



THE MEHER SCHOOLS



Wednesday Messages

December 18, 2019 • Parent Resource Center: www.MeherSchoolsParents.org

Winter Holiday Daycare

Friday is the last day of school before the winter holiday break. **Week 1** of holiday daycare is Monday, December 23, and Thursday and Friday, December 26 and 27. **Week 2** is Monday, December 30, and Thursday and Friday, January 2 and 3. School resumes on Monday, January 6.

☞ **Preschoolers** who are usually in Rooms 1 and 2 will be in Room 1. Those who are usually in Rooms 3, 4, and 5 will be in Room 5. Room 3 will be the nap room.

☞ **Kindergartners** will be in Room 7 till about 12:30, when they'll move to Room 10.

☞ Homeroom for **first through fifth graders** will be Room 10. Students may bring bicycles, inline skates, and roller skates and must wear helmets that (*Continued on page 2*)



HALF A TON Meher Schools families donated 1,085 pounds of food in our 12th annual holiday drive for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano! Here fifth graders help load donations onto the food bank truck Friday, a school tradition.

A Note of Gratitude for Families' Support of the School in 2019

This past year many families have generously supported the school through their participation in school events like our dances and art auction, by offering gifts and meals to teachers, and by donating funds. We so appreciate these loving gifts and want to thank everyone who supported the school in these ways.

While it's important to us that families don't feel pressured to give, we always welcome gifts from the heart (and gladly provide tax receipts).

Thank you all for a wonderful 2019. Here's to a new decade at The Meher Schools!

Projects Made Possible This Year Through Our Families' Generosity

☞ Kindergarten hillside landscaping, new deck, and outdoor kitchen

☞ New playhouse in the Rooms 1 and 2 yard

☞ Rebuilt sandbox on the big playground

☞ Benches for the preschool hallway and kindergarten gazebo

☞ Plants for the Seven Circles and Butterfly gardens

☞ New spotlight for our theater

Tips for Parents by Susie Kohl

Compassion: Awakening a Child's Heart

“HOW DO WE SHOW COMPASSION AT OUR SCHOOL?” a father asked at last week’s Diversity Committee meeting. It felt like a stimulating question in this season and an important one for people, young and old, to reflect on in our shared lives. To explore his question, we talked about parents helping each other when there is need; of trying to include others, especially those at risk of feeling excluded; of viewing all our children, no matter what their struggles, in caring, understanding, and benevolent ways; and the fun and fulfillment of community-building events.

These reflections might occur in any school community, but at the White Pony and Meher School, they are central. Our school was founded on compassion and still revolves around learning its principles. I am reminded of a quote by Hafiz: “An awake heart is like a sky that pours light.” How do we awaken a child’s heart? How can we open our own hearts to move compassion to the forefront of what we see and do?

A little story created by Diane Cobb, a former Meher Schools teacher and artist extraordinaire, for the children she taught captured some of these images. It was about two little girls in kindergarten aftercare who realized that their words had caused a rip in the heart of playmate. In the story, the girls created a magic oven to bake their friend’s heart and make it whole again.

Our school centers around the heart, and in February we will explore questions about compassion in depth for our 45th Founders Day. Stay tuned and revel in the privilege we have in working together to create a new humanity, a generation that sees the world with new eyes.

Winter Holiday Daycare

(Continued from page 1)

fit properly when skating or riding bikes.

Razor scooters and skateboards are not permitted at school, nor are electronic devices such as cell phones, iPads, and handheld games, even during daycare weeks.

☞ The **Breakfast Program** will be in Room 5. If your child is enrolled in this program and will be attending, please arrive no later than 7:30.

Last-Minute Gift Ideas

★ *Songs for a New Humanity*, a collection of more than a dozen favorite Meher Schools songs. It sells for \$20. Proceeds benefit the White Horse Youth Chorale. Copies are available in the Office. Make checks payable to the school or pay in cash.

★ *Mr. Max’s Neighborhood*, Max Reif’s new CD of original songs. Pick up your copy in the Office. It sells for \$10. Make checks out to Max Reif or pay in cash. (Hear one of Max’s favorites from the CD, “Circus Song,” in the Parent Resource Center.)

Register now for **January Explorations classes**. Sign up online. See the eNote we sent December 17 for details.

