



Special points of interest:

- Pre-K 4 SA prepares for the 2014-2015 school year
- Lucy Hall and Dr. Shari Albright join Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors
- Introducing the Pre-K 4 SA Design Challenge
- Exiting Pre-K 4 SA families share their feedback



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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Pre-K 4 SA Today

School Begins on August 25!



Meet the Teacher Events

Pre-K 4 SA would like to welcome all of the new Directors, Assistant Directors, Master Teachers and other staff hired for the East and West Education Centers.

Accepted families will have the opportunity to meet new teachers at the “Meet the Teacher” Events which will be held at each of the four Education Centers in late August, prior to the start of the school year. Families will be contacted with further information.

Gracias San Antonio—A Success!

As a culminating activity to the Pre-K 4 SA Civic Development Opportunities, children from both Centers proudly displayed artwork at the Public Art San Antonio Gallery (PASA). Pre-K 4 SA invited the San Antonio community to experience the children’s reflection of their year through the creative arts. The artwork created was representative of the open-ended art approach that the children engaged in daily. Authentic art not only allows children to express themselves artistically, but helps to develop the abil-

ity to plan and solve problems as they create. The children developed their own ideas and expressed themselves by manipulating and exploring a variety of materials. The art reflected the rich opportunities and experiences provided to the students throughout the year. In an effort to give back to the San Antonio community, the art pieces will be displayed throughout City Hall and then donated to places and people who have played a significant role in forming their early learning experiences.

Inside this issue:

Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors	2
Student Registration Updates	3
Parent Engagement Feedback	3
Design Challenge	4



Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors

During the June 3, 2014 Board Meeting, six individuals were sworn in to the Pre-K 4 SA Board. This followed selection and approval by the City Council. Appointees who served on the Board previously are Pamela Ray for District 2, Richard Perez for District 4, and Dr. Linda Foster for District 10.

Leaving the Pre-K 4 SA Board are David Force and Bob Bevard for Districts 6 and 8 respectively. Pre-K 4 SA wants to thank David Force and Bob Bevard for their hard work on the Board since January 2013. Pre-K 4 SA CEO Kathy Bruck and Board Chair Elaine Mendoza presented both exiting Board Members with one-of-a-kind renderings of the Centers created by Pre-K 4 SA students.

New appointees Lucy Hall and

Dr. Shari Albright will serve the District 6 and 8 spots on the Board for the next two years. Pre-K 4 SA welcomes our two new Board members at the start of their terms.

Lucy Hall is a retired educator with over thirty years of experience working for the Edgewood Independent School District. She began as an Elementary School Teacher and moved on to become an Elementary School Principal and the Executive Director of the District's Elementary Division. She has also served her community through a variety of Boards and organizations.

Dr. Shari Albright serves as the Murchison Distinguished Professor in Education and Chair of the Department of Education at Trinity University. Her previous roles included Executive Director of Education at

the Asia Society, CEO of the Asia Society International Studies Schools Network, and Principal of the International School of the Americas. She was named the Texas High School Principal of the Year for 2004 by the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

In addition to the reappointed Board members for Districts 2, 4, and 10, Lucy Hall and Dr. Albright join Board Member Chair and Mayor's Appointee Elaine Mendoza, District 1 Appointee Dr. Richard Middleton, District 3 Appointee General Joe Robles, District 5 Appointee Gloria Ramirez, District 7 Appointee Dr. John Folks, and District 9 Appointee Comelia Black.

Unless otherwise posted, all Board meetings take place at 2:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.



Left: From Left, Gloria Ramirez, Elaine Mendoza, Bob Bevard, David Force, Dr. Linda Foster, Dr. John Folks, and Dr. Richard Middleton. During the May 6 meeting, Pre-K 4 SA and Board members thanked Bob Bevard and Dave Force for their time spent on the Board over the past year.

