



ROOTS AND BRANCHES October 2011



We certainly enjoyed visiting with all of you at our Friday night Pot Lucks and hope it helped all of you by meeting a few new families! All classes have now had "Star Tom" visit them, and they seem to be having a wonderful time singing songs and listening to Star Tom play his guitar! I will be getting out a small song book soon to give each of you the words to some of our everyday songs that the teachers and Star Tom sing with the children.

Tuesday/Thursday Classes

Beginning Tuesday, October 18th, Tuesday/Thursday children will be in small groups for snack time, and we will post a list so that you will know which group your child is in. Toward the latter part of the month you will then see conference "sign-up" sheets out in the lobby. We will ask that you sign up for a time to meet with your child's small group teacher for intake conferences. If you have any questions or concerns before then, please remember to email or call us and we will get back with you.

We will also begin our inside/outside exploration schedule with the three year olds during the week of October 17th or October 24th. We needed this additional time for some of the children to remember where the potty is and be able to *make it* to the potty all the way from outside!

MWF Inside/Outside Update

We are very happy with the way the four year old children have adjusted to the new schedule! The first week we did see quite a few outside the entire two hours, but the second week, many remained inside as well. An interesting observation we made was that the week it was so hot, most of the children went out, but soon realized on their own that it was just *too* hot for them - so they slowly made their way back up the ramp to the school, asking for more water and deciding to play inside. It is actually quite amazing to see them able to regulate their own bodies and know when enough is enough! We got out the new wheelbarrows and baby buggies for outside, and many boys were seen doing some heavy lifting in the wood chips. Others were giving rides in the wheelbarrows and buggies - much to the delight of the children getting the ride - hard stuff for the lifters and pushers - another great job for developing their gross motor skills! ☺

Thank you

Thank you so very much to all the families who supported our gift wrap sale! Kacy will be busy submitting all the orders! Your support is GREATLY appreciated! I would also like to thank all the parents who have been so great about following our "birthday guidelines" by providing *healthy* snacks of fruits and vegetables for their children. It makes it much easier when all the families follow the guidelines! ☺ We would also like to thank everyone for your wonderful support as parent aides! It is such invaluable help to the teachers to have you here with us! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

Live Oak Photo Day!

We are very fortunate to have Valerie Benvenuti, a professional photographer and former Live Oak parent, to photograph our children. She will be here on Wednesday, October 12th for the MWF classes and Thursday, October 13th for the T/TH classes. She is going to be taking individual photos of the children outside, and you will only be charged for the photos you order - *no sitting fee!!* After she completes all the photos, she will post them online and you may order from these pictures if you would like. There is no obligation; she is simply doing this as a favor to us at Live Oak.



Fourth Annual Walkathon! (Message from Kacy)



Just around the corner is our 4th Annual Live Oak Walk-a-thon on October 19th from 4:30 - 6:00. This is a super fun event for the whole family! Pledge sheets will be out this week for you to start getting those pledges! We will also be selling raffle tickets up until the day of the event and you will have the chance of winning some incredible wine and/or a brand new kid's bicycle! **Divine Pizza will be here to provide dinner. Information on menu and how to pre-order will be out soon! The kids definitely work up an appetite....so bring a blanket and enjoy a night away from cooking!** It's going to be a fun filled day and we look forward to seeing you there!

As you might remember from your new parent meetings, tuition alone does not in any way cover all the expenses Live Oak incurs throughout the year. Fundraising monies help provide teachers with continuing education, replace worn classroom supplies, and replace bark and sand every year in our playground, etc., etc... It takes all of us pitching in to help! Thank you for your support. If you ever have a question about where this money will go, just let me know and I will be happy to explain this in more detail to you.



Halloween will be here before we know it!



October for families of small children usually means Halloween! If children were in charge, we know they would probably make it a National Holiday! For the three year olds it can sometimes be a bit overwhelming and confusing, and for the four year olds it's an opportunity to dress up and act different! If you look at the October calendar, you will see that we will be doing many things with pumpkins around the end of October. **Thursday, October 27th, the T/TH children are welcome to wear their costumes to school. We will also be having our own pumpkin patch in our backyard the last 15 minutes of school for each child to choose a small pumpkin to take home. For the MWF children, we will have a pumpkin patch on Friday, October 28th, but they wear their costumes on Monday, October 31st.** If you do not want their costume getting dirty, make sure they have a change of clothes for outside play. Regular shoes are also a good idea for outside! **We ask that the children please not wear any masks to school because some of the children get very scared. Also, please no weapons of any kind, even if they are a part of your child's costume.** I'll leave it to your imagination as to how the day would proceed with 20 plus heroes and their swords in the play yard. (Speaking of super heroes. . . please understand that on regular school days, we really try to keep "super hero" play out of our school. It is a great help to us if you let your child know that we don't like children to wear super hero shirts to school. It seems to initiate that type of play at school, and *believe me*, we have plenty of that already without the shirts adding to our fun!! ☺)

We'll be having orange and black healthy snacks for the holiday and I will put a sign-up sheet for bringing snacks as the day approaches. We are happy to help with snack ideas if you need help. **We will keep our regular schedule on the Halloween celebration days. Parents are welcome to come during the last 15 minutes of class for the pumpkin hunt in the back yard.**

Dinner Dance Auction (DDA) Volunteer Meetings!!

We understand everyone is so busy at this time of year and it's difficult for you to make another meeting at night, so. . . it looks like the DDA Team will try to have short meetings at drop off or pick up time. PLEASE think about joining us for 5-10 min to simply hear about the DDA and how you might be able to help. I cannot stress enough to you the importance of "pitching in" on our fundraising efforts. I know it

seems that it comes all at once, but other than the volunteer meeting now, the DDA is down the road a bit - we just need to put on our "thinking caps" and get an idea of what needs to be done. *Please* join us when you see an email or note about the next volunteer meeting! Many Thanks in advance!



Extra Rainy Day Set of Clothes!

I know it may be sunny and warm by next week, but more rain will be around the corner and cooler weather as well. Please be sure to update your child's clothing bag at school as necessary. If your child owns rain boots, please have him/her wear them or bring them on rainy days, as well as a raincoat with a hood, as it is fun to go out in the rain if even for a few moments! ☺

Dates to Remember

Wed/Thurs Oct. 12 th /13 ^h	Photo Day at Live Oak!
Sat., October 15 th	Sonoma County Museum on the Go for Live Oak - here in our parking lot from 10-2:00 p.m. (Free - thanks to Elizabeth, Michael and Hugo Traverso☺)
Thurs., October 19 th	4th Annual Walk-a-thon at 4:30 - you don't want to miss this! (moms and dads - just a warning - wear your tennis shoes to keep up with your kids!☺)
Thurs., Oct. 27 th	T/TH day for Halloween Costumes and Pumpkin Patch last 15 min. of class
Fri., Oct. 28 th	MWF Pumpkin Patch last 15 min. of class
Mon., Oct. 31 st	MWF day for Halloween Costumes
Tues., Nov. 1 st	Teacher In-Service Day (No School for children)

Something to think about . . .



"How happy would your life become if every time you taught your children a new idea or skill from your world, you stopped and watched until they taught you one from theirs? What will you learn from them today?" William Martin

