

Welcome!!!!!!!!!!

We are very excited to have your child and family join us at Little Saints Preschool. We have many fun and exciting activities planned to help prepare your child for Kindergarten and the next step in their life. As a Preschool and Pre-K program we spend an equal amount of time outdoors as we do indoors, connecting the children to nature, thru water play, playing in puddles, gardening, nature walks, art, music, books, science and much more. We also believe it is important to prepare the children for kindergarten using songs, sight words, a letter a week, reading, science and much more. We also assess the children using ASQ's (ages and stages questionnaire) and the K.S.E.P assessment (kindergarten student entrance profile). Each child is also given the opportunity to connect with God during our religion time using "Stories of God's Love". This will be a very special and eventful year for your child and family. Before your child's school year begins, we know that you may have a few questions regarding our program, please feel free to ask at any time. I would like to take this opportunity to go over a few items with you, please feel free to call or email me with any questions or comments.

Preschool Teaching Staff

I would like to take this time to introduce myself as the Little Saints Preschool Director. My name is Terese Munoz- Hill. I had the privilege to attend La Purisima School until I entered High School. During my time in High School I realized I loved working with children, I began taking an early childhood class in High school and started to volunteer and work at the Boys and Girls Club. I worked with Teens, Afterschool and the Preschool. I was able to work my way up from being a volunteer to the Afterschool/Preschool Director. After being at the Boys & Girls Club for 15 years I had my son Joshua and took time off to spend with him. I then took a job in Santa Barbara as a Preschool Teacher where I then became the Assist Preschool Director, I was able to learn about the OCP (Outdoor Class Project) and P.F.I (Preschool Food Initiative), thru the many O.C.P and P.F.I workshops and trainings I have taken. After being in Santa Barbara for 5 years, I was thrilled to come back and work here at La Purisima where my own education began. I have many great ideas that I continue to incorporate into Little Saints Preschool, including introducing all of the children and parents to the O.C.P and P.F.I. With the help of my father we continue to make changes to the yard and will continue to make many more great changes to come. Please check out outdoorclassroomproject.org to learn more about the O.C.P and P.F.I. You can also go onto Youtube.com and look up Outdoor Classroom Project to watch their video

Little Saints Pre-K & Preschool Staff:

Teacher Cynthia: Pre-K Teacher (Lion's Group)
Teacher Alexis: Pre-K Teacher (Tiger's Group)
Teacher Silvia: Preschool Teacher (Zebra's Group)
Teacher Noemi: Preschool & Pre-K Teacher Assistant
Teacher Mary: Sub

Parking

Please be aware of the school's parking policy. **We ask that all parents and designated adult must park in the school parking lot and walk their child to the preschool room in the morning (any time before 8:30am) using the crosswalk across the alley located on the south side of campus near the black chalkboard.** We ask that you please do the same if you are picking your child up before 4:00pm, after 4pm you may cross over alley but please keep your child next to you at all times. No child must be left to walk to and from the classroom alone for safety and licensing reasons.

Paperwork/Forms

Please ensure we have all forms that are required including your child's physician report and a copy of their immunization record, you have 30 days to complete the physicians report. Your doctor will usually fill one out without seeing your child if they have had an exam in the last year. Please see teacher Terese to check if you are missing anything, this includes a photo release.

Outdoor Classroom/ Preschool Food Initiative

This school year we will continue to implant the Outdoor Classroom into our preschool philosophy. We plan to continue making changes to the Outdoors that include adding to our sandbox area, dramatic play area, and Art/writing area, reading area, water area, messy play area, more natural materials and Gardens. We believe that anything that can be done indoors can be taken outside. Children should be able to feel the dirt and grass under their toes. We will also continue implanting some of the P.F.I into our preschool. We will continue to make our snacks more nutritional using whole wheat bread and more fruits and veggies are just some items. We do not require any parents to donate snack items, but if you would like to please see Teacher Terese to find out how you can help. We will also continue to add to our gardens for the children to grow their own veggies and fruits for the children to use in cooking activities such as smoothies.

Snacks/Lunches

As mentioned above, we do not require any snack donations, but if you are willing to help with donations that would be wonderful. Snack will be healthy and we are asking that lunches meet this healthy policy requirement also. I know this can be a process and we understand. We are asking that **no candy** is packed in lunches along with **chocolate, cookies or sweet treats**, some suggestions are sandwiches, fruits, veggies, water, fruit cups, yogurts etc.... We will be learning what is healthy for our bodies. "It takes a child 7 or more times to try a new food till they decide if they like it". Please pack your child's lunch with an ice pack if there is anything cold in there, as **we do not store the lunches in a fridge. We are also not able to warm lunches up.**

Water Play/Messy Play

As part of the outdoor classroom, we believe that children should be able to feel the water on their face and the sand between their toes. Children need the opportunity to explore and use all their senses. With this belief we will continue to add to our sand pit, water wall, and art area. The **children will be getting wet and possibly messy**, we ask that you do not dress your child in their best clothes. We will be using water whenever the children want to explore it. We ask that you bring your child's swimsuit so that he/she change into (it can be left here at school) along with an extra set of clothing and towel.

What to bring to school/Clothing

- Water bottles, for outside play. (we ask that you please take your child's water bottle home ever Friday to wash it)
- Nap Items, (if your child sleeps) such as blanket. We will wash blankets and sheets once a week.
- Healthy Lunch packed with an ice pack if needed.
- Sunscreen (labeled with your child's name).
- Extra Clothes.
- A Jacket, if the weather calls for it. We will not make children wear jackets outside unless the weather is unusually cold, if your child is cold we encourage them to wear a jacket if they are not, then it's ok if they do not wear one. We will keep an eye on the children to make sure they are wearing the appropriate clothing. We believe that cold weather does not make you sick, we teach the children that germs get you sick. We encourage hand washing and lots of outdoor play where there is fresh air.

Billing

As a reminder Tuition payments are due by the 5th of every month. If you would like to make payments thru the SMART tuition, please see Teacher Terese for an enrollment form. As a friendly reminder we will be sending Tuition statements home by the 25th of each month for the following month owed. All payments can be made out to La Purisima School and can be given to the office or Teacher Terese. Please see Teacher Terese if you owe the Registration fee

Signing In and Out

Please make sure you sign your child in and out daily with a full signature. Each child has their own monthly sign in and out sheet that is kept in the white binder outside of both classrooms, each child's sheet is under their first name. The school will not assume responsibility for any child that has not been signed in when he/she arrives for the day.

Contact Information

It is very important that we have current information on your child's emergency card including accurate names, phone numbers, and addresses. If there are any changes in your contact information including anybody that might be picking up your child, please notify us immediately so that the changes can be made on your child's emergency card. In addition, it is always helpful to know if there are any changes in your routine at home or in your child's life that may affect them such as a move, new job, loss of job, etc, so that we can help your child cope if needed.

Personal Space

Your child has a designated cubby with his/her name on it. You and your child may place your child's jacket, sweater, nap item's etc. in this space. Your receipts, important paperwork, news, and your child's work that they have created can be found in your child's cubby in the top cubby slot.

Parent Information Board/ Daily News Board

Please check the Parent Board for all current events and any newsletters. We also have posted on the Parent information board the daily schedule, snack menu, and a little information about the teachers. Monthly e-mails will also be sent home with reminders and information, please update all e-mail address with us if they have changed.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read over the information given to you. We look forward getting to know you throughout the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 805-735-7226 or thru e-mail at littlesaints@lapurisimaschool.org.

Terese Munoz-Hill

Preschool Director