



Los Gatos-Saratoga
Observation Nursery School

The Observatory

Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School ~ Issue 3 ~ January 2011

Registration for the 2011-2012 School Year

Now through February 7, 2011

What's Inside:

- Thank You from Teacher Jan
- Class Enrollment Descriptions
- Going Green Tips

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PRIORITY registration for the 2011-2012 school year has started and will end on Monday, February 7th.

Your application for next school year *MUST* be postmarked by February 7th in order for your child to be guaranteed a spot in our school.

All applications postmarked after February 7th will be processed in the order they

are received and are not eligible to participate in the lottery for a class. For help in choosing a class, please see the "What Class Is Right for Your Child" article.

For more information, please email Priscilla Amend at register@lgsons.com or call (408) 440-1690.

Application online at :
[http://lgsons.com/registration/2011-12 Registration%20Application.pdf](http://lgsons.com/registration/2011-12%20Registration%20Application.pdf)



What Class Is Right For Your Child?

What class shall I choose for my child for next school year?

As you ponder what is the best class placement for your child, please discuss the matter with your teacher. She will be happy to make a specific recommendation based on your child's developmental needs. Or she may tell you that it doesn't matter, and you may choose the class that best fits your schedule. Another way to help you decide is to visit the older classes. Please call the teacher ahead of time and also arrange for your child to stay with a friend. Do remember that every teacher does her best to meet the needs of the individual children that make up the class, and consequently, most children will do well in any class.

Here are some questions to ask yourself to help with your decision:

- How many days do you want your child to attend Mountain School?
- Are mornings or afternoons better? (e.g., does your child nap?)
- Would you prefer to carpool with one or two other families?
- How old is your child in relation to others in the classroom?
- What is the birth order of your child?
- Is your child enrolled in other classes or day care?
- What is the social development of your child?
- What family or work schedules need to be considered?

Each class is different so below is a brief description of the character of each class, which might help you with your decision.

3's Class – Tuesday/Thursday

mornings; carpool with one other child

The 3's class provides a strong, nurturing environment for the children as they take steps towards independence. The year begins with individual and parallel play, as is typical for this age group. There is not as much socializing as in the 3/4's class because the children are a little younger and may have a greater dependence on parents and teachers. The teachers help the children to use words and find ways to make the bridge to greater cooperative play and to the successful handling of conflict. There is usually a slightly lower level of physical activity than in the 3/4's class due to age and ability. Language development and self-expression are important aspects of all activities. Children carpool with one other child and attend school twice a week; or another way to look at it is parents attend class once a week and are responsible for two children on that day.

3/4's Class – Monday morning and Tuesday/Thursday afternoons; carpool with two other children

The children are generally more socially adept and more adventurous to try new activities and assert their independence. Many children are 3-1/2 years old or older when school starts. The teachers are there to watch, guide, and facilitate; during conflict they usually step back to give the children the direct experience in problem-solving that they need. Parents are encouraged to understand the child's view of life (their

unique voice) and gain insights into their individual behaviors. Circle times may be longer, and most children attend and participate in circle-time activities, songs, and conversations. Language, pre-reading and pre-math skills are developed through conversation, discussion, science projects, special materials, and other activities. The class takes various hikes and fieldtrips that will not only challenge the physical abilities of the children, but also respond to their increasing need for independence. Children participate in a 3-way carpool and come to school 3 times each week, twice without their parent. (Note: children in this class have priority the following year for enrolling in the 4/5's class.)

4/5's Class – Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoons; carpool with two other children.

There is more self-initiation of activities and more involved group play. Some projects take several class periods to complete. Children are held responsible for their actions and required to follow through on conflict resolutions. They are also required to attend circle time. Children are expected to help with cleanup and to wash their dishes after cooking time. Language and pre-reading skills are developed through drama, journal writing, and the introduction of other languages and cultures. Pre-math skills and science activities are part of special materials and an integral part of many other projects. Hikes are longer and more adventurous to take advantage of the children's increasing physical capabilities. Fieldtrips add more adventure and richness to the program. Parents attend class once a

week and are responsible for three children on that day.

