



# ARBOR BAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term: Fall | Issue 2 | Date: December 1, 2022

## MESSAGE FROM MS. ROSE

Arbor Bay School has been bursting with activities since we started in late August!

In September, our students made over 75 personalized birthday cards for the residents of Sunrise Senior Living in Burlingame. We also went on an all-school field trip to Huddart Park to study the local ecosystems. Our docent brought the learning to life, including close encounters with banana slugs and lizards.

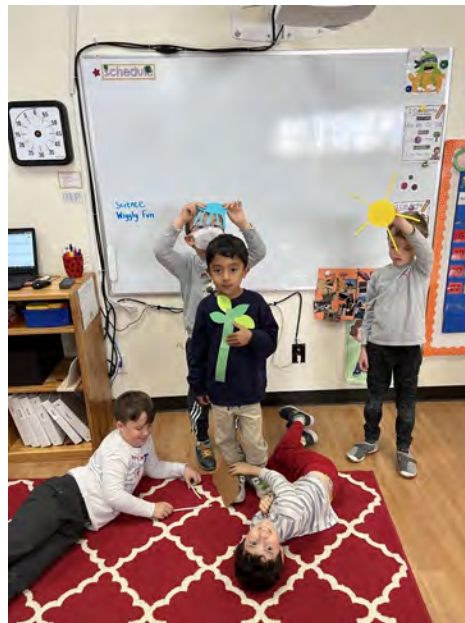
Read more about our other activities in this quarters newsletter!

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday we just celebrated, I wanted to share part of a lovely note we received from a local family. They wanted to thank us for a kindness shared and said, "We are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful community, where strangers help people in their time of need".

I truly believe that kindness is contagious!

-Susan

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CLASSROOM?



### Room B

Friendsgiving was a huge success! Our middle school class held the event for their Arbor Bay fellow students. They planned, shopped, prepped, served and cleaned-up, all having specific duties assigned. A fun way to learn responsibility and compassion for others. We were so proud!

### Room D

Friends have been hard at work growing their brains in Room D! In social-emotional learning time, we have been learning about the concept of respect and the Golden Rule. In language arts, some friends are learning new sounds to expand their reading, some have been working on combining small words to make silly compound words, and others are researching a topic to write a basic report. In science, we have enjoyed exploring the parts of a plant and how each part has a very important job. Students practiced reenacting what happens when a sad, droopy plant gets what it needs from rain and the sun!

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# ARBOR BAY GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Arbor Bay School is grateful to have the support of local community groups. To help fund our Enrichment Specialists and field trips, the San Carlos Rotary donated \$1300. And with a donation of \$6500, the Hometown Days and Dissolution Committee is helping us with kitchen appliance upgrades. **Their support means the world to us!**

ABS participated in the San Carlos Day of Service on Sept. 25, by collecting pet food supplies to benefit the Peninsula Humane Society. Some of the students had a fun time delivering the items and were able to tour the PHS facility.

The ABS student-led Lemonade and Bake sale on Oct. 19, raised over \$390 to benefit the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief efforts.

In late October, ABS collaborated with the local non-profit, Fund-a-Need, and collected flashlights to aid seniors in the community.

For Halloween, students handmade cards and delivered them to The Elm Senior Living Facility.

And, the Canned Food Drive benefitting One Life Counseling Center's Food Pantry, was a big success in early November!

**The students at Arbor Bay understand how important it is to give back to the community and how each of us can make a difference!**



## Move-a-Thon Results

On Oct. 12, Arbor Bay School held its Move-a-Thon, the annual fall fundraiser to support Enrichment Specialists and field trips. It was a fun and active way to raise \$6,165!

Congratulations to all the Classrooms for 100% participation! Room B, C and D celebrated with a pizza party while Room A opted for an ice cream party!



## ARBOR BAY STUDENT SUCCESS: THE PARENTS' STORY

Our son KJ came to Arbor Bay at the end of fourth grade. We'd been invited to find a new placement for him after his previous school shifted its focus. Arbor Bay seemed like a good fit, but we soon discovered that it was an oasis in the desert for KJ.

We adopted KJ at birth. We were veteran parents and already had a six year old son. When KJ showed signs of some delays, we jumped on every Early Intervention opportunity we could find.

When it was time for preschool, we tried a small preschool, but met with mixed success because they really didn't know how to accommodate special needs. A frustrating IEP meeting with the local school district--in which I asked "are you seriously telling me this is all you can offer?"--led us to pursue private placement. KJ's learning issues were made worse by seizures that interrupted his ability to retain new information. School was pure misery for KJ.

By the time KJ landed at Arbor Bay, KJ's health had stabilized and he was ready to move forward and learn. We expected Arbor Bay to meet KJ's academic needs, but we were so happy to discover that it was a place that was able to meet his emotional needs as well. There is a culture of kindness and support at Arbor Bay that is absolutely priceless. It's like rich soil that grows a prize winning garden.

KJ grew from an anxious kid who was always behind, to a confident middle schooler who was able to learn new things. He had a growing curiosity about the world, he had friends, and he had a better sense of who he was.

After Arbor Bay, KJ enrolled at Compass High School, which has recently moved to a new campus in Belmont. We weren't sure he'd ever find a place as warm and welcoming as Arbor Bay, but Compass has offered KJ the nurturing environment he needed to grow.

And grow he has! Besides passing the 6' mark, KJ has grown into his love of all things aviation. From volunteering at Hiller Aviation museum, to logging countless hours on a flight simulator and clocking 100+ hours of actual flight instruction and flight time, KJ has gone all-in on pilot life. He's developed skills and relationships with other pilots and his instructors that place him on good footing for a career in aviation, but he's also got a deep knowledge for a hobby that will be with him for life.

But more importantly, KJ has become more flexible, more resilient, and more confident. He's better able to express himself and advocate for his needs. He's a good humored and friendly young man who loves to help. He particularly loves returning to Arbor Bay to volunteer whenever he has the chance.

What's next? High school graduation looms in June. We're looking at some gap year programs so KJ has some extra time to think about what he wants to do and to hone some life skills.

Thank you Arbor Bay for being such an anchor for KJ!

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CLASSROOM?



## Rooms A and C

It was a very exciting month in November! Both classes came together to work on a community project writing persuasive essays for animals in need at the Peninsula Humane Society. They read the profiles on their assigned animals, researched the breeds, wrote their persuasive essays, and ended the unit with a field trip to the shelter. At the Peninsula Humane Society not only did they get to see the animals they wrote about but they also got to pet a lizard, play with kittens, and meet Willow, a staff member's dog. Overall, it was an amazing experience to see firsthand how writing can be connected to community.

## KEY DATES

**Dec. 9** - Report cards go home!

**Dec. 19 - Dec. 23**  
Parent-Teacher Conferences.  
Minimum Days  
1:30pm dismissal

**Dec. 23** - 1:30 dismissal No TAP

**Dec. 26 - Jan. 6**  
Winter Break

**Jan. 16** - MLK Day  
No School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Toy Collection Drive begins Monday, 12/05. ABS will be partnering with San Carlos Lions Club to donate toys to the Saint Francis Center
- Mrs. Claus and her favorite elf will be onsite, Wed. 12/14 to get the Toy Collection Drive items.