

February 2024



Curious Minds

PACCC's Monthly Newsletter

Welcome back to Curious Minds, PACCC's monthly newsletter where you'll discover curated news on early childhood development, education and care, events and fundraising, and personal stories about our unique community!



PACCC is a community where children thrive, educators are valued, and families are supported. Providing exceptional, accessible education and care for Palo Alto's children since 1974!

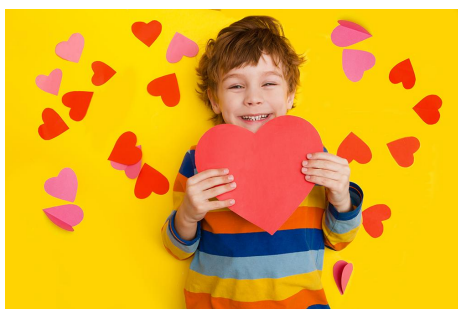
Happy Lunar New Year

Happy Lunar New Year and Year of the Dragon! Lunar New Year starts at the first new moon of the lunar calendar and concludes 15 days later, on the first full moon. If you follow us on Instagram @paccckids, you know that the "PACCC kids at Ellen Thacher Children's Center celebrated by learning how to make traditional



dumplings, trying on authentic Korean celebration garb, and receiving red good-luck envelopes!" How fun is that?! If you want to join more festivities in Palo Alto, try the **City of Palo Alto Luna New Year Fair** at Mitchell Park Community Center on Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 05:00 PM.

PACCC - Coming to an Event Near You!



PACCC's CEO, Lee Pfab and the PACCC leaders are out and about in Palo Alto again this month! Check out their whereabouts and join in where you can!

Center Activities: Hot Chocolate Party (now there's an excuse for a party!) Valentine Pancake Breakfast and Love Bug Dance/Potluck Party!

Community Events: Chamber Nonprofit Volunteer Match, PAUSD Board Meetings, Gamble Garden Open House, and the Tall Tree Selection Committee.

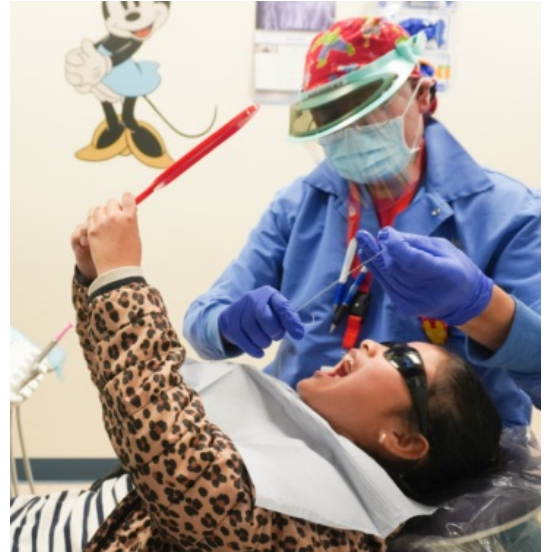
The Stakeholders Breakfast is on February 20th where we will welcome our previous board members and longtime donors as we review the highlights of **PACCC's Strategic Plan** in our continued commitment to be the leader in childhood education and care for Palo Alto's children and families.

Is this YOU? We are looking for community-based board members for the 2024 – 2027 term! Please complete your application **here** on our website. We look forward to hearing from you!



February Partnership

PACCC is partnering with **Ravenswood Family Health Network Dental Clinic** which will be supplying oral hygiene kits and parent education sessions. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** states that “cavities (also known as caries or tooth decay) are the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States. [Left] untreated, cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don’t.” We’re grateful to partner with Ravenswood on the importance of dental health and prevention of tooth decay. Thanks, Ravenswood!



Project Cornerstone: The Importance of Youth as Resources

YMCA Project Cornerstone Asset of the Month is The Importance of Youth as Resources. Project Cornerstone’s Asset of the Month, Elementary School Asset Building Champions (ABC Readers), and Pre-K/TK curriculums foster the development of positive attributes in youth.

“Research shows that youth who feel valued and useful have higher self-esteem, a greater sense of personal control, reduced delinquency, greater social and personal responsibility, reduced substance abuse, and better social skills.” To learn more about how you can be an Asset Building Champions visit **Project Cornerstone’s Asset of the Month!**

PACCC's Infant-Toddler Program Insights



PACCC educators shared their insights on the impact of Infant-Toddler childhood development and the results are truly inspiring!

"They're working on skills they wouldn't otherwise be able to hone such as: communicating with mixed ages, learning their personal boundaries as well as others', and working through conflict. This month we are working on short stories, with the common theme of being connected to leap year. The children and staff began writing their story and then we passed it on to another child or teacher to continue the story or draw a picture."

"Our philosophy provides parents and caregivers with the tools and perspective to understand each baby and the unique relationship and find balance in the individual situation or setting. Here at Sojourner Infant-Toddler, we don't just respect infants and toddlers, we demonstrate and model respectful caregiving when interacting with them, treating them like whole individuals while fostering a sense of authentic children, who feel secure, autonomous, competent, and connected. Children learn best through child-directed play, which fosters imagination, curiosity, and independence starting from our school, through the rest of their educational journey."

At the Infant Toddler Center, educators are preparing the children for the transition to preschool by encouraging parents to do transitional days at the preschool prior to the start date. We also recommend that families go visit their preschool sites and spend time in the new environment. Talking to the child about going to their new school and allowing the child to help with bigger tasks around the classroom also helps prepare them for their new environment. With a focus on self-care independence, the children are cleaning up after their meals and learning to put their personal items away in their cubby and in the ultimate of 'baby steps' – learning to take their shoes off!

Summer Camp is Closer Than You Think



Summer might be a bit hard to visualize right now in the middle of the rainy season, but it's closer than you think! Register now for one of our four **Summer Camp Programs**! Complete the Enrollment Application in the Family Portal to select your sessions today!

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



Palo Alto Community Child Care
Learning, Playing, Growing Together

STAY CONNECTED!

Be with PACCC all day long.

JOIN THE FUN
#PACCCKIDS

PACCC Summer Camps



Stay tuned for next month's Curious Minds newsletter!



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