

# All Aboard!

## SOQUEL PENS MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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### WINTER DECOR AND LIGHTS GALORE!

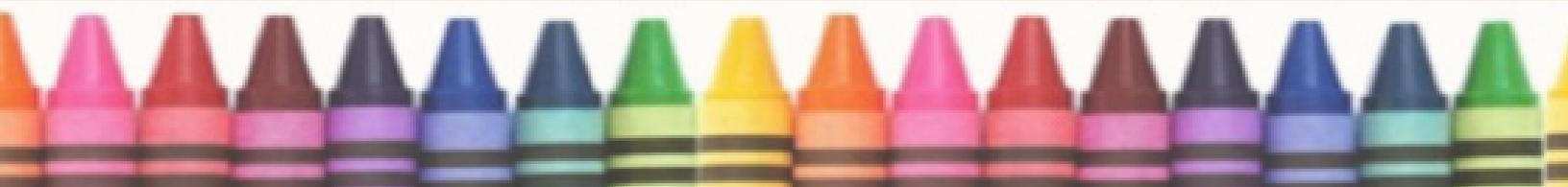
Does your family go "all out" for the holidays? We'd love to see your tree, menorah, neighborhood lights competition or favorite festive display! Post your pics on our [Soquel Parent Education Nursery School](#) Facebook Page!

To say 2020 has been a roller coaster might be considered an understatement.

We have experienced hurdle after hurdle, with no real end in sight, and yet we have found ways to survive, to thrive, to find glimmers of hope in the darkness.

So many of us are looking forward to flipping the calendar over at midnight on December 31 (because that's about as much a party as we'll get, it seems)!

And so it feels appropriate to introduce this humble Newsletter at the close of the calendar year, and invite you to stay connected, to contribute, should you wish, a story, a recipe, promote a business, celebrate your child's milestone, honor a loss, add an event, or just use it to stay updated .... whatever it be. We hope this journal will be another avenue that can inspire us to remain connected to our little Co-Op family.





Tuition  
Due

# Season's Greetings!

CONTRIBUTION BY AMBER PARKER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Hello Families!

The year 2020 is at last drawing to a close. What a year of challenge and change! Of uncertainty and sorrow. Of adaptation and expression. Some of us have endured great losses. But we have all persevered, learning a new kind of strength along the way, resilient for our children, resolute in finding benefit during seclusion. But, as is often the case, it is during times of trial that we learn the most about ourselves and each other. It is during such extraordinary times that we are forced out of our well-trod path, and experience great growth.

One wonderful example is that of our teachers Nancy and Colleen! Well out of their comfort zone, they have brought education and support to our homes in a fun, approachable way. Cheers to them... thank you for all that you do!

And what about you? Where have you stepped out of your comfort zone and learned to do? We would love to hear about it!

Dear families, may each of you enjoy peace and HEALTH this holiday season. Relax in knowing that next year will be different. Know that you are loved by your SPENS community, and that while you may feel alone sometimes, you are most certainly NOT alone. Love to each of you, and blessings on your new year.

Amber Parker, Volunteer Board President

JOLLY  
HOLIDAY

Gather your family for stories and songs  
led by our dear Teachers for a little  
Winter Celebration!

DECEMBER 17 | 6:30 - 7:15p

Members check your inboxes for the  
Zoom invite!

This is your festive reminder that December tuition is due!

Thank you to the families who have already sent in their tuition. If you need to still make your payment, there are two ways to pay:

1. Write a check to Soquel PENS and mail it to the school:

Soquel PENS  
397 Soquel San Jose Rd  
Soquel, CA 95073

Please take a moment to ensure the check is completely filled out.

2. PayPal: Soquel Parent Education Nursery School [squelpens@gmail.com](mailto:squelpens@gmail.com)  
Please make sure there are enough funds to cover any PayPal fees.

In the memo line or notes sections, please make sure to include...

1. Student's name
2. Dec '20 Ex. Holly Clause, Dec '20

The base tuition for a Single student is \$150, and a Sibling is \$50. Adult Ed Only is \$95.

As you know, this tuition won't cover costs. So, if you are able, please consider any additional tuition on a sliding scale \$150-\$225.

Great news! In Sept & Oct, you raised an additional \$871.84! Hooray!!! And Thank You!!!

On a cheery note, many families decorated their envelopes last month. Thank you for the fun stickers and children's doodles! They made my day! Keep 'em coming!

I hope you all can find some joy, peace, and rest this December. Happy Hanukkah! Joyous Solstice! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanza! And a Happy New Year!!! Sessional Felicitations!

Renée Roberts, Volunteer Treasurer

Are your kids  
enjoying their class?  
Do they like the  
projects and  
WhatsApp stories?  
Let us know!

[soquelpens@gmail.com](mailto:soquelpens@gmail.com)



## REOPENING DELAYED, GOOD NEWS TO BE FOUND

CONTRIBUTION BY COLLEEN MURPHY

As all of you are aware, our county has fallen back into a significant spike in cases. School districts announced that opening up to in-person classes will not be considered until March 1st.

Our SPENS Board has formed a subcommittee and began to create specifics about what our in-person program will eventually look like. Details of this plan have been emailed to membership and waitlisted families.

Luckily, our online program is in place and humming along, and we applied for financial assistance via grants.

We received \$3294.00 from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education to purchase extra cleaning supplies and other COVID-safety necessities for when we return to in-person.

We received \$150.00 from Pajaro Valley Education Foundation to purchase curriculum supplies.

We received \$1400.00 to cover extra cleaning expenses accrued due to COVID-19.

That's almost \$4900 of grant funds to help us stay afloat and maintain our program!

Connection, community, education, fun, and support is still happening despite our physical distance. We will be able to carry on as is and then see what March holds for us.

That is good news.

## TIS THE GIVING SEASON

### Holiday Cards for Seniors

Last year we delivered Valentines to seniors. This year we are hoping to deliver some holiday cards! Please drop off your cards at the school by Christmas.

### Breakfast and Books

Do you need new books? Do you also have overflowing bookshelves? Please consider donating some gently loved books to SPENS. We will be holding a fundraiser in February (echoing last year's Read-A-Thon) - where we will be asking for a \$2 donation per book.

Contact [desmhunt@gmail.com](mailto:desmhunt@gmail.com) to arrange drop off/pick up.

### Adopt A Family

Thank you to those all who contributed to Free 2 Be A Kid and their sponsorship of 11 families in Adopt -a-Family this holiday. If you'd still like to contribute to this wonderful community program, please consider donating to their Venmo business @free2beakid.

## Winter Break

DECEMBER 18, 2020 - JANUARY 11, 2021

*Have something to share?*

Email Brie Buxton at [stargaze815@yahoo.com](mailto:stargaze815@yahoo.com) to reserve a segment in an upcoming issue!

