

October 2009

Staff Updates

Shelley Ancora has recently joined the Storyland team. She will be co-teaching with Ms. Sara in the Goof Troop classroom. Shelley comes to us with a bachelor's degree in psychology as well as a fully credentialed teaching permit. She has been teaching for over 15 years in both New Jersey and California. Please join us in welcoming Shelley to Storyland.

Family Potluck Dinner

You are all invited to join us for our annual Family Potluck Dinner Friday, October 2nd from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for you to take part in our community of children, parents and staff. Please check the front communication board to sign-up to bring either a main dish, side dish or dessert.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Our cookie dough fundraiser has come to an end and was a huge success; we were able to raise \$1,975! A special thank you to Elana Stevens who was our top seller! We will be providing our school with new sensory and manipulative toys, supplies for our art and science centers as well as supplies for outdoor activities. We will also complete filling all of our teacher's wish list orders for their classrooms. Thank you all so much for your help and participation!

Pumpkin Patch Field Trips

This year our pumpkin patch field trips will be held at G&M Farms for a fun and educational morning on the farm. The tour begins with a wagon ride around the cornfield. Tour guides will then teach the life cycle of the pumpkin. Also available for the children to enjoy is a play area, farm animals and a hay bale maze. The cost is \$6 per child. If you are interested in driving please check the front communication board for sign-up sheets.

- Mickey Mouse Pumpkin Patch Tuesday, October 13th
- Looney Tunes Pumpkin Patch Wednesday, October 14th
- Goof Troop & Tiggers Pumpkin Patch Thursday, October 15th

Reservations for all 3 dates are for 9:00 am. We will be leaving Storyland promptly at 8:45 am.

- Teddy Bears Pumpkin Patch Friday, October 16th at 10:00 am

All Teddy Bear toddlers are welcome to our very own pumpkin patch held in the Storyland toddler play yard. Come join us for a pumpkin hunt, face painting, project and a special snack. We will also be taking individual pictures of your child with their pumpkin. The cost is \$3 per child.

Special points of interest:

- Staff Updates
- Family Potluck Dinner
- Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- Pumpkin Patch Field Trips
- Parent Date Night
- Picture Days
- Halloween Party and Parade
- Reminders
- Upcoming Events
- October Birthdays
- Parent Center



Parent Date Night

Storyland presents Parent Date Night Saturday October 10th from 5:30 to 9:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per child and \$10 per extra child. If you are interested please check the front communication board to sign-up. There are 24 spaces available for children over 2 1/2 and 6 spaces for toddlers. The theme for the night will be "Pizza and Game Night" and the schedule of events are as follows:

5:30-6:30 Outdoor games	6:30-7:30 Pizza
7:30-8:30 Board games, stories music & dancing	8:30-9:00 Movie

For more information please contact Elena via e-mail at elena@storylandschool.com or call (925) 202-8154

Picture Days

Picture day for Teddy Bears, Mickey Mouse and Looney Tunes classes will be Wednesday, October 21st beginning at 8:00 am. Goof Troop and Tiggers picture day is Thursday, October 22nd beginning at 8:30 am. Even if it is not your child's regularly scheduled day you are more than welcome to bring them in to have their picture taken. Please check your child's file folder for more information.

Halloween Party and Parade

Friday, October 30th we will be celebrating Halloween with a costume party and parade. We will begin our day with the parade at approximately 10:00 am. Immediately following our parade we have many fun activities planned; snack, stories, art projects and of course trick or treating! All children are welcome but due to teacher/child ratios we ask you stay with your child if it is not their regularly scheduled day.

Please check the front communication board for sign-up sheets if you are interested in volunteering your time or donating non-candy products. Candy items will be provided by Storyland to ensure a peanut-free event.

Reminders

- Please sign your child in and out everyday. We require you print your child's name with your full signature. Licensing will charge a \$100 fine for each missing signature.
- Storyland is a peanut/nut free school. No peanuts or nut tree products are allowed in our school at any time.
- Please provide a pillowcase for storing your child's sheets and blankets, if you have not already done so.
- Do not park on the right half of the driveway on the right side of our building. That space belongs to our neighbor.
- Label all of your child's belongings and check the lost and found bin, which is located under the sign-in desk.
- For safety reasons, please do not let your child touch the front red gate. Please close and latch the gate immediately after entering or exiting the building.



Upcoming Events

October:

- Family Potluck Dinner Friday, October 2nd
- Picture Days Wednesday/Thursday, October 21st/22nd
- Mickey Mouse Pumpkin Patch Tuesday, October 13th
- Looney Tunes Pumpkin Patch Wednesday, October 14th
- Goof Troop/Tiggers Pumpkin Patch Thursday, October 15th
- Teddy Bears Pumpkin Patch Friday, October 16th
- Halloween Party and Parade Friday, October 30th

November:

- Canned Food Drive November 2nd-18th
- Toy Drive November 23rd-December 4th
- Thanksgiving Feast, Thursday November 19th
- November 26-27 Storyland closed for Thanksgiving

Coming up:

- Christmas Pageant and Lunch Friday, December 11th
- Christmas Party and Book Exchange Thursday, December 17th
- Storyland Closed for Christmas and New Years December 24th - January 1st

Happy Birthday!

Mya Summerfeldt	10/4
Jayden Altizer	10/4
Arabella Roman	10/10
Nicholas Tomasello	10/15
Kaeden Hudson	10/28
Isabella Hindman	10/31





Parent Center

Weaning Your Toddler From a Pacifier

Originally published in American Baby magazine, February 2004

When should you wean your child from a pacifier?

Although there is no specific age a child should be weaned from their pacifier, a good age to start would be about 18 months. When we say start, we mean to start the gradual process. Although some parents go "cold turkey" with removing the pacifier, we recommend a more gradual approach.

Why wean?

Possible side effects of prolonged pacifier use include:

- **Tooth Misalignment:** Depending on how long your child sucks on her pacifier, they could end up with a small deformity in the upper jaw, which could cause her upper teeth to misalign.
- **Slowed Language Development:** With a pacifier stuck in your baby's mouth all the time, they are less likely to babble and experiment with sound. This lack of practice could lead to slow language development.
- **Increased Ear Infections:** Pediatricians say that pacifier use has caused a 50% rise in ear infections.

How do I wean my child off a pacifier?

-Start Gradually

Start with only giving them a pacifier at nap or bed times to soothe themselves to sleep. Tell them that

their pacifier is only for sleepy time. Gradually work the pacifier out of the nap time routine, until they are only using it to sleep at night. Eventually "lose" the pacifier for bedtime. Your toddler should adjust within a couple of days.

-Substitute Other Tools

If your child won't give up the pacifier, have them trade it in for another toy or a special activity. At night, give your toddler a stuffed animal or special blanket instead of the pacifier for comfort.

-Peer Pressure

Keep your toddler playing with other children so that they model their behavior from them. (Choose non-pacifier sucking playmates)

-Rewards

Try a Reward Chart and give them stickers for getting through the day without their pacifier, if they are old enough to understand this. Give them lots of hugs, kisses, and "I'm proud of you's."

-Be Consistent

Do not give in to your toddler through a tantrum or bedtime crying. If you eventually give in and give them the pacifier, they will become confused. Stick to your guns and they will come around.

