

May 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!**

## **It's Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

50 years of early childhood education, care, and advocacy for Palo Alto's families is something to celebrate and we know just who we want to celebrate with – YOU!

There have been some giant milestones in the past

half-century!



## **Palo Alto Community Child Care**

LEARNING, PLAYING, GROWING TOGETHER

The PACCC story began in 1974, when six forward-thinking mothers recognized the growing demand for quality, affordable child care in their community and presented this need to the City Council.

The Child Care Task Force was then formed by the Palo Alto City Council, which recommended that the City take an active and supportive role in the provision of childhood education and care and that a non-profit corporation be established to implement the Task Force's recommendations. That *original vision* and community advocacy is the foundation represented today by PACCC's dedicated and talented educators, caregivers, administration, and board members. Thank you, Palo Alto, for trusting us with our community's most precious asset – the children!

Join us for our celebration on August 17. More details to come.

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## **PACCC's New Logo**

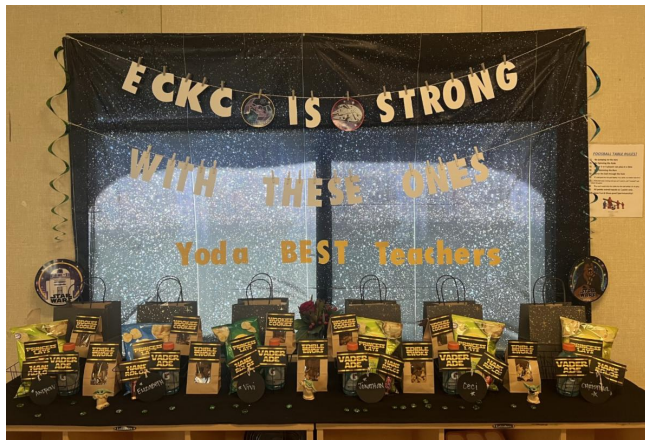


## **Palo Alto Community Child Care**

LEARNING, PLAYING, GROWING TOGETHER

PACCC has a new look! The new design represents empowerment and features a refreshed style alphabet block with a modern san-serif typeface and a playful color palette. Our graphic designer, Shannon Ganley, has utilized the same colors as the previous logo but with a more cohesive and lighter palette to represent the younger audience that PACCC serves – the children of Palo Alto!

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## Teacher Appreciation Week

We can't imagine having to 'PACCC' all the appreciation for our educators into one week, however, May 6 through May 10 is Teacher Appreciation Week, we thought we'd mark the occasion with an extra dose of gratitude and some fun events!

PACCC showed gratitude to our incredible team of educators by having something special planned each day of the week! On Saturday, staff were invited to the Provider Recognition event at the Santa Clara County Office of Education where there were workshops, raffle prizes, and gift baskets. On Monday, the staff received a thoughtful gift from the admin team – a keychain with an inspirational quote.



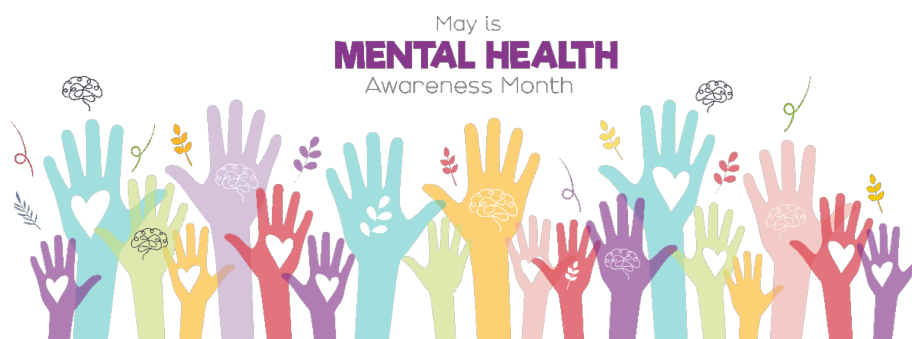
On Tuesday, PACCC provided the entire staff with a taco lunch at the main office. Will Teacher Taco Tuesday become a new national trend? Let's see! On Wednesday, Regional Coordinators delivered donuts to all their sites. On Thursday, the staff received a Certificate of Gratitude from their supervisor and on Friday, the families showed their appreciation for their educators in a variety of ways. It was a cornucopia of delectable treats, thoughtful gifts, flowers, and handmade cards from the children! Without the immense talent, experience, passion and dedication of our educators, PACCC would not be what it is – the leader in childhood education and care in Palo Alto. Thank you for your dedication and service to Palo Alto's families.



## Congratulations to all our Graduates!

To learn, to grow, to thrive takes commitment, resilience, focus and drive. All those lessons – from the seemingly insignificant to the seemingly insurmountable tasks, assignments, and accomplishments – they all led to this day: Graduation! Congratulations to our Preschool and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for all your hard work! This is the beginning of great things for you! We are grateful to be a part of your academic journey.

