

Los Niños News©

July 2014

Graduation Festivities!

Our own Gala Event is coming very soon (July 25 @ 2) for all of those children who are going off to Kindergarten. Champagne, music, speeches, great food and pomp. Parents of graduates: have your friends and relatives mark it on their calendar and get your hankies and cameras ready! It's a wonderful occasion and we'll soon be sending out all the information.

Congratulations To Our 39th Graduating Class!

Katheryne Evangeline Abramenko
Lucas Wa' Ago Abebe Akinshin
Logan Sage Allen
Bailey Dina Avila
Elijah John Brazil
Clark William Colucci
Caleb Robert Galle
Gabe Evan Carlos Garcia
Wyatt Joseph Gibson
Matthew Paul Hamor
Isla Lea Heckman
Siena Elliot Heid
Kai Stephen Higaki

Fiona Eve Lucus
Levi Alexander Meighen
Athena Christine Metzger
Kaylie Rose Muth
Laila Rebecca Naji
Ezra Baron Pearlman
Duncan Robert Sasser
Baylee Christine Secord
Alfonso Sension Jr.
Michael Keith Slye
William David Snyder
Lily Sofia Tague
Sofia Lynn Tsatsaronis

...will be participating in our Gala Graduation Ceremony.

The Suggested Fall Placements!

.... are posted in the entry at the school during this month. Please review our suggested placements and initial your agreement or discuss your preference... everything is flexible. We anticipate wonderful three-day sessions because so many of our children are returning... these children

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know their way around and know how to get the best out of their school... we're looking forward to another great year.

Children and Guns

Why Can't My Daughter Bring Her Gun To Los Niños?

Well...DUH!! No, seriously, guns and children don't mix. We have had a policy about toys ("leave 'em at home") and particularly guns and gun play for all of our 38 years. Guns, even pretend guns promote violent, hurtful behavior. All of my years of working with young children have borne this out and study after study confirms this:

American children are more at risk from firearms than the children of any other industrialized nation. In one year, firearms killed no children in Japan, 19 in Great Britain, 57 in Germany, 109 in France, 153 in Canada, and 5,285 in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control). Nearly 400 children each year are killed, by accident, in the USA... usually boys shooting their friends with daddy's gun.

At Los Niños we take this subject very seriously: no gun play...no sticks for guns, no bananas for guns in the dress-up-room (I'm serious), no blocks for guns and no fingers for guns...no guns.

What About Books, Tom?

OK, I feel a little differently about books and children...they do mix. And your children are welcome to bring their books to school to share at Snacktime. We have found that reading with your children is the very best (in concert with Los Niños Nursery School) thing that you can do to prepare your child for a literate/successful life.

Yet Another Reason...

From a recent article in US News: Kids who spend more time outside -- and away from the television set -- are less likely to develop myopia, the inability to see things clearly at a distance....

"it would seem prudent to encourage outdoor activities -- not necessarily sports -- for all growing children and young adults in order to reduce the

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progression of myopia," said Howard C. Howland, a professor of neurobiology and behavior at Cornell University.

The children who developed myopia -- also known as nearsightedness-- spent less time in outdoor activities, those with myopia also watched more television (12.5 hours vs. 8.4 hours a week).

...To Get Outside And Play!

And Then...

Get To Bed!

Sleep researcher Erika Gaylor of SRI International in Menlo Park analyzed a federal study of 8,000 families and found that children of parents who reported having a rule about bedtime scored about 6 percentage points higher on an assessment of their vocabulary compared with children whose parents did not report a rule about bedtime. They scored 7 percent higher on assessments of early math skills.

These are significant differences to the researchers who say the study is yet another example of the power of a good night's sleep.

Asynchronous Development

Is your child a klutz but loquacious... or can't form a sentence but Federerish on the court? Not to worry, many contemporary epistemologists have found this asynchronous development quite common to extraordinary intellectual achievers like Einstein, Teller, Feynman, Whiting and others... relax you may have a great mind in the family!

More Useful Info

I have the new 2014-15 Calendars with holiday schedules and the new tuition rates for our new and returning parents. Let me know if you need one.

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Thanks Tom...

... for being old. I have always desired to provide interactions with older people at LNNS and now, finally, I am that person! In the journal *Young Children* Elizabeth Larkin and Matt Kaplan noted the societal value of these intergenerational relationships:

“These relationships benefit not only the individuals involved ... but also when a culture passes along values and traditions social identity is protected throughout the passage of time. The world may change in response to new technologies and economic realities, but we all still need each other”....
young and old.

Pitch Perfect

My first job with young children was with a terrible Art Linkletter child-care center franchise serving Paly and Redwood City. (It is not on my CV). The earnest young teacher sang waaaay off key and it drove me nuts. Those poor children will never be able to hold a note.

I don't have Perfect Pitch by definition, but I do have good pitch or Relative Pitch and many studies have illustrated how important it is for young children to be exposed to tuned instruments and voices early in life.

We do a lot of singing at Los Niños. I love to sing. For four years at Menlo-Atherton High School I sang in the choir and the madrigal group. So I make sure that your children are exposed to good musical pitch. Fortunately, our neighbor, Ed Gant is an accomplished musician and for many years has graciously agreed to tune my auto-harp and piano as a contribution to our music program. Thank you Ed.

At Los Niños we want your children to be right on pitch!

More Philosophical Affirmation

From Pamela Hieronymi, a professor distinguished of philosophy at UCLA:
"Education is not the transmission of information or ideas. Education is the training needed to make use of information and ideas.

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As information breaks loose from bookstores and libraries and floods onto computers and mobile devices, that training becomes more important, not less." Our sentiments at LNNS exactly!

If Not For Your Children... For Yourself!

Dr. Thomas Bak, of the University of Edinburgh, in a recent press release: "Our study shows that bilingualism, even when acquired in adulthood, may benefit the aging brain."

Testing...Testing...

After 38 years of sharing the Coastside AAUW P.A. System for our Graduation Ceremony... it finally failed . Fortunately, by diligently and selflessly parking cars on weekends I have been able to save-up enough money to purchase a newer, better PA amplifier and we should have many years of speeches and practice and amplified Musictime to come!!

Why Isn't There More Crap on the Walls At Los Niños?

We like to present some of our children's artwork at Los Niños because we value their creativity. But we have always avoided clutter and now a study from Carnegie Mellon University affirms how distracting such typical classroom displays can be: "...such classrooms actually distract from learning. The study, one of the first to examine how the look of these walls affects young students, found that when kindergartners were taught in a highly decorated classroom, they were more distracted, their gazes more likely to wander off task, and their test scores lower than when they were taught in a room that was comparatively Spartan". And it looks tacky!

Have A Great August