Saturday Afternoon Class – Saturday afternoons; no carpool

The Saturday Afternoon class is designed for families – or fathers or mothers – with one or more children. This is an opportunity to be with your children on Saturday afternoons while they actively play in remarkable settings that include trees, streams, and nature trails and our beloved Schoolhouse. It is also a chance to talk about work/life balance and to develop friendships and parenting skills. It is a predictable time that your family can look forward to each week. Like other Mountain School classes, it offers a balanced, developmentally appropriate curriculum for 3, 4, 5, and 6 year olds in settings where they can develop in their own unique ways, benefit from the joys of discovery, and learn from one other. Children enrolled in this class may be in Kindergarten. Children in 1st grade may only be enrolled in this class if they are attending with a younger sibling. At least one parent is expected to attend each week with their child(ren).

So, in a nutshell, what can you do?

If your child is currently in the 2's class, you can request the 3's or 3/4's class. If your child is currently in the 3's class, you can request the 3/4's or 4/5's class. If your child is currently in the 3/4's class, you can request the 4/5's class or your child can go on to a Kindergarten program. (Children have successfully gone to Kindergarten from both the 3/4's and 4/5's classes.) Families enrolled in the Saturday Afternoon class have priority to re-enroll in the Saturday Afternoon class. They may also request the 3/4's and/or 4/5's classes and be placed on the waiting list ahead of alumni families and families new to Mountain School.



Picture Days are Coming to LGSONS! Mark Your Calendars...

by Anne Warner

Individual and class photos will be taken in color in an outdoor setting on your class photo day about 15 minutes after the start of class.

The schedule of photos is as follows:

Saturday, February 26th - All Saturday Classes

Wednesday, March 2nd - Wed 2's and 4/5's

Thursday, March 3rd - 3's and 3/4's

Friday, March 4th - Fri 2's

Sibling and or buddy photos can also be taken upon request.

Please dress your children in colorful play or dress clothes.

Proofs will be delivered approximately one to two weeks later and orders can be made at that time.

Hicklebee's Books & Mountain School!

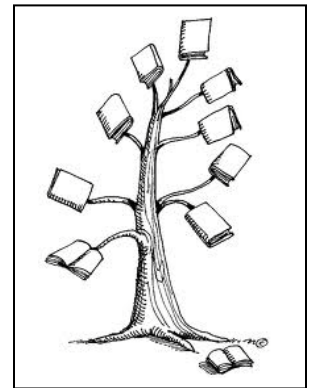
by Teacher Jane

THANK YOU to the many parents who purchased books at the evening events at Hicklebee's.

The combined total for both nights came to \$2,903 which means a

credit of nearly \$300 for the school to purchase books.

It truly is a win/win - your children have new books at home (or they are gifts to other children) - and we have purchased some new books for Mt. School.



"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

-Albert Einstein

WOOD WANTED
Soft wood scraps for our carpentry area. Small, leftover pieces of wood from frame shops. Let Teacher Jane know janekrejci1@verizon.net or bring them to the schoolhouse. Thanks!

Hicklebee's Books & LGSONS

The school receives "points" to buy books whenever parents and teachers spend money at Hicklebee's.

So, remember to *mention LGSONS / Mountain School* whenever you buy books at Hicklebee's and helps us keep adding to our library.

Hicklebee's also sells books for adults, hosts regular events for children, and can be found online at www.hicklebees.com. The store is located at 1378 Lincoln Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? I see a green world waiting for me!

By Karen McVay

Here are some more tips of helping the environment and being green without breaking the bank:

- Use reusable bags for grocery shopping.

Twelve million barrels of oil were used to make the 88.5 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States last year. And it takes four times more energy to make paper bags. I have a few nylon reusable bags that I keep in my car; I store them on the floor in the back seat so

when I take my kids out at the store I remember to get the bags out. You can find them at any grocery stores \$1-\$5 each. If you forget them ask for paper bags and reuse them as well.

- Stop receiving unwanted catalogs.

Each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. All those catalogs require more than 53 million trees and 56 billion gallons of wastewater to produce. Visit CatalogChoice.org to put a stop to

unwanted catalogs. Within 10 weeks, your mailbox will be empty of unwanted catalogs.

-Give up conventional detergents. Many natural detergents today are made to clean clothes just as effectively in cooler water temperatures. Choose detergents and other laundry products that are plant-based, concentrated and biodegradable.

For more great tips visit www.thedailygreen.com the consumer's guide to green revolution.



"Most of us cannot imagine the wheat beyond the bread, or the farmer beyond the wheat, or the farm beyond the farmer, or the history beyond the farm.

