



Preschool News
September 2019

Looking Back

- ♥ Apples
- ♥ Mushrooms & berries
- ♥ Seeds
- ♥ Harvest Soup

Looking Forward

- ♥ Bears
- ♥ Leaves
- ♥ Bodies and bones
- ♥ Halloween

Letter from the teachers:

Welcome Preschool Families,

We're so happy to have you with us as we embark on another year of building a community dedicated to developmentally appropriate education of our preschoolers. I won't lie and say that it's always easy or smooth or tidy. Figuring out who you are and how to be among 18 or 19 unpredictable strangers is no easy task for children. Many are understandably wary and those who are jumping in with both feet right now may nevertheless experience periods of doubt later on. Making these first forays outside the known world of family and close friends is hard work for kids. Luckily they are intrinsically programmed to seek growth and mastery, and our aim is to help them feel confident in their ability to navigate this new environment. Separation issues are common at this time of year but may show up at any time and are totally expected and normal. Please talk with a teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's reactions. We have many resources to share and your knowledge of your child is invaluable to us.

We've practiced several preschool traditions these last weeks including apple picking, mushroom and blueberry ink, seed observations, and vegetable harvesting. The kids are getting to know preschool routines along with learning about their classmates and teachers. Second and third year preschoolers, already knowledgeable about these routines are consciously and unconsciously teaching our new students and making our jobs so much easier. It's also been fun to see experienced preschool parents model for new parents. Nothing about preschool is rocket science but having someone around who knows the ropes in a new environment is helpful for anyone, child or adult. Some of us have been around so long (speaking for myself here), that we make assumptions about what people know. Last week I asked a parent to get me something from the "black hole" and received a terrified look in response. Please do ask if something is confusing. Preschool moves pretty fast once the kids arrive but we want you to feel comfortable and competent here.

We've welcomed three new students since the first day of preschool: Imogen Redneck and Stella Goetz have joined the Tuesday/Thursday class, and Bruer Smith is now a full-fledged member of the MWF class. We're so pleased to have you with us.

Your children are beginning to feel comfortable with the space and routines at preschool now. Things are going to move faster. Get ready. And please feel free to contribute your ideas, opinions, reservations, questions, and thoughts. Your participation enriches us all.

See you at preschool,

Mary, Linda, Elly, and Lauren



News and Announcements:

We have two new teachers at preschool this year. **Elly McPherson** teaches T/Th mornings and also T/Th Preschool Plus. **Lauren** works MWF Preschool Plus. We're delighted to have them. Here are their introductory bios:

Elly

Hi my name is Elly, and I just moved to Juneau with my husband and 7 1/2-year-old daughter from Napa, California. I love nature, taking pictures, writing, and drawing. I also love arts and crafts! My favorite children's books are *The Lorax*, and *Maxwell Mouse*. I believe that we are here to guide our children — and learn from them as well. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and watching them grow this year!

Lauren

Hi! My name is Lauren and I will be leading Pre-school Plus on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. I have two daughters currently enrolled at Dzantik'i Heeni. They are both Girl Scouts, active in community sports, and once upon a time attended the Nursery School in the room next door to JCP. My oldest daughter was lucky enough to attend JCP with Teacher Mary.

I am a licensed educator specializing in art education. In addition to working at JCP, I am also currently employed with the Juneau School District Department of Teaching and Learning Support where I coordinate and maintain the elementary science kits. Over the years, I have also taught art at Juneau Community Charter School and have worked part-time at Mommy-N-Me Wear — all while balancing the never-ending art of being the primary "stay-at-home-parent." I have volunteered in my daughters' classrooms, attended field trips, and driven carpools. I have worked with children in a wide variety of settings, including summer camps, preschools, after school activities, and professional teaching.

I am excited by the opportunity to work, learn, and grow with your children. I love being outdoors, wild imaginations, and the never-ending enthusiasm, energy, and surprise children offer to this messy, wonderful life. Thank you for the gift of your children.



Upcoming Events

MWF Community Garden Field Trip:

Wednesday, Sept. 25
9:15-11:15 am

Please make sure to dress your child in lots of **raingear**. Parents are **welcome** to join us for this field trip.

Board Meeting:

Monday, Oct. 14
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Preschool Classroom

Alaska Day:

Friday, October 18
No Preschool

Messages from the Board:

Hey Preschool Families! Cheers to getting the year started off right! We have a great group here and I am confident that we are going to have a stellar year.

I just wanted to write a little note to you all about the importance of our sub program. Our program allows kids who are on the waitlist for preschool to attend classes when there are openings or for kids to attend on days they're not currently enrolled. In order for this to be successful, we need to know when your kid is not attending preschool so we know what our openings are. Also, if you would like to be on the sub list for any particular days please let us know (for example my son Arlo is in Tuesday/Thursday, yet I am on the sub list for Wednesday since I would love to have him attend on Wednesdays when possible but not fully enrolled him in Monday/Wednesday/Friday).



