(s) and sew some nice fabric around it. This allows you to remove the cardboard pieces during the day, and put it in at night.

Parent Corner

Newsletter Writer Needed

The newsletter needs a new Writer! The template is already there and easy to work with. If you are interested, please contact Mistee at mdstclair@gmail.com or 299-2472. She'll help with the first month.

Board News

The Board has set its fundraising goals and plans. Please see the attached fundraising document to see how you can help throughout the year. First off, Shannon McBride-Morin is spearheading a direct ask campaign, and we would like each family to provide a minimum of 3 families, friends, businesses, or employers that we can request funding from. The goal is to raise \$1000. Please drop your list of names, addresses, phone numbers and emails in the KKELC in-box or email them to Shannon@AlaskaWildernessLodge.com as soon as possible. Contact Shannon if you are interested in helping and earn some parent time!

As always, new members are needed for the board or for help on one of our other committees. Feel free to contact any board member to learn more about being on the KKELC board, or refer to the list of board members and committees you received to see what committee you may be interested in joining.

Wish List

Our themes this month include oceans, ecology and habitats. We would love for book or items such as bones that relate to this theme for our science table.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

"We really have a lot of friends." One child commented during snack while looking at the friendship chain. This ignited a group brainstorming session that lasted at least fifteen minutes. The topic: to have an outrageous friendship celebration when the chain goes around both classrooms. *"I think it looks like waves,"* commented Payton. Maybe we should have our party at the beach, added Bobbi. *"We could make a boat out of drift wood,"* someone added. *"And use the chain to hold the anchor,"* piped up another child. Ideas were flying and the conversation evolved with great detail. It included food, cake, games. Everyone was contributing, listening and sharing. What a grand moment for any teacher.

Shurbert visits Kachemak Kids. "Who is Shubert?" you ask. Shubert is a lightning bug who shares social challenges and problem solving. Sierra purchased a seven book Shubert series related to the concepts of Conscious Discipline. She has been reading them to the kids and then following with roll playing or other related activity. The older kids are very engaged while the toddlers just love the social interaction. Shubert asks, "Do you want to hurt or help?" Sierra asked "Who wants to help?" "I do!" piped up Raiden.

Board of Directors

Chair: Lolita Brache
299-0694

Vice-Chair: Marlana
Hogdgon
235-6414

Treasurer: Jenny Martin
235-9727

Secretary: Emilie Otis
235-0706

Members: Shannon
McBride-Morin
235-2604

Thank You!

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Parent Meeting in February. We appreciate your input and ideas and we look forward to the next meeting.

Thank you also to Kathy from New York who volunteered for a month just for the fun of it!

Our Mission: To provide a safe, nurturing, cooperative-style preschool and child care program that strengthens families through the education of parents and staff. We strive to provide awareness and role modeling for the Homer community regarding safe, nurturing child care, child development, and integrated learning for children, their families, and other community members.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Parent Business Meeting 530pm- 630pm	3	4	5	6 Senior Center 1030am	7
8	9	10	11	12 Conscious Discipline 6pm-730pm	13	14 Conscious Discipline 10am- 1130am (repeat)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Pratt Museum "Marine Life"	28
29	30	31 Paw Prints Fingerprinting 8am-930am (Sign up sheets will be made available)	April 1 st Paw Prints Fingerprinting 8am-930am (Sign up sheets will be made available)			

*Extra hands are welcome for field trips, but please check with the staff if you want to come on a day that your child normally does not attend and/or bring siblings.