



TCS Times

December 2017

School Faculty 2017-2018

Kim Conner—Primary
Support

Julie Gill—Older All Days

Ande Green-Williams—
All Days Support

Lexi Hundley—Younger
All Days

Aldijana Karadza—
Younger All Days

Ally Lauer—Younger
Primary

Tonya Palsulich—Older
All Days

Maite Petersen—Parent-
Toddlers

Miranda Podolsky—
Older Primary

David Rodenstein—
Parent/Toddlers,
2-3-4s and 3-4-5s

Kristina Shallies—
Primary Support

Olivia Smith—2-3-4s
and Support

Rebecca Stalder—
Younger Primary

Pam Vance—Older
Primary

Sarah O'Dell—Executive
Director

Andrea Laird—Assistant
Director

Nicole Shadduck—
Education Director

From the Director: Helping TCS in 5 Minutes or Less

By Sarah O'Dell

During the last few weeks of December I am inundated with donation requests. The Humane Society, The Boise Rescue Mission, Radio Boise and of course The Children's School. These are just the ones that I usually give to! Sometimes I feel overwhelmed with not being able to give to every worthy organization. I wonder if you feel the same way? I sometimes wish that I could do something really meaningful for an organization that doesn't require a lot of time and money. If you are feeling that way also, I wanted to let you know of some ways that you can help TCS without a lot of time commitment and at no cost!

*Like us on Facebook and share our posts. The more people that see our posts, the better.

*Tell your friends about The Children's School. Word of mouth is the number one way that people hear about TCS. If you love us, tell people!

*Invite people to attend our Annual Open House. This year it falls on January 25th and is 6pm-8pm.

*Direct people to our website to learn more about TCS. That address is tcsboise.org

*Review us on Facebook or Google.

It would be so helpful for The Children's School if you took a little time to do a couple of these things!

Happy Holidays!

P-TCS News

By Kat McClaskey

P-TCS has been busy this season with some wonderful events. Here's an update on the highs and lows in the P-TCS world!

Rediscovered Books- Thanks to Melanie Mendenhall for organizing another successful literature education session and book buying event at Rediscovered Books on November 30th. In addition to the great time that was had by all, \$200 was raised to go toward books for the school. Thank you to everyone who shopped at the event!

Bake Sale- Have you seen all of the clever signs? The annual P-TCS bake sale is on for the week of December 18th @ TCS until supplies run out. This is a GREAT way to pick up beautiful and tasty treats for neighbors, coworkers, friends, etc. all while supporting P-TCS and without the agony of holiday shopping!

TCS Annual Spring Auction- One of the most exciting P-TCS events of the year is scheduled for the evening of Friday, March 9th; TCS annual auction! Party planners and worker bees are needed for the committee. Contact Stacy Jensen at sliditrich@yahoo.com to join the fun!

From P-TCS to you, we are thankful that you are a part of our school and look forward to more fun events with you in the new year!

Important Details

Please see weekly Updates and the school calendar for a comprehensive list of events and closures.

December 18th, P-TCS Bake Sale

December 21st, 3-4-5s and Younger Primes Holiday Parties

December 22nd, 2-3-4s, Younger All Days, Older All Days, Older Primes Holiday Parties

Individual classes will provide more information.

SCHOOL CLOSURES AT NOON FOR WINTER HOLIDAYS

December 25th-January 5th, Winter Holiday Break

January 2nd-5th, Only All Days classes and Prearranged Primary Child Care open. All other classes closed

January 8th, All classes resume

January 15th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday, January 25th, Open House, 6:00-8:00 PM

Save the Date!

P-TCS Spring Auction will be on Friday, March 9th

Classroom News

Younger All Days

Over the last week, while playing dramatic, running games on the playyard, the children have noticed the gray, cloudy weather. We have brought this interest indoors and have been reading books about clouds. Little Cloud by Eric Carle has been a favorite. Children have been doing cloud painting with puffy paint at the art table. Another focus has been with the letter cookie cutters at the playdough table. Children have been exploring the alphabet while playing with one another. You can often hear, "I am an (insert letter of first name)!", when they find a letter they know belongs to them."

3-4-5s

The 345s have been playing a lot of pretend games, both inside and outside. The Christmas game, Mom-Daughter-baby sitter, and the good and bad mermaid games have been common. The fast bike is the most popular outdoor piece of equipment, and there is a constant line for using this bike. Indoors, this group has been exploring art, music, science and technology. We are sprouting seeds, rescuing plants, learning to use the record player and keyboards, and using paper and paint to make various types of art, including snowflakes. What a busy group with a wide range of interests!

2-3-4s

Repetition is important in the early preschool years. At meetings, we have been singing Row, Row, Row Your Boat and in the second verse, children have been choosing what animal we see. A T-rex, bison, kitty, lion and tiger have been common requests. We also sing Willaby, Wallaby at the end of meeting to dismiss the children one at a time.

Parent-Toddler Class

One of the big skills that we work on with younger children is fine motor. You can see many opportunities in our class for children to practice these skills: using tongs, grasping markers and crayons, squishing play-dough, using small manipulatives and the hardest thing of all...scissors! Scissor use is a very complicated process with many developmental steps. There are seven developmental steps that a child has to master before they can even snip paper! Next time you sit down to use scissors, think of the many different skills involved. Hold the scissors the right way. Hold the paper. Open the hand. Close the hand. Move two sides of one hand independently. Move the hand forward. Concentrate on not cutting your other hand...phew! It's exhausting!

Parent Education: Conflict Resolution the TCS Way

By Gretchen Gudmundsen, P-TCS Parent Education, Mom to an OP and a YAD

Nicole Shadduck recently provided TCS parents an introduction to peaceful conflict resolution that TCS teachers and staff use every day. Content included the big picture framework, as well as specific examples and skills, including discussion of how to use this approach with parents' biggest challenges with their kids at home and school. Acknowledging that there is no recipe and that the situation, a child's temperament, stage of development and what has happened that day are important to consider; Nicole also provided some helpful principles to keep in mind to promote peaceful conflict resolution:

- Be prepared for conflict. Anticipate it.
- Approach conflict—use conflict to teach your child.
- Respect children as problem solvers and include them in making a plan.
- Avoid the urge to rapidly fix everything. Wait, slow things down, and work together to generate ideas and make a plan to try. If the first plan does not work, try something else.

Parting wisdom included the reality that we are fallible humans (which is important for our kids to see!). Try to think about the 3 As: avoid, anticipate, accept. It is reasonable to, at times, *avoid* conflict. When that is not possible, *anticipate* it and try to prepare how to best mitigate and manage. Finally, *accept* that even with the most heroic parenting, conflict will happen.