

# The Sun Times

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July 2009

## La Luz Early Childhood Center

July always makes me reflect on America and all the ideals that America stands for. For children, it means fireworks, food, friends and family but do they really know what we are celebrating?

A good way to introduce this holiday to younger children is to explain that the 4th is America's birthday and all the celebrating and fireworks is the birthday party. As they get older, you can begin talking more in-depth. For example, Mary Eames Ucci, education director of the Wellesley College Child Study Center says as children get older, they can begin to understand what independence means. When you become independent, you get a lot of freedom but you also get a lot of responsibility."

Talk with your older children about our founding fathers and the causes they fought for and how they can carry on some of these causes. Also, visit a historical site. Although there are no American Heritage sites from the revolutionary war, we do claim the site of the first true revolutionary war: The Pueblo Revolt of 1680, where ruins still stand of the Pecos Mission Church, one of the battlefields. You can read more about this and see where the church is located at: <http://www.sangres.com/history/pueblorvolt.htm>. Click on the link below the picture of the **Pecos Mission** to learn more about this specific site.

Read with your children. "The Story of America's Birthday" by Patricia A. Pringy is recommended for babies to preschoolers. "O, Say Can You See? America's Symbols, Landmarks, And Important Words" By Sheila Keenan is for children aged 4 to 8.

Cook together. Take the time to cook up some Rice Krispy Treats and decorate them with red, white and blue frosting. Go to [http://www.familycorner.com/family/kids/recipes/july\\_4th.shtml](http://www.familycorner.com/family/kids/recipes/july_4th.shtml) or <http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/special/specialfeature/july-4th-cakes/> for some more fun ideas.

No matter how you celebrate this important holiday, enjoy the time together and have fun. And just remember, you have the right to celebrate (or not to celebrate) any way you want because of the freedoms our ancestors fought so hard for.

Lisa

## This month at

### La Luz ECC:

- Friday, July 3rd:  
**CLOSED** for 4th of July
- Saturday, July 18th : Parent's Night Out 4-10pm

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## Jennifer's News



*Must be busy cleaning for the switching of classes!*

## Miyuki's News

Hello everyone!

First of all, I would like to thank all the parents who joined our field trip to the Aquarium. We enjoyed it and we hope you enjoyed it too! In July, I (Miyuki) will be on vacation, visiting my family in Japan from July 13th to July 31st. During my absence, Ms. Luisa will be taking good care of your children as my replacement.

For those of you who don't know Ms. Luisa, she was my assistant teacher last year and worked with this infant class for a while. She finished her acquisition of a child development associate, and she will be back with us. Ms. Shauna and Ms. Susan will continue working with your children as usual.

In July, we will have water play every Tuesday. On water play day, you will need to bring two swimming diapers, a swimming suit, and a bath towel. Children will play in a small shallow pool and at a water-filled sensory table. It will be FUN! Tanoshiiyo! Please apply sunscreen on your child before you bring them in. Thank you!

In June, John turned the Big 1 on June 24th. Happy Belated Birthday, John! In July, Oona will turn 1 on July 15th. Happy Birthday, Oona!

**Miyuki, Susan, Shauna, and Luisa**

### Mona's News

July is here! Where did June go? Guess we are having so much fun this summer, time just flew by us! To start, we want to say THANK YOU to all the families who joined us for our field trip to the zoo. It was so much fun.

Next, since this is our last newsletter for the school year, we want to say THANK YOU to Ms. Denise! She has been a pleasure to have in our class! The children all love her and just seem to gravitate to her. We are very glad she agreed to cover for Ms. Lindsay. Speaking of Ms. Lindsay, she is planning to be back the beginning of August and we are all looking forward to her return.

I would like to set up parent-teacher conferences with as many of you as possible to talk about the transition to the Older Toddlers, and any other concerns you may have. I will be scheduling them during the week of July 27th through July 31st. I will post a sign-up sheet as soon as possible. While we're talking about transition, we will begin to start visiting the Older Toddler classroom and playground, giving the children a change of scenery which I'm almost positive they're ready for.

