

The Common Good

The Concordia School

Celebrating 50 years!

January 24, 2024



The School Play

There's a buzz of excitement this week as our School Play, an annual tradition for 43 years, will be announced this Friday, January 26th. The Play is not "just" a Play. It's an important part of the curriculum as it *stretches* each child's realization of himself and his abilities, while personifying teamwork, organization, and dedication.

The whole process will be new to some families, so we always like to start with a short overview of how it works.

The script is written in-house. This Friday, Staff (playing all the parts) read it to the Kindergarten and Elementary students. Kindergarteners learn about the song they'll sing on stage (after which, they join the audience to see the show), and Elementary students get their scripts.

Parent volunteers, Elementary staff, and students begin making props and scenery, coordinating costumes, studying lines and rehearsing. The whole Children's House gets involved as they join in to learn the Kindergarteners' song! Students in each class are also continuing their Montessori work.



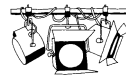
TICKETS

All Concordia families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to this special event. You'll be able to order tickets ahead through the school or buy directly from the theater Box Office.

COSTUMES



Kindergarten and Elementary families should look for costume descriptions in your child's Parent Box or Hanging File on Friday. Don't worry! *We are here to help.*



DRESS REHEARSAL – February 28

After weeks of memorizing lines and rehearsing on the Advanced Elementary blacktop, Elementary students rehearse the Play all day at the theater. The Kindergartners also join us at the theater for a short time in the morning.

THE PERFORMANCE – February 29 @ 7pm at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.



THE CELEBRATION – March 1

An important part of the Play experience is the day after when we talk with students in all three classes and celebrate their accomplishments.

We expect lots of questions!

Please talk to us. Also, information and details will go out weekly. You'll find it all on the Parent Hub, and posted on the Breezeway bulletin board, for the weeks before the Play.

It's an exciting time of year!



NOW

Parent/Teacher Conference sign-up forms are on the Parent Hub. Please claim your time now, if you haven't already. Conferences are Wednesday through Friday, **February 7/8/9**.



Pre-conference Questionnaire

The pre-conference questionnaire, to update from the Fall, is on the Parent Hub. We'll put hard copies out in the Breezeway as well.

This information helps you and teachers prepare and guide conference time. It also offers food-for-thought to help you prepare for this valued conversation. Please return it to your child's teacher by Thursday, February 1st.



A Frequently Asked Question About 4-Year Olds

*Why is Concordia's Pre-Kindergarten program (for **four-year-olds**) full-time only?*

Montessori teachers are avid observers of the children, the classroom, patterns of behavior, and what works (or doesn't!).

Over the years, we noticed a difference in children who attend full-day Pre-K. They're more fully prepared for Kindergarten, and they know how to work! During the Pre-K year, the child moves into a longer work period than the younger

children, and this broadens his/her powers of concentration and repertoire of work accomplished. This, in turn, leads to a deeper level of competence and independence, which carries into the Kindergarten year when work is done more independently of the teacher.

The 4-year-old also enters a new level of social responsibility. At 3, the child works on taking care of herself. The 4-year-old is ready, *and willing*, to help *other children*. They're proud to be "helpers" in the classroom, at lunch, on the playground, and at nap. It's community service at the Children's House level!

Even rest time stretches the personal and social experience. They're lying down together, with their peers, as a community. They are preparing their mats *together* and cleaning up together afterwards. Individually they are practicing inner control, to calm their minds and their bodies – all of which leads to *outer* control in the classroom. And outer control leads us right back to – independence!

Pre-K children are learning, playing, eating and resting together. They're truly *living together* in all forms. This teaches them social responsibility at the same time they are developing a more solid sense of self through competence and independence.

"The child's development follows a path of successive stages of independence, and our knowledge of this must guide us in our behavior towards him." Maria Montessori

If you have questions about your part-time student who will be Pre-K next year, please be sure to check in with Daniela during conferences. 😊