



Special points of interest:

- Pre-K 4 SA is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year
- Centers measure family engagement in the program
- Teachers utilize classroom SMART Boards and iPads
- Board of Directors approves marketing contract



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO **Pre-K 4 SA Today**

Apply Now for the 2014-2015 School Year

The application period is now open for the 2014-2015 school year. Children who will turn four years old by September 1, 2014 and reside within San Antonio city limits are eligible to apply as either free or tuition students. Families have three different options available for apply-

ing to participate in the program. The application period will remain open through the end of May 2014. Once the application period closes, a June lottery will be conducted to determine student placement at all Education Centers. In late June, selected families will be notified to complete registration.

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How can I apply?



ONLINE APPLICATION

Families can complete the entire application process online at www.sanantonio.gov/prek/enrollment

APPLICATION FAIRS

Complete the application process with the assistance of Pre-K 4 SA staff by visiting one of thirty application fairs from February 24 - May 31, 2014

HOTLINE

Families may also complete the application process by calling **210-206-PREK (7735)**

March Application Fairs

Date	Time	Location	Address
Saturday, 3/1	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Claude Black	2805 E. Commerce St.
Monday, 3/3	5:00 - 8:00 pm	Tool Yard	10303 Tool Yard
Thursday, 3/6	5:00 - 8:00 pm	Animal Care Services	4710 Texas 151
Wednesday, 3/12	5:00 - 8:00 pm	North Education Center	3635 Medical Drive
Saturday, 3/22	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Animal Care Services	4710 Texas 151
Wednesday, 3/26	5:00 - 8:00 pm	Claude Black	2805 E. Commerce St.
Thursday, 3/27	5:00 - 8:00 pm	North Education Center	3635 Medical Drive
Saturday, 3/29	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	South Education Center	7031 S. New Braunfels

Family Engagement Statistics

Pre-K 4 SA strongly encourages and stresses the importance of family involvement in early childhood education. The program's Family Specialists are always on hand to provide support and resources to fami-

lies of the program's students. Recently, Pre-K 4 SA conducted a family engagement survey to gauge satisfaction with the program, understanding of students' skills and progress, and interaction with

Center staff. These are all topics which are incredibly important to the Pre-K 4 SA program. A summary of responses taken from over 255 total surveys is included below.

How satisfied are you with your Pre-K 4 SA experience so far?

- ✓ Very Satisfied - 80%
- ✓ Satisfied - 14%
- ✓ Neutral - 5%
- ✓ No Response - 1%

Do you feel that you have a strong understanding of your child's skills and progress?

- ✓ Yes - 82%
- ✓ Somewhat - 16%
- ✓ No - 1%
- ✓ No Response - 1%

How often do you interact with your child's teacher?

- ✓ Once a semester - 12%
- ✓ Once a month - 22%
- ✓ Once a week - 27%
- ✓ Every day - 38%
- ✓ No Response - 1%

Did you receive the Pre-K 4 SA "News for Nutrition" Newsletter?

- ✓ Yes - 98%
- ✓ No - 2%

Does the staff make you feel welcome to participate?

- ✓ Yes - 94%
- ✓ Sometimes - 5%
- ✓ No - 1%



IT Updates: SMART Boards and iPads

Pre-K 4 SA teachers have made use of Hatch Software and classroom SMART Boards to teach Pre-K 4 SA curriculum. Students can participate in interactive storytelling activities, learn about sentence structure characteristics, explore letters, music and movement, and practice voting. Students also utilize pre-selected educational iPad apps including: *Letter School*, *Sid the Science Kid*, *Frog Street A-Z*, and *Intro to Math Montessorium*.



Staff Spotlight

Qena Jennings: Professional Development Coach

Qena Jennings is a Professional Development Coach at Pre-K 4 SA. As a proud mom of three, she enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, traveling, and reading. Qena describes herself as “an educator with a passion for learning, teaching and coaching.” She reached her twenty year mark in education this year. Education experiences range from teaching in grades Pre-K to 3rd and serving as a Reading Specialist and district literacy coach. She also conducted professional development with the International

Reading Association. At Pre-K 4 SA, Qena works with Education Centers and partner districts. Her position involves instructional coaching of teachers, planning and implementation of professional development, curriculum support, and project based efforts. Of her contributions, Qena said, “I believe that the most unique quality that I contribute to Pre-K 4 SA is my years of experience as an instructional coach helping to support teachers through the process of reflection, growth, and change.” Her favorite aspect



of working for Pre-K 4 SA is the opportunity to be part of a collaborative group committed to working towards making high quality pre-K available to all children across the City of San Antonio. Of the program, she said: “It is exciting to be a part of such a groundbreaking initiative.”

Carly Farrell: Teacher Assistant

North Education Center Teacher Assistant, Carly Farrell is a UTSA graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications and a Masters in Early Childhood Education. She has lived in San Antonio since 2006. Since then, she served as a member of the inaugural UTSA Women’s soccer team and married husband, Kyle Farrell.

At Pre-K 4 SA, Carly assists

with the extended day program, ensuring that all operations run smoothly. She maintains regular communication with the program’s families. Carly also contributes a PE class to the program, where she makes it a point to incorporate music and create a fun atmosphere for students. Carly reflects that her favorite thing about Pre-K 4 SA is her coworkers.



“Throughout the day [...] I not only laugh a lot, but I learn a lot from them. I appreciate the positive environment in this workplace because it makes me want to come to work every day.”

Marketing & Public Outreach with Creative Civilization



In February, the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors approved a long term professional services agreement with Creative Civilization to provide marketing, branding, and public relations services.

Pre-K 4 SA staff will be working closely with the firm to

develop a long term branding and marketing strategy and to share the positive impact that Pre-K 4 SA has upon the community.

The contract will extend through 2014.



Spring Break 2014

SPRING BREAK CLOSURES:

Both the North and South Education Centers will be closed beginning Monday, March 10 through Friday, March 14 for Spring Break. The Administrative Office will remain open for the week.

MARCH '14						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Spring Break Tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- ✓ Be active: Have fun family activities. Visit a park or a zoo!
- ✓ Plan a successful trip: Bring food and necessary supplies.
- ✓ Know the ropes: Know what's expected for activities and be safe.
- ✓ Protect yourself from the sun: Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15.
- ✓ Eat healthy: Be sure to eat a variety of foods!
- ✓ Be smoke-free: Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke!

<http://www.cdc.gov/family/springbreak/>



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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact Information

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