



School Faculty 2020-2021

Allison Ady—Older Primary

Sydney Cosso—Older All Days

Trasey Graybill—Older All Days

Lexi Hundley—Part Time Programs

Tasha Lyon—Older Primary

Tonya Palsulich—Younger Primary

Maite Petersen—Part Time Programs

Alyson Peterson—Younger All Days

Andy Shadduck—Younger All Days

Olivia Smith—Part Time Programs

Rebecca Stalder—Part Time Programs

Alex Thornton—Primary Programs

Maria Wagner—Older All Days

Darcie Wickard—Younger All Days

Sarah O'Dell—Executive Director

Nicole Shadduck—
Education Director

From the Director: Halloween Thoughts

By Nicole Shadduck, Education Director

October has come and in a blink of an eye, back to school season ended and we are beginning fall. The buzz of Halloween anticipation came early this year and we are doing our best to simultaneously support children's anticipation of the holiday and be The Children's School where most things remain the same and you can play Halloween when you want but don't have to be overwhelmed by Halloween ideas either.

Early childhood years are significant in so many ways. One way that comes to mind with every holiday celebration is the concept of firsts. During a child's first years, every time an annual celebration occurs, it is the first time that child is experiencing it. Children learn by doing, exploring and repetition. Although all of our children have most likely experienced a Halloween celebrations (or part of the fall festivities), it is their first Halloween for many, many years. As children experience the fall holidays year after year, they move from not knowing what it means, to being excited (or scared) that something new is going to happen to then knowing and remembering parts of the traditions and celebrations that are significant to them (and their families).

There was a time, 20 years ago now, that I would not take my son down certain aisles of the big box store because it was too scary, too much unknown, too exciting. Sometimes there were tears, sometimes over-enthusiasm and sometimes it was just too much for me who just wanted to get the errands done and get home. It was also during these years that we would trick or treat only three or four houses on the big night, but then play trick or treating all over the house for weeks. He would carry a plastic pumpkin and knock on all the doors (closets, too) collecting random treats. This young boy is now 26 years old and enjoys the spooky side of Halloween but only after he was a pre-teen.

I share this story with you, thinking about this holiday in the time of the pandemic. Children may be experiencing a range of emotions about what this holiday means, what they remember happening last year and anticipating what may happen this year. There is so much information about what to do and what not to do in celebrating Halloween 'in the time of the Corona'. This holiday is important and will build memories for you and your child, alongside memories of Halloweens past and those in the future. Do what feels right for your child and your family this year while taking all the steps to protect yourself and others. Attached to this month's TCS Times is an article written by Cindy Finch, past Executive Director. It speaks to honoring your family's traditions and supporting your child's interest this time of year.

If you would like to talk more about holiday celebrations, please let Sarah or Nicole know. If you would like to contribute holiday ideas, snacks or holiday supplies to your child's classroom, please speak to your teachers. Have a safe and sane holiday! We can't wait to hear about it!

Important Details

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

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Choice to Room (meet in-person) or Zoom (meet online).

Please check your family mailbox for a conference letter and questionnaire.

Conference Schedule

Monday-Tuesday,
October 19-20, Older Primes conferences.

CLASS CLOSED, PRE-ARRANGED CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

Thursday-Friday,
October 22-23, Older Part Time conferences.

CLASS CLOSED.

Thursday-Friday,
October 22-23, Younger Primes conferences,

CLASS CLOSED, PRE-ARRANGED CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

Monday-Tuesday,
October 26-27, Older All Days conferences,

CLASS OPEN.

Wednesday-Thursday,
October 28-29, Younger All Days conferences,

CLASS OPEN.

Conference and child care sign ups have been sent by email.

Wednesday, October 21,
TCS Annual Board Meeting. 6:00 via Zoom.

Program Improvement Planning

By Nicole Shaddock, Education Director

Every year (and all the time), TCS is reflecting on our practice. This process is both formal and informal and includes our whole community. We appreciate your help! When TCS sends a survey it is to collect information to inform adjustments to make to ensure we continue to provide the highest quality program we can. Thank you for filling out our most recent survey. Results are coming soon.

It is probably not a big surprise that health and safety is taking a priority in our program improvement plan this year. We are constantly reading and reviewing information about the pandemic to keep our teachers, you and your children safe. In addition to being responsive to current health and safety needs, we continue to look at refining our communication with families about their individual child/ren, (work that was cut short during the previous school year).

The entire program improvement plan outlining these two areas of focus is posted in the front hall and available electronically by request.

P-TCS News: Classroom Representatives and Volunteering

By Max Christiansen, P-TCS President

Happy October everyone! Hopefully you all have been getting outside and enjoying the cooler fall weather. With respect to happenings in P-TCS this month:

- Plans for the fall carnival are still in the works, and a date has not yet been set. Information concerning the carnival will be relayed to you all as soon as it becomes available.
- We are still looking for parent volunteers to be 'Class Representatives' for several classes. If you are interested in taking on this role or becoming involved in P-TCS in any other capacity, please contact me at dmaxchristiansen@gmail.com
- In anticipation of the spring auction/raffle, P-TCS is currently looking for donations of items for this event. If your family has anything that can be donated and/or you know of a local business that might be interested in donating items or services, please email me at the address above.

I would also like to take this opportunity to call out the incredible **work** and **dedication** of the staff at TCS during this uncertain time. Having our children still be able to attend school in the post-covid era is a privilege that has been a **solid foundation** for our family, and I expect you all feel the same. Yet, this privilege is only made possible by the educators at TCS who everyday risk their own health and the health of their families to provide this incredible service for us – a service that is not afforded to all families in the greater Boise community at this time.

As we exist in our own 'class bubbles,' I encourage each family to continue to keep the continued existence of this privilege and the health of the overall 'school bubble' in the **forefront of their minds** as they engage in activities outside of school.

Best,
Max from P-TCS