Most people cannot imagine the forest and the forest economy that produced their houses and furniture and paper, or the landscapes, the streams and the weather that fill their pitchers and bathtubs and swimming pools with water.

Most people appear to assume that when they have paid their money for these things they have entirely met their obligations."

- Wendell Berry, from "In the Presence of Fear"

(Let's hope we at Mt. School are a bit more conscious, as we help our children understand and appreciate where food and other things originate.)

Nut-Free School Reminder ~ Very Important

This is a reminder as we resume school in the new year that there is a child in one of the classes with a life threatening allergy to nuts so our school is to be totally NUT FREE in every way.

Remember that there are to be no nuts or nut products, nut milk, nut butters, etc., brought to school in any way - for cooking, lunches, snacks, art projects, science shelf, sharing, etc.

Please check the ingredients of the usual snacks you send for lunches to be certain that

there are no nuts or peanut butter in them.

In addition to the nuts we normally eat this prohibition includes acorns, buckeyes and other native nuts that we don't normally eat.

It is not just the eating of nuts that is life threatening but even touching one or a pan that had been used for cooking food with nuts or water used to wash the dishes.

Thanks for being extra alert to keep our school safe for everyone!



LGSONS 2010-2011 Spring Programs

Please remember that all enrolled families are required to attend the General Meeting, one mini-course and four circle meetings per semester. If you are unable to attend the mini-courses listed below, don't worry! There are more mini-courses currently being planned the week of April 18-21. Information regarding these mini-courses will be sent out shortly.

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

"Raising Your Children to Love Learning" with Dr. Deborah J. Stipek, Dean of the School of Education at Stanford University

Date: Thursday, February 10, 7-9pm

Location: Louise Van Meter Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room/Cafeteria

Dr. Stipek will share research-based strategies for maintaining your children's intrinsic interest and joy in learning as they advance through a test-driven and often stressful education system.

Since joining Stanford University in 2001, Dr. Stipek has been the James Quillen Dean and Professor of Education where her scholarship includes instructional effects on children's achievement motivation, early childhood education, elementary education, and school reform. In addition to her scholarship, she served for five years on the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Academy of Sciences and chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Increasing High School Students' Engagement & Motivation to Learn. Dr. Stipek's doctorate is from Yale University in development psychology. One of her recent publications, "Motivated Minds: Raising Children to Love Learning" will be available for purchase at the General Meeting.

For more information on Dr. Stipek's research and her books, please visit:

<http://ed.stanford.edu/faculty/stipek>

**Please try to arrive 10-15 minutes early to accommodate for parking and to sign in. The Multi-purpose room at Louise Van Meter is located on the corner of Los Gatos Blvd. and Nino Avenue near the front of the school.

MINI-COURSES:

"Cinderella Ate My Daughter" by Peggy Orenstein

Date: Thursday, February 3, 7pm

Location: Almaden Country School Auditorium, 6835 Trinidad Drive, San Jose

RSVP to: Yumi Hiroshima

yumi.hiroshima@gmail.com

Bestselling author and award winning journalist Peggy Orenstein expounds on her new book, "Cinderella ate my daughter: Dispatches from the front lines of the new girlie-girl culture." She examines the ways images of idealized female beauty and behavior, themselves the product of a marketing juggernaut, influence young girls. By the time they reach kindergarten, female children have already absorbed the idea that external appearances are of paramount importance. Early foundations have been laid for the belief that beauty, and an all encompassing concern with the physical self, is the ultimate path to empowerment. Peggy's book has been called "Intelligent and richly insightful" by Kirkus. A limited number of copies of "Cinderella Ate My Daughter" will be available for purchase at a discounted price at this event.

For links to related articles by Peggy Orenstein:

"The Empowerment Mystique"- NY Times Magazine, Sept. 2010-

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/26/magazine/26fob-wwln-t.html>

"Playing at Sexy"- NY Times Magazine, June 2010-

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/magazine/13fob-wwln-t.html>

"Under Our Skin" - A Must-See Movie About Lyme Disease

Date: Monday, February 7, 7pm

Location: Lakeside Elementary School, 19621 Black Road, Los Gatos

RSVP to: Yumi Hiroshima

yumi.hiroshima@gmail.com

Yes, we live in Tick Country! We all need to know about the disease carried by these insects. What we don't know is the extent of the problem. Here is an opportunity to learn. This critically acclaimed and Academy Award shortlisted documentary by Andy Abrahams Wilson investigates one of the most controversial and fastest growing epidemics of our time. A 20-time winner at international film festivals, "Under Our Skin" is a shocking, real-life thriller, which exposes the controversy

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MINI-COURSES (Continued from Page 6):

surrounding Lyme disease, revealing deep fault lines in our medical research, healthcare and insurance systems.