Right: To thank them for their work with the Board, Elaine Mendoza, Board Chair, and Kathy Bruck, Pre-K 4 SA CEO present David Force and Bob Bevard with original art by Pre-K 4 SA students.



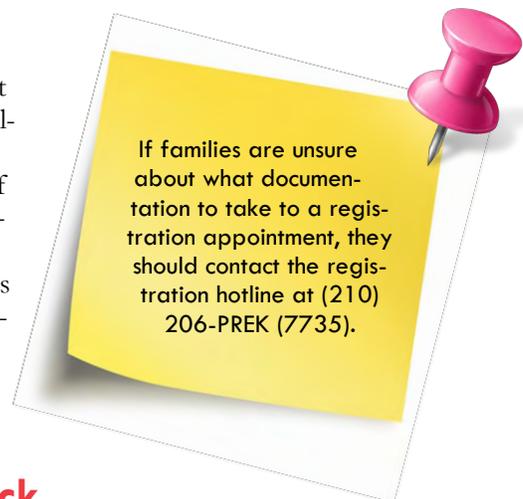
Student Registration Updates

Student registration for the 2014-2015 school year is still underway. Staff are available at a variety of community centers as well as the South Education Center to visit with families selected in the Pre-K 4 SA student lottery and who previously scheduled a registration appointment. In order to attend school on August 25, students must be completely registered with the program. Below is a list of documents that families are required to take to registration appointments.

Required Documents	Accepted Forms of Documentation
Birth Certificate	Original State Certified Birth Certificate; no copies will be accepted
Child's Social Security Card	Original Social Security Card
Valid Photo ID	Driver's License, Passport, State I.D.
Immunization Record	Up-to-date record that includes four-year-old shots
Proof of Residence	Current or prior month's gas electric, or water bill; or current signed lease. Must list the physical address of the property.

State Eligibility

Families should also bring at least one document to confirm eligibility for prekindergarten. Eligibility may be based on income, child of an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, child of an injured or deceased member while serving active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, homeless, currently or previously in foster care, or a child is unable to speak or comprehend English as a second language.



Parent Engagement Feedback

Throughout the first year of the program, Pre-K 4 SA was diligent in collecting feedback from families of the program. Staff presented a variety of questions to exiting parents on topics like transportation, parent education, nutrition in the program, community events, and kindergarten preparation for students. Only through outreach and honest feedback like this can we continually improve the operations of the program.



Pre-K 4 SA Design Challenge

Today far fewer children enjoy unstructured outdoor play. Instead, the majority of American children have become preoccupied with electronic devices. Physical inactivity, along with changes in diet, have produced an epidemic of obesity among children. Diagnoses of attention deficit disorder steadily increase. The Outdoor Classroom philosophy was created to address these problems facing children today. The idea behind the outdoor classroom is that children benefit from spending substantial time outdoors where they can connect to nature and optimize their development participating in child-initiated activities that are teacher supported. The foundation of cognitive development begins with, and relies on, physical activity during the first five years of brain development therefore, at Pre-K 4 SA we would like to establish our outdoor playgrounds as outdoor classrooms so that learning occurs everywhere. Studies show that children learn best through play and are hardwired for play; it is how they learn about themselves, other people, and the world around them. When opportunities for play occur in enriched envi-

ronments, children develop the skills that formal education strives for: literacy, math and science. Physical environments teach children. For this reason, it is important to create environments that tell children they are valued, that show them what natural learning environments look and feel like.

Outdoor classrooms represent a paradigm shift in several ways: they support a much broader range of engagement, allowing for a much wider range of activities and support more opportunities for self-directed learning.

The Pre-K 4 SA Design Challenge is a collaboration with a graduate studio within the UTSA School of Architecture who have taken the challenge to design outdoor learning environments that are places of fun, delight, exploration, discovery, enchantment, tactility, learning, challenge and interaction. The UTSA graduate students will present their designs to the executive team. The designs being created using natural elements and are cost effective so that they could be easily replicated by any early childhood program throughout the city.



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