Finally, we want to brag about our wonderful kiddos. Going into the Older Toddlers, it looks like almost half of the class will be in underwear! WAY TO GO PARENTS! You are awesome! I know its been a bumpy road and full of frustrations and worries about "are they ready" but we would never encourage it if we didn't have all the faith in them already.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mona, Ms. Ana, Ms. Lindsay, and Ms. Denise

### Arlene's News

**Happy Summer to All! Wow! Only seven weeks left! The year has gone by so fast. All the children have gone from one and two words to full sentences. And their manners...wow. They are wonderful at saying "please" and "thank-you" without being prompted. Yay! Well, with the move being so close we just wanted to let you know we will be visiting our new classroom and our new playground. The children are ready to explore new toys and surroundings.**

**We also wanted to thank everyone who was able to join us on our zoo trip! The children had so much fun. It was really nice being able to enjoy it with Ms. Mona's class too.**

**Few Reminders:**

- **La luz ECC CLOSED on Friday, July 3rd**
- **Parent's Night Out on Saturday, July 18th from 4 to 10pm**

**Happy Belated Birthday to Kyan (6/1) and Reagan (6/27)!**

**Thanks,**

**Ms. Arlene, Ms. Maria, Ms. Joslyn**

## Stephanie's News

*Hot, Hot, Hot! That is all that can be said about the month of July! Thanks to all of you who came to the BBQ Picnic. We had a lot of fun and good food.*

*Thank you for letting us take care of your children these last 3 years. We hope you will bring them by the infant room to visit us. We will miss you and your children very much. It has been a joy to be a part of their lives. It has been a pleasure getting to know them and their families.*

### **July Themes:**

*July 6-10th: Things that Fly*

*July 13-17th: Things that Have Wheels*

*July 20-24th: Jungle Animals*

*July 27-31st: Growing Up is Fun*

*On Wednesday, July 29th, we will have a small Good Bye/Good Luck ceremony at 4pm. This will be Lukas' last day at La Luz. Good luck, Lucas!*

*The children will begin their transitions in July and August. They will spend some time in their new classrooms and with their new teachers. Please remember to visit with your child in his or her new class or just stop by to say hi on your way in.*

*Thank you for sharing your child and thank you for letting us love, care, and grow with them. Good luck to everyone on your new adventures.*

*Stephanie, Mercedes and Connie*

## Danielle's News

**Greetings! Wow! Time has flown by so quick! The children have grown so much. Soon they will be in Preschool. We would like to take this time to thank each and everyone of our parents for everything you have done for our class. You are the reason behind your child's successes and accomplishments. Thank you! We will surely miss each and every child. Please stop by the Infant room this next school year to visit us or just say hi.**

**During the month of June, we learned about farm life, teddy bears, and summer weather. The children enjoyed the activities and especially making root beer floats. Next month, we will be learning about transportation and sea life.**

**On July 17th, we will be going on a field trip. We will board the Rail Runner downtown and travel to Isleta lakes. We will give further details on the this big event.**

**We are also planning an end of the year celebration. This will be held on August 12th at 3pm. And again, further details will be given at a later date. We would like to wish Vika a Happy 3rd Birthday!**

**Have a great summer!**

Thanks,

Danielle, Elma, Lisa

### Ms. Kristin's News

The summer months are coming to an end, and as we move through July we will begin to transition your children into their Pre-K class! All the children are already talking about being the "BIG" kids at school. We are proud of all of the accomplishments each child has had throughout the year.

During the month of July, we will be learning about dinosaurs, America, and having lots of summer fun. Water play and movie days will continue through the month.

We are at the end of the alphabet so the children will now begin perfecting their names on journal days.

Thank you for all of your support and involvement during this school year! It would never flow right without you as a part of your child's learning.

Kristin and Lynsey

### Emma's News



*Must be cleaning for the new school year!*



## **Mary Jo's News**

**Dear Friends,**

**Summer is finally here and we are taking advantage of the hot, beautiful, sunny days. Our days in class are filled with so many fun and exciting activities, and from what your children tell us, so are your weekends. Every Monday the children are anxious to tell us of their weekend adventures. You all do so many great things!! Our Monday tumbling class is a real success. The children love having Ms. Casey (from dance class) back. Tuesday movies are a big hit. In fact, there have been several movies that most of the children have not seen. Of course, water play Wednesdays are always special. Thank you for remembering to bring extra clothes and big towels.**

**In July, we will continue to have fun and games. Tuesday and Friday are still Share and Tell days and our art projects all have a summer theme. We have been reading stories that pertain to various behaviors. Ask your children about "Little Miss Bossy", "Mr. Tickle", "Mr. Messy", etc. They really like these stories and repeat them often. We also review our letters and numbers daily so we are ready for kindergarten.**

**The children from Ms. Kristin's and Ms. Emma's class will be transitioning into Pre-K soon and will be teamed up with our BIG KIDS to help them learn the way the class operates. I have no fear that our BIG KIDS will take their responsibility to heart.**

**We are all sad that Ms. Debora has decided to attend CNM full time. She has promised to stop by and visit us often. On the flip side, we have gained a great new member of our class, Ms. Alyssa. If you have not introduced yourself, please do so soon.**

**Enjoy your Independence Day weekend and vacations!**

**Ms. Mary Jo**

**Ms. Janice**

**Ms. Alyssa**