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## Mental Health Awareness Month

As we embark on Mental Health Awareness Month this May, PACCC is committed to fostering an environment where mental health is prioritized, and stigma is shattered. PACCC's directors received training on the technique known as '**Narrative Therapy**,' which helps staff and children learn how to externalize things they may be struggling with. The aim of externalizing enables people to realize that they and the problem are not the same thing. Externalizing empowers the individual to see an issue outside of themselves and address it with confidence, sensitivity, and applied knowledge. For more Mental Health resources, check out our **Family Resources** page on the PACCC website.

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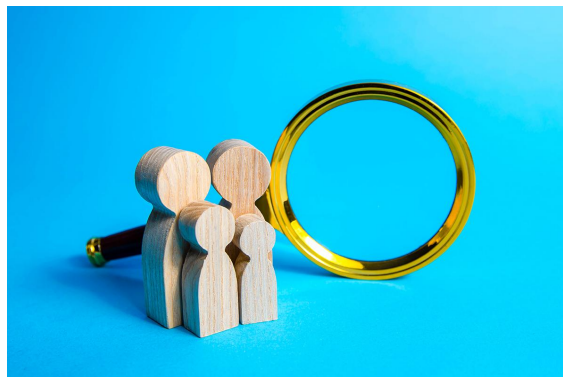


## Bike Safety Month



It's Bike Safety Month and as a bike-friendly city, these reminders and programs help keep us all safe – especially now that the warmer months are here, and bike enthusiasts are leaving their cars at home. **The Safe Routes to School Program** contains a local community partnership between the City, Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), and Parents Teacher Association (PTA). The partnership mission is to reduce risk to students en route to and from school and encourage families to choose healthy, active, sustainable alternatives to driving solo more often.”

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## Parent Resource Page

No matter how challenging or how smoothly the day is going, parents always need resources. It's a fact: Parents can't do it alone and with the **PACCC Family Resources Page**, you don't have to. From nutrition resources to mental health, to grief support, workshops, and everything in between – we're here to help.

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## Board Member Highlight: Elliott Wright

The contribution and dedication of our board members plays a crucial role in our success at PACCC. We are thrilled to introduce our readers to PACCC Board Member, Elliott Wright!



### Board Member Highlight

**ELLIOTT WRIGHT**  
Executive Director, Hidden Villa

*"Elliott Wright has spent his life focused on equity in experiential education and philanthropy to protect the rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans, and forests that sustain all life and allow a stable climate. He works locally and globally on education, climate justice, nature protection, and youth development. Growing up on native land of the Jemez people in New Mexico, Elliott explored regenerative systems between people and nature, and began a journey to understand the intersectionality of race, gender, ableism, and justice as keys to scale the environmental movement."*

Learn more about **Elliott Wright** on our website. Thank you for sharing your talents with us, Elliott!

## Thank You for Your Support!

So much goes into the daily operations at PACCC and when there's an extra event on top of that – we ask for extra support – and you have delivered! A big THANK YOU to these supporters:



el PRADO Hotel for their generous support for the PACCC Annual Board Meeting



Homewood Suites for their generous support and hosting of the Infant-Toddler and Preschool Professional Development Day

*Thanks again -- we couldn't have done it without you!*



## **PACCC Out in the Community**

As a community leader in Palo Alto, and in keeping with our **Strategic Plan** and commitment to build and foster community, PACCC partners with families and regional agencies to provide and advocate for exceptional and accessible childhood care and education. You will find Lee Pfab, PACCC CEO, and our Center Leadership engaged in the following community events and advocacy efforts this month:

- Santa Clara County Office of Education Childcare Provider Day
- Palo Alto Community Fund Rise & Shine Breakfast
- Leadership Palo Alto Graduation
- Rotary Grant Recipient Luncheon
- Palo Alto COMMunity Celebration
- CA Rate and Quality Advisory Panel
- CA Early Childhood Rate and Policy Council Meeting
- Santa Clara County Office of Education's Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC)
- PAUSD Board Meeting
- Palo Alto Advisory Committee on Early Care and Education Committee (PAACECE)
- Mid-Peninsula Community Outreach Coalition Led by Stanford



**Palo Alto Community Child Care**  
LEARNING, PLAYING, GROWING TOGETHER

## STAY CONNECTED!

Be with PACCC all day long.

JOIN THE FUN  
#PACCCCKIDS



## Pancake Breakfast



*Subscribe to PACCC's YouTube channel!*



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Stay tuned for next month's Curious Minds newsletter!

Palo Alto Community Child Care | 3990 Ventura Ct, info@paccc.org,  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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