



**ROOTS AND BRANCHES  
LIVE OAK PRESCHOOL  
January 2012**



Welcome back to Live Oak! I hope you all had a wonderful time at home and abroad with your families! It is always so nice to see grandparents in town who come by and visit our school! THANK YOU ALL so very much for all our wonderful gifts you gave us at Christmas! We have spoiled ourselves silly with coffee, candy and beauty treatments! What fun and what a special treat for all of us. We truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

At Live Oak, many times we see January and the start of the New Year, as the time that children grow in the area of "self help" skills. The four year olds especially seem to grow in this area, and it is an amazing thing to watch them as they exhibit these skills more proudly each day! These are the skills that for many parents are more quickly done by us. The little things like children pulling up their own pants, being able to put shoes and socks on, putting away and getting their own jackets, as well as the bathroom rituals of flushing and washing hands are very important skills for preschoolers. Many times, just giving your children a few extra minutes will help them feel more confident in life as they master these skills on their own. Kindergarten teachers ask that children be able to take care of their own clothes and bathroom needs, etc., before entering kindergarten. We would like to help you in working together on these skills while you have your children at Live Oak.



We will be talking to all the children in the three and four year old classes about being "kind" to one another and using our "nice words" with one another. For the four year old children, the teachers will begin next week giving out "kindness tickets." Just so you will know what your children are talking about, here's a hint: each time a teacher *catches* a child being "kind" to another child or teacher, the teacher will give the child a "ticket." These are quite sought after tickets once the children understand how it works! It is very cute to have the *children* telling the teacher who they think deserves a kindness ticket!

**Also for the four year olds, we will begin having "sharing" days during their class. Please look for the handout in your child's art folder. The first sharing day will be Wednesday, January 25th.**



**Want to be a parent (or grandparent) reader?**

Each year about this time, we ask parents if they would like to sign up to be a "reader" during the first 20 minutes of free choice. It is so nice to see parents *or* grandparents reading to the children. It's simple, just sign up on the sign-up sheet in the lobby, and let the kids choose a book. You can sit near the "good bye" window or anywhere you can find a little peace and quiet and read to any children who are interested. You will almost *always* have at least 2-4 children. Once they realize parents are coming every day, you will be surprised how many children start showing up and choosing books for you. After 20 minutes, or whenever you feel the children are no longer interested, you simply let them know you are off to run your errands or go to work. We will have these sign-up sheets out beginning Thursday, Jan. 12th

**Live Oak DDA**

Just a reminder that the DDA is right around the corner - Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>! Please look for your invitations in your art folder next week! We ask that you please RSVP as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend, PLEASE, let us know so that we may allow others to purchase your seats to ensure a full crowd!!! If you are still interested in helping by way of making a donation or helping out, please do not hesitate to call Angela McFerren at 836-1907. Thank you!

## Live Oak Sweatshirts and T-Shirts for Sale!

If you would like to purchase a Live Oak sweatshirt we have many available and are ordering more to be sure - we also have t-shirts. The sweatshirts are \$15 and the t-shirts are \$8 - please see Therese or Kacy. We can put it on your account or have you write a check. Thank you. We usually have a "Spirit Day" in February, but they can also wear just green and white on that day if they don't own a sweatshirt or t-shirt which is perfect!

## Healdsburg *Wild Steelhead* Festival! Respect, Restore, Celebrate!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 11th at 10:00 a.m. The Annual Healdsburg Wild Steelhead Festival is taking place at our very own town plaza! Live Oak will have a table with face painting and an art project for the children. We will need at least 4 parents to help with face painting for two hours each, beginning at 10 a.m. I will also need a parent to help who has a truck available, to help bring a small table from our school with a couple of chairs at 7:30 a.m. that morning. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know as soon as possible! This is definitely a fun and informative event for the whole family! Stay tuned for further information! Please email Therese at [therese@liveoakschool.org](mailto:therese@liveoakschool.org).

### Dates to Remember!

<u>Mon., Jan. 16</u>	No School - Martin Luther King Holiday
<u>Wed/Thurs. Jan. 18/19</u>	Pajama Day - kids can wear PJ's to school - tennis shoes though please
<u>Wed., Jan. 25</u>	Sharing Day for the MWF classes!
<u>Thurs./Fri. Jan. 26/27</u>	Black and White Day (remember to wear black and white!)
<u>Sat., February 11</u>	Healdsburg <i>Wild Steelhead</i> Festival-10:00a.m. Healdsburg Town Plaza.
<u>Monday, February 13</u>	No school, Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
<u>Tuesday, February 14</u>	No School, Teacher In-service Day
<u>Friday, March 9</u>	Live Oak Dinner Dance Auction (aka DDA)

Thank you!!

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful cards, gifts, and special notes from all our Live Oak families! You truly made all of us, teachers and staff, feel very special during the holidays!!

