



Parkmead Active Learning School Seeks New Families

Parkmead Active Learning School (PALS) is a public alternative elementary school program of the Walnut Creek School District (WCSD). The PALS program's guiding philosophy is that children possess an innate desire to learn, and that teachers and parents can work together to stimulate that desire, developing a lifelong love of learning. A multi-age classroom format fosters the sharing of ideas and skills, and promotes the development of respectful social relationships. Each child is encouraged to learn at his or her own pace in a supportive environment that invites exploration and experimentation. Creative problem solving and self-motivation are promoted in a noncompetitive setting. Teachers work together to apply the PALS model consistently across all student levels, while incorporating the curriculum in use throughout the WCSD. PALS emphasizes academic excellence and family involvement in the educational process.

PALS is tuition-free and the school's enrollment policy is open and nondiscriminatory. WCSD residents do, however, have enrollment priority in PALS over out-of-district students. PALS shares a campus with the Parkmead Community School program. Space in the PALS program is currently limited to six classes. PALS is a family-oriented program in which all parents are active participants and families sign a commitment to volunteer a set number of hours per year. Volunteer hours can be spent both in and out of the classroom.

Application Procedure

Families interested in learning more about PALS are invited to attend a 2009 informational meeting on:

Wednesday, January 21, 7-9 pm
Tuesday, January 27, 7-9 pm

An informational meeting must be attended prior to applying to PALS. Applications will be distributed only at the conclusion of the meetings. The informational meetings will be held in the library at Parkmead School, located at 1920 Magnolia Way in Walnut Creek. Signs will be posted to direct you around campus. Meetings last about two hours. Both parents are encouraged to attend, but please do not bring children.

Application Deadline for 2009-2010 School Year

For the 2009-2010 school year, PALS expects to have approximately 10 openings in kindergarten and up to 6 openings in 4th grade. Applications will be accepted by mail beginning in February of 2009. More details will be provided. In the event of applications in excess of the number of openings, admission will be determined by lottery. The remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list, the order of which will also be determined by lottery.

For more information about PALS, log onto www.parkmeadpals.org

Or contact the Membership Co-Chairs:

Kevin Wong: drkevinwong@orindachiropractic.com

June Bashant: jbashant@rftzlaw.com



Application Information For New PALS Families

Our intention in the informational meeting was to give you a clear, accurate and comprehensive view of PALS, so that you can make an informed decision about whether PALS is right for your family.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

- Attend a scheduled PALS Information Meeting before filling out an application.
- Mail application to the Parkmead Elementary School at 1920 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek, CA, 94595, ATTENTION: PALS Application.
- Postmark no earlier than February 1, 2007 and no later than February 23, 2007.

Applications postmarked before February 1 will be returned to the sender. We ask that the applications not be copied for and/or passed off to other interested families.

A written response will be sent to every applicant. You will either receive a notice that a space has been reserved for your child (with instructions for enrolling in the program) or you will receive a notice that your child has been placed on the waiting list because there is not currently a space for your child in PALS.

Walnut Creek School District (WCSD) students have priority in filling PALS openings. If PALS receives more WCSD applications than there are spaces available, placement is determined by lottery. Only after we have exhausted our WCSD applicant list will we consider applications from outside the district. Families living outside the district should also note that PALS sibling priority placement applies only to WCSD families.

The current maximum class size for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades is 20 students. Because the parcel tax passed in the Walnut Creek School District, the current class-size average for 4th and 5th grades is 22 to 23 students per class.

Applicants on the waiting list will be notified in waiting list order about the available spaces. Prior to September, applicants on the waiting list will be offered any spaces made available because of withdrawals from students already enrolled (e.g. family moving). Applicants offered spaces after school has started should be prepared to make a decision within twenty-four (24) hours. If a student is offered a space and declines, or accepts and

1920 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek, Ca 94595 ** Telephone: (925) 944-6858 ** Fax: (925) 939-2849

then withdraws, that student will no longer have a space on the waiting list and must repeat the entire application process.

Out-of-district students on the waiting list will be offered a space from the waiting list if at the time the offer is being made there are no WCSD students at the same class/level on the waiting list. However, release from your home district is imperative before enrolling in the Walnut Creek School District.

Any students who remain on the waiting list from the prior year will be notified by mail of the procedure for transferring their waiting list priority to the subsequent grade level. Families that remain on the waiting list will be required to attend another informational meeting the following January in order to reapply. Applications are filed and the waiting list maintained at the Parkmead School Office.

If you have any questions about the PALS program, your application, or the waiting list, please call the Membership Chairs, Heather and James Pineda, at (925) 287-1642.