

January 2018
UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH PRESCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



Calendar for January 2018

Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King Day Observed – No School

Looking Ahead to February 2018

Friday, February 16 – Lincoln’s Birthday Celebrated – No School

Monday, February 19 – President Day – No School

Tuesday, February 6 – UCUC Preschool 2018-2019 Registration Forms Available. These forms may be turned in until Tuesday, February 13 at 9 a.m. for priority processing. Registration processing will begin on Tuesday, February 22.

Fall Registration – Policies & Procedures

It seems so far off—but it’s time to begin thinking about what your plans are for the next school year. Because we may have a large number of children who will be returning next year, we will use a lottery system. Registration forms will be available on **Tuesday, February 6** and can be turned in through **Tuesday, February 13 by 9:00am.**

When received, a random number will be assigned to your form and processed based on that number. Processing begins on **Tuesday, February 22** Any forms turned in after the processing starts will be added in the order they’re received. Processing is done in the following order:

1. Continuing children for the older classes *(age 4 by 9/1/14).
2. Continuing children for younger classes.
3. Siblings of past and present students.
4. Church members.
5. Children on the wait list.
6. Other children on a first come basis.

We will still give some priority to boy/girl balancing and to students who need extended care of from 5 to 6 hours.

*Please note: The State of CA has moved the K entrance DOB to **5 by 9/1/18 for the 2018-2019 school year.**

Children who will have their **5th birthday between 9/2/18-12/2/18** qualify for **Transitional Kindergarten.** Please contact your local elementary school for information on registration for kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classes.

Wait List for Siblings Who Will Not Start until September 2018

We do not want to miss any of you when we do registration next year, so we suggest you fill out a wait list form now, so we are sure to contact you. Siblings of past students receive priority over any new children.

Tax ID Number: 95-2315014

You may need this tax ID number for income tax purposes. Please access your Brightwheel account for tuition receipts.

Parent Volunteers

We love having parent volunteers. Last year, we were fortunate to have many of our parents share their interests, hobbies, cultural backgrounds, professions, etc. with us. We would like to extend our invitation to you again to volunteer in the classroom or give a special presentation to the students. The parent volunteers who come into the classroom on a regular basis have helped with journal writing, art activities, cooking projects, physical education and cultural activities. Also,

some parents may not be able to volunteer on a regular basis but would be willing to help with special events like the vision screening or when the photographer comes or sign-up to be a mystery reader. We are always happy to have you help in any way you can. We believe this is a partnership and we can provide the children with the best possible education if we all work together.

Parents are also welcome anytime to observe the class. When you do this, we ask that you leave your younger children at home. Having a parent stop by for snack or lunch is a nice treat for a child. Or, maybe you'd like to come early and hear the children sing from 11:50 am to 12 noon.

We are always pleased that by this time of the year many parents have made connections and enjoy visiting with each other. We would be happy to set-up some parent coffees for parents to visit and get to know each other even better. Please let us know if you are interested. Another possibility is to have the patio room set-up every day for parents to visit from 9:00 to 9:30 am. Toys could be provided for younger siblings.

We offer this opportunity for parents because we understand the connections you've made and that visiting in the classroom or out on the play yard can be both uncomfortable and distracting. If younger siblings are playing in the classroom or play yard, we may exceed licensing regulations. More importantly, teachers must be able to start their scheduled curriculum on time.

Because we want to accommodate your connection with other parents, please feel free to move to the patio or Patio Room for visiting. If you would like to help host parent coffees, please let us know.

Communications

Communication is very important to the success of your child's preschool experience. Please feel free to share with the teachers any concerns or new interests or abilities that your child has developed. We try to keep you informed about what's going on with your child at school. If you have additional concerns such as deciding whether your child is ready for kindergarten in the fall, or anything else, please ask your teacher to schedule a conference with you. **We will have end of the year conferences with all parents in May 2018.**

Hand Washing/Flu Season

The best protection against flu and other illnesses is proper hand washing. We've noticed that a number of children have

forgotten proper hand washing procedures. Thank you for joining us in re-enforcing the following:

- Wash hands for 20 seconds—rubbing vigorously.
- Dry thoroughly without thinking that grabbing many paper towels and throwing them into the trash constitutes drying.
- Give them one towel and tell them to use it to wipe their hands. A second towel may only be used if/when the first towel is entirely wet. We see children grab 5, to 6 or more, towels and then throw them in the trash and wipe their hands on their shirts or pants.

This procedure will help us keep both illnesses and the cost of supplies down.

Rain Gear

When and if the rain comes, we will have some great puddles to play in. Due to the slope of the playground and the fabric barrier between the dirt and sand, the water soaks in very slowly on the north end of the sand area. Puddles can last for many days after the rain. The children love to dig in these puddles and can have hours of fun; but they will get wet and dirty. We need extra clothes for them to change into. Please be sure their extra clothes boxes are restocked with appropriate clothing. **DON'T FORGET SOCKS!** If you have socks to donate—we'd love to have them. If possible, send your child with boots or an extra pair of old shoes.

Teachers are willing to change children, but we need the clothing. If you have strong feelings about not wanting your child to play in the puddles, please let your child's teacher know and we will do our best to keep them out of the wet areas. In that case, you should explain your wishes to your child. When children see other children playing in the water, they want to join in the fun. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

NAEYC Accreditation Update

This month we are focusing on the health and safety standards. Here at UCUC we want our students to grow and thrive in a healthy and safe environment. We have policies and procedures for hand washing, daily child health checks and sanitizing eating and playing surfaces. Snacks are served from two different food groups including fresh fruits and vegetables. All food items are served and stored in a safe manner. Staff are aware of food allergies and dietary restrictions. Each staff member is trained in how to perform CPR and first aid. The program is equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. Emergency drills are held on a regular basis so that in case of any emergency staff and children are prepared.