



Pacific Sage Preschool

Hello Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to share a very short 'State of the Preschool' address during this 'town hall' meeting.

Background: In March 2015, \$70,000 (the Lenore Snodey gift) was deposited in an account for the preschool project after receiving Board approval in February 2015. With phenomenal support, available resources and an unfailing do-it-yourself spirit, nine months later (October 2015) the redesigned school space was licensed and open. Those familiar with government process and Community Care Licensing know this timeline was nothing short of mystical and magic. Pacific Sage Preschool was created and operated with only that initial funding. Though monetary support was available from PUC for unforeseen plot twists, we continue to operate in the black and be self-sustaining. The preschool recently celebrated its one-year anniversary October 2016 with a well-attended celebration and plaque dedication for Lenore Snodey.

In its development stage, the school also contributed to the "pot" of monies that funded church-wide site enhancements that benefited both the school and the church, such as the paving of the area around the gazebo, the new fence, the deck and the wonderful rain harvester in the children's garden, which reflects PUC/UUA commitment to environmental responsibility...go green!

So how are we doing? The school enrollment in December 2015 was 6 children and myself. December 2016 we have 29 children enrolled which is almost a 500% increase, two teachers...and myself. The children and families that attend Pacific Sage Preschool represent 10 different countries and speak 9 different languages. We support and nurture children with special needs and have welcomed families with alternative family structures. There is now a waiting list of families with children under two who have toured the school and are interested in joining us throughout next year. (But no counting chickens till they hatch and cross the dotted line with their paperwork).

Future Plans: One of my hopes for the school is that it becomes a learning center for adult students as well as young children. In the past year, the school was featured in a gallery catalog for Kohburg, Inc., this is the green company where we purchased our furniture. These gallery books are distributed at conferences and shows across the country and can be found on their website with other progressive programs such as the

Children's Center at Cal Tech and USC. We hosted and toured instructional designers from Lakeshore Learning Materials in Carson, Early Childhood faculty from Harbor College, and Early Childhood practicum students from El Camino/Compton College. I mentored one of these practicum students as she did her student teaching at Pacific Sage this semester. There will also be a group of California State Mentor Teachers from Harbor College coming in the spring semester for a tour of the school and a presentation on learning environments.

Pacific Sage Preschool works hard to represent Early Childhood best practices and UUA principles in the community at large, and I believe the school is doing very well and PUC has much to be proud of.

Warmly,

Sylvia
Director
Pacific Sage Preschool