

**School starts Wednesday, August 22rd, 8:40am--Please stay for the Principal's Welcome Coffee, 9am  
Back to School Night: Wednesday, September 12th.**

Dear Kindergarten Families and Students,

I hope you are enjoying the remaining days of summer vacation, while looking forward to the year ahead in Kindergarten at Pacific Elementary School. My name is Jennifer Bird, and I am delighted with the opportunity to be your Kindergarten teacher. Our year will be filled with learning, building relationships, sharing our interests, fostering curiosity, playing and growing together as a community. Additionally, we'll be practicing routines and academic activities and procedures that support school readiness.

The Pacific School experience is rich, and I know this as a parent of a Pacific student, long-time volunteer and teacher. I invite you to share your time and talents. If you wish to contribute more within the classroom, please let me know when you are here for the **classroom visit on Tuesday, August 21, 9:00-10:00 am**, or anytime after that. Opportunities to be involved are diverse, because there are so many wonderful things to learn and do, but a few that support the classroom include: behind the scenes material prep, center activity support, science journaling and exploration, art, cooking, physical activities, music, art, yoga, Life Lab volunteer... please know that your participation in the classroom is always welcome.

Communication is important to me, and although I may be less consistent with newsletters, I will always make myself available to share concerns and accomplishments: suggesting activities, ideas, and perhaps sharing materials to facilitate access to all the new academic and social learning that will be part of the 8:40am-12:30pm Kindergarten school day.

For many families, Kindergarten marks a transition: the start of the school experience. We will all be learning and growing together. I am very receptive to insights, interests, and learning styles that will best support students and foster a love of learning. Although I am structured in approach, with specific materials and procedures, I am very flexible and experienced with accommodating individual student needs.

Pacific Elementary richly embeds Orff Music, Life Lab, FoodLab, Library Time and Reading Buddies into the weekly school schedule, integrating a variety of engaging opportunities across settings within the school. Additionally, a bilingual teaching assistant will participate with the class 4/5 days of the week, creating greater opportunities for learning.

Thank you for being an active participant in your student's education.

Jennifer Bird, Kindergarten Teacher  
Pacific Elementary School, [jbird@pacificesd.org](mailto:jbird@pacificesd.org)

**Join us Tuesday, August 21st, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. for classroom visits. This is an hour when students and parents can visit the school, see their teachers, classmates, and meet new students. It is a restricted hour of visiting since teachers are busy preparing for the the first day of school! This is also a chance to be sure all your **Registration paperwork** is complete and turned in at the office; forms are on our school website and the emailed Back-to-School Registration Paperwork memo.**

Also, a reminder to **pay ahead for lunches, BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS;** we are all being encouraged to use our online banking to set up auto-pay for lunches, September 1 – April 1 (as well as for preschool tuition, after care, and Rec bills.) \$72 monthly for 20 student lunches @ \$3.60 each, and \$5.65 for each other lunch (parents, guests, siblings). Please contact the school office with questions.

#### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

I recommend each child bring a change of clothes in a labeled ziplock bag to leave at school.

Also, bring a packed lunch if not ordering school lunch or if staying for After Care.

Any donations are also welcome:

*Balls for outside play  
Colorful silk scarves for dancing & juggling  
Sidewalk chalk  
Sparkle glue  
Gems and sparkles  
Legos  
Watercolor pencils  
Fabric markers  
2-pocket folders*

*Beeswax sheets for candle making  
Glycerin for soap making  
Plaster of Paris  
Clay & tools for clay  
Kleenex  
Shells for art and sorting  
Tracing paper  
Watercolor paper  
Tag board*

*Washable markers  
Glue sticks  
  
Different scraping tools to do effects like Eric Carle  
Beads for making jewels*

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