Following stories of patients fighting for their lives, "Under Our Skin" reveals a natural world out of balance and a human nature all too willing to put profits before patients.

Dr. Raj Patel, a local recognized Lyme Literate Doctor, will be making a brief presentation and answering questions on Lyme and how it is relevant to us in our community. He has been successfully treating Lyme disease with antibiotics coupled with homeopathy, herbs and immune system modulation.

For additional information about the film, go to www.underourskin.com .



"Power Struggles: Win-Win Strategies for Families" with Alyson Schafer, M.A.

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 9am

Location: Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center Auditorium, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos

RSVP to: Sherri Ingrassia (singraffia@hotmail.com)

Grab your friends and come on out to a funny and informative talk on how to recognize and diffuse power struggles with your children. Schafer will teach you techniques that will get results and will walk you through your toughest situations.

Alyson Schafer is a psychotherapist and one of Canada's leading parenting experts. She's the author of the best-selling "Breaking the Good Mom Myth" and the new "Honey I Wrecked the Kids". Her popular TV call-in show The Parenting Show is now in its sixth season.

This talk is part of the Common Ground Speaker Series. Please note that a \$20 fee will be charged at the door.

SUPPORT LGSONS WITH e-SCRIP, IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES...

e-Scrip is a wonderful way to support LGSONS.

10% of your purchases at Safeway or with any credit cards you enter will benefit Mountain School.

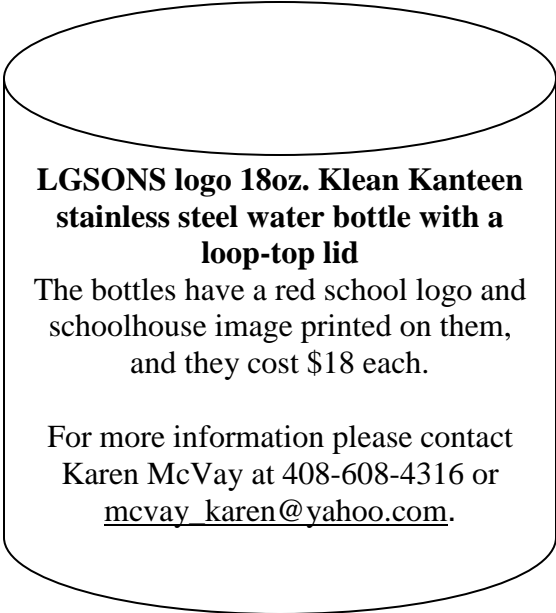
Go to www.escrip.com and follow the directions. Mountain School's number is 3593396.

If you've forgotten your Safeway card number, call 1-877-SAFEWAY and the nice people on the phone will ask you a few questions & give you the number over the phone. Don't forget to renew your Safeway card in e-Scrip every September.



**E-Waste Recycling to
Benefit Mountain School**

Saturday, Jan. 22nd at
Lakeside School

**LGSONS logo 18oz. Klean Kanteen
stainless steel water bottle with a
loop-top lid**

The bottles have a red school logo and
schoolhouse image printed on them,
and they cost \$18 each.

For more information please contact
Karen McVay at 408-608-4316 or
mcvay_karen@yahoo.com.



LGSONS Auction

Saturday, March 12th

**Redwood Estates
Pavilion in the Santa
Cruz Mountains**



Mountain School Open House!

Want to Introduce Your Friends to Mountain School?

Invite them to our Open House, where they can:

- Meet the teachers
- Tour the grounds
- Say hello to the chickens
- Talk with currently enrolled parents

Sunday, January 23rd, 2011

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More information on www.lgsons.com



Schoolhouse Now Booking Parties

*Looking for the perfect venue for your child's
next birthday party or that family reunion?*

The Mountain School is renting out the little
red schoolhouse for parties and family
gatherings most Sundays during the year. For
only \$300, you and up to 50 guests can enjoy
a day at Mountain School and will have access
to most everything the schoolhouse has to
offer -- both inside and out.

For more information and to check availability,
please contact Amy Attard at (408) 391-6369
or via email at amy3614@aol.com.