We have a sub coordinator, the ever-lovely Tana O'Leary, who matches kids on the sub list with vacancies that day at preschool. So, it is important that you communicate with Tana to let her know when you have a planned vacation or if your kid is sick. Whether you know the night before or even the morning of, we can still often times get someone to fill that spot with an hour notice. As many of these notifications are last minute the best way to contact Tana is to text her, or if you want to let her know of an advanced opening, like a planned vacation, you can also send her an email: tanager@mindspring.com or (907) 650-7133.

It may seem insignificant, but we do have a list of people who would love to pay us cash money to bring their kiddo to school when regular students are unable to attend and this cash money adds up quick. In previous years we have made over \$3000 in sub fees which was money we didn't have to make via fundraisers, so it's less work for everyone.

SOOOO, please please please let us know when you are not going to bring the wee one to school so that we can use it to our collective advantage.

Be wild, be crazy, be kind!

Taylor



Juneau Cooperative Preschool

At Northern Lights United Church
400 W 11th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
juneaucoopreschool@gmail.com

Find Us Online!
<http://juneaupreschool.org>

The Juneau Co-Op Preschool is a non-profit organization run by involved parents and dedicated teachers. Although preschool families pay monthly tuition, 30% of the preschool's budget comes from other sources, primarily fundraising. Fundraising is vital to the success of our school!



Fun Photos



**THANK YOU * GUNALCHÉESH * SPASIBO * TESEKKÜR EDERIM * GRACIAS * KH
KHXBKHUN * TAKK * GRAZIE * MERCI**

Kudos, gratitude, and appreciation this month to the following folks in our preschool community:

- ⇒ Shannon Seifert, (alumni parent), for taking on set-up for us even though her son is doing a kindergarten trial.
- ⇒ Geraldine Taug (Arlo T's mom), for donating a Baby Raven Reads picture book collection.
- ⇒ Iris Nash (Yakobi's mom) for donating a vacuum cleaner when ours died.
- ⇒ Tessany Alrich (Juniper's mom) for donating a swing for the climbing room and art supplies.
- ⇒ Pastor Faith of Northern Light United Church for allowing our preschoolers to pick apples from her apple tree.
- ⇒ Taylor Beard (Arlo B's mom, board co-pres), for generously doing extra work days and for classroom and teacher support. Also for the vacuum cleaner donation!
- ⇒ Olay Caf (Fera's dad), for tender care and feeding of our classroom tree and the mushroom farm.
- ⇒ Lily Hope (Ella's mom), for donating *The Invisible String* in honor of Ella's upcoming birthday.



Note from the editor~

I welcome any and all suggestions and submissions for content, pictures or otherwise. Especially pictures! This makes the newsletter that much better for all families. I often don't have many pictures of the class my daughter isn't in. I would like to also include upcoming family-friendly events in town, so all of the parents "in-the-know", please keep that in mind and pass along any information for the good of the collective.

Thank you and have a wonderful fall!

Newsletter Editor: Christal Higdon newsletter@juneapreschool.org



Health Safety Notification regarding the **SPOTTED TUSSOCK MOTH CATERPILLAR**

These Caterpillars should not be touched or picked up.
Scrubbing the area can break the barbs which inject venom.
You can even react to their airborne spikes or hairs.

Parents, different people will experience different reactions so please tell children about the potential harm from handling these cute fuzzy fellows.

Skin reactions won't always look the same, but can include:

- * Rash
- * Hives
- * Red dotted skin
- * Blistered spots

The severity of the conditions can worsen with each new exposure.

Some relief options:

- The spiky fur can sometimes be removed from the skin by using tape, or a credit card.
- Icing the area can relieve the itch, but **DO NOT SCRATCH**
- Benadryl, Claritin, Zyrtec, and Baking Soda Paste can help

We are here to help!

See a medical provider if: Swelling increases
You have difficulty breathing
You have swelling near eyes, nose or mouth
Antihistamines offer no relief



Dahl Memorial Clinic
Ph: 907-983-2255
E-mail: clinicinfo@skagway.org

Community Rewards:

About AmazonSmile

Set up AmazonSmile to give a small percentage of your purchases to Juneau Community Preschool – an easy way to help out the school!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Juneau Community Preschool every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to preschool.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

NOTE: Smile donations do NOT work from the Amazon App – you must

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go to smile.amazon.com in a web browser to make your final purchase. I use the App to shop and add items to my cart, and then go to the web browser to finish checking out. Create a link on your home screen to make it easier.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards



Support Juneau Community Preschool just by shopping at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card! All you have to do is link your Rewards Card and scan it every time you shop at Fred Meyer.

1. Go to fredmeyer.com
2. Click the Savings & Rewards drop down Fred Meyer Community Rewards
3. Under Are You A Fred Meyer Customer?

[Re-enroll or link your Rewards Card now](#)

Organization Name: **Juneau Co-op Preschool**
Organization Number: **SD033**

Pick. Click. Give.

Don't forget to include Juneau Community Preschool with your annual **Pick. Click. Give.** donation when you apply for your PFD online.

<https://mypfd.alaska.gov/>

Pick.
Click.
Give.