



Special points of interest:

- Student application period closes on June 8
- Pre-K to host end-of-year event at Olmos Park
- Student artwork to be featured publically during May
- Pre-K 4 SA prepares students and families for Kindergarten



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Pre-K 4 SA Today

Student Application Period Closes June 8

Pre-K 4 SA is still accepting applications for students for the 2014-15 school year. The last day to apply for the lottery will be Sunday, June 8, 2014. Pre-K 4 SA will conduct the lottery on June 10, 2014. Free and tuition students will be randomly selected in an automated lottery.

Letters with the lottery re-

sults will be sent by mail on June 13, 2014 to all families who applied. Lottery letters will inform families if they have been selected to register or if they are on the waitlist. For selected families, registration will begin on June 30, 2014.

To apply, visit sanantonio.gov/prek or call 210-206-PREK (7735).

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“MOVE with Pre-K 4 SA!” on May 17

Pre-K 4 SA is excited for the program’s end of the year celebration, “MOVE with Pre-K 4 SA” at Olmos Park on May 17, 2014. Pre-K 4 SA is teaming up with M.O.V.E. San Antonio, a local organization that stands for “Making Obesity Vanish Everyday,” to celebrate different ways to live a fun and healthy lifestyle.

This family-friendly event invites current Pre-K 4 SA families as well as applicant families for next year’s program to participate in a variety of outdoor activities. Admission is free, so join Pre-K 4 SA from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for this fun event!



MOVE activities to enjoy:

- ✓ Produce Market
- ✓ Fun Run
- ✓ Live Music
- ✓ Zumba
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Bicycle Blender
- ✓ Information Booths

MOVE with Pre-K 4 SA	
Date	Saturday, May 17, 2014
Time	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location	Olmos Basin Park 651 Devine Road, San Antonio, TX 78212

“Gracias San Antonio” Gallery Display

To celebrate a year of learning and exploration, Pre-K 4 SA students are saying “Gracias San Antonio” by creating artwork for a local gallery. Public Art San Antonio (PASA) Studio is partnering with Pre-K 4 SA to display students’ work from May 27 through May 30. This school-wide project allowed students to reflect on their favorite lessons from Pre-K 4 SA and create artwork based on what they have learned about the City of San Antonio. The program has a strong emphasis on San Antonio culture and history, so staff



felt this was a great project to end the year.

Families, teachers, friends, and the public are welcome to view the exhibit which will feature work from students at the North and South Education Centers.

When the exhibition is over, all of the artwork will be donated to the community as a way to say “Gracias San Antonio” for making Pre-K 4 SA possible!

PASA Studio is located at 400 N. St. Mary’s St. Suite 101. The exhibit will be available for viewing from May 27-30, 2014.

Professional Development Summer Academies

The Professional Development Department of Pre-K 4 SA is bustling with activity as staff prepare for the inaugural Pre-K 4 SA Summer Academies. These academies will be held in June and July for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers throughout San Antonio. These sessions are designed to provide educators across the city with high quality professional development that will benefit the whole child in a developmentally appropriate and purposeful way. Pre-K 4 SA is bringing in renowned speakers to headline these interactive sessions throughout the summer. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn about the amazing world of science with the dynamic and passionate Lisa Murphy, better known as the “Ooey Goey Lady.” This internationally known speaker uses her energy and humor to

inform her audience about the importance of play by linking hands-on activities to educational standards in early childhood settings. Teachers will also have the good fortune to hear author, educator, and literacy consultant Matt Glover. He will focus on nurturing writers and supporting children’s intellectual growth and development while providing practical strategies for teachers to easily implement in their classrooms. Finally, teachers should get ready to sing along and learn the full value of musical experiences in the classroom José-Luis Orozco, a renowned singer/songwriter of children’s bilingual music. His delightful songs will help children learn the Spanish language and will give teachers a learning tool to promote a multicultural environment in the classroom.

In addition to walking away

with new curriculum ideas and current early childhood practices, teachers will be given various resources related to the topics including professional books, children’s literature, CDs, and more.

Pre-K 4 SA participating school districts will have priority registration through May 16, 2014. After that date, remaining registration slots will be given on a first-come, first served basis.

Registration is free and interested teachers can sign up on the Pre-K 4 SA website. Visit sanantonio.gov/prek for more information and to sign up!



Staff Spotlight

Pre-K 4 SA is proud to showcase the innovative work of the North Center Assistant Director Dr. Lesley Balido-Dean. Dr. Balido-Dean received a doctorate in Educational Leadership, a Masters in Communications, and a Bachelors of Political Science. In 2012, she was the winner of the HEB Excellence in Education Award in the category of Rising Star. This award provided a grant for her post-doctoral studies on closing the achievement gap and large scale development at Harvard University. After her impressive training, Dr. Balido-Dean joined Pre-K 4 SA to manage the day-to-day operations of the North Center and support planning, ensuring every Pre-K 4 SA student has a positive educational experience. Dr. Balido-Dean has

proven to be instrumental in establishing many partnerships between Pre-K 4 SA and various community agencies such as the San Antonio Museum of Art, the MUSIC Project, The Children's Museum, Public Art San Antonio, the Office of Cultural Arts, and UTSA.

These partnerships have benefited the extended day program by providing students with fun and interesting ways to continue learning after school. Currently, she is focusing her efforts on outdoor learning and the positive impact it has on young children. Dr. Balido-Dean has collaborated with the UTSA College of Architecture to develop the "Pre-K 4 SA Design Challenge." In this competition, a graduate design studio will focus its study on the outdoor learning environ-

ment at Pre-K 4 SA. Students will compete for their outdoor classroom designs to be implemented at the Pre-K 4 SA North Education Center this summer. The goal of the project is to expand the Design Challenge to the East, West, and South Education Centers this fall.

By focusing on these partnerships and innovative ways to enhance Pre-K 4 SA, Lesley has become a true champion for the program's students. Her dedication and commitment to children and families is evident in everything she does. Those around her say that her energy and passion for high quality early childhood education is inspirational.



Citizens to be Heard

Just a reminder that all community members have the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns regarding Pre-K 4 SA. In December the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors voted to approve an agenda item for Citizens to be Heard. This allows citizens the opportunity to speak on matters related to Pre-K 4 SA. Citizens can sign up to speak

after approval of the previous meeting's minutes and prior to discussion of the remaining agenda items. Any individual or group will be allowed three minutes to express their ideas or questions.

Pre-K 4 SA encourages residents of San Antonio to participate in Board meetings and provide us with feedback for how we can

improve our program. Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Board Agendas are available for viewing through the City of San Antonio website.



Kindergarten Transitional Fairs

The Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers will be conducting Kindergarten Transitional Fairs this month. These sessions will provide families with information about the school district where their children will be attending kindergarten. Families will receive districts' calendars, parent handbooks, school supply lists, and uniform information,

if applicable.

At these events, Pre-K 4 SA will provide strategies for families to help children in the transition to kindergarten. Families will receive suggestions about summer learning activities and reading lists to help students maintain what they have learned over the year. Sessions will also highlight parenting topics such as the importance of

routines, ways to support independence in children, and ideas to help children transition to kindergarten.

The South Education Center will host its Kindergarten Transitional Fair on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The North Education Center Transitional Fair will be on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.



May Calendar

MAY '14						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	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

The North and South Education Centers will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 in observance of Memorial Day. The administrative offices will also be closed. Both Centers will reopen on Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

The last day of school will be Thursday, June 5, 2014.

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