

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 9, 2011**

### **Castro Valley Parent Nursery School Celebrating 60 Years of Educating Generations of East Bay Preschoolers**

*Casino-Style Fundraiser April 16th Doubles As Community Celebration*

Nestled in the rolling hills of Castro Valley, there is a unique parent participation preschool that is celebrating over sixty years educating the littlest students in the East Bay. Some of the participating parents attended the preschool themselves as three and four-year olds.

Founded in 1949, Castro Valley Parent Nursery School (CVPNS) is best known in the community as having the coolest float in the annual Rowell Ranch Parade. The preschool is actually located in a modified private home donated in 1966 by a very generous man named John S. Linscott.

Its current director is Miss Patti Brohard, is Vice President of the state board of the California Council of Parent Participation Preschools. Miss Patti has anchored the preschool community for ten years. Her play-based preschool philosophy is one of the reasons so many families choose this school each year.

Miss Patti says, “The key to successful participation in a cooperative preschool is hard work, preparation and learning from one’s mistakes. I believe this motto has helped me to successfully lead this terrific community. I’m so happy to be its Director as we celebrate this significant milestone in our history.”

Every day, five parents join the director, to create a vibrant, play-based environment that encourages children to find their own fun. Kids dress up like astronauts in the dramatic play room, help with creative food crafts in the kitchen, discover “what gets trapped in a spider’s web” in the dedicated science room, or play “house” in the adorable doll room. Outdoors, they assist in the fruit and vegetable garden, practice construction skills in the huge sandbox and run around and between two large yards with play structures. Families are attracted to this unique environment from San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward, Castro Valley and Livermore.

#### **School Benefits Castro Valley Families**

Castro Valley resident Katey Pronske is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a planned 6 year stint at the school. Her 6 year old graduated last June and her 4 year old is a current student. She plans to have her 2 year old attend the preschool in 2013-15. She noted, “My kids have really blossomed as they have learned how to interact respectfully with other children while gaining confidence in themselves under the care and guidance of our fantastic director, Patti.”

#### **The preschool student becomes the preschool parent**

Stacey Thornberry-Martin is one of the parents in the preschool community who attended CVPNS as a preschooler herself. She’s a Castro Valley resident with her third child currently enrolled at the school.

Reflecting on her own preschool days she says, “I have such amazing memories of my years at CVPNS as a preschooler. Many things look different now, but overall the preschool experience has remained the same. I was so excited to be able to send my boys to such a wonderful school. My older 2 have now graduated and moved on to elementary school, but now they are so excited to come back and visit their [little brother](#) in preschool. I feel so fortunate to have such an incredible preschool in our community!

## Committed for more than Half a Decade

Some families with multiple children enroll their first child at the preschool and find themselves part of the community for more than half a decade. Castro Valley mom Stacey Teshima says, "I feel very fortunate to have found Ms. Patti and CVPNS. Not only have my kids learned a great deal from Ms. Patti, but both my husband and I have too. With three kids, we'll be at CVPNS for six years. Because CVPNS is a co-op school we are very involved. We work one day a week at the school, we attend weekly parent education meetings and I serve on the Board. If we had chosen a "drop off and pick up" preschool, our kids would learn, but as parents we would have had very limited opportunities to learn new parenting skills. Putting in this time with CVPNS while our kids are preschoolers is a priceless investment with benefits for all of us."

## Enjoy Table Games, Support the School, Hawaiian Style

The school will host a fundraiser and celebration event titled "Vegas in the Valley" on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-10pm at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge located at 20835 Rutledge Rd in Castro Valley.

The theme this year will be "Hawaiian Luau"! There will be a Hawaiian buffet and entertainment. Come dressed in your most festive Aloha wear!

There will also be a tremendous raffle with prizes such as a Pier 39 family fun gift pack, Apple iPod, Great America tickets, 2 rounds of golf at Los Positas Golf Course, trapeze lessons and many, many more unique items! You do not need to be present to win a raffle prize and can purchase tickets in advance by contacting Marisa Jordan

The adult-only event will feature a fully-catered dinner, Blackjack tables, a roulette wheel, live entertainment and dancing. A silent auction will be held during the event. Businesses wishing to donate goods or services to support the school (in exchange for publicity at the event) should contact Gwen Schlatter @ 510-331-4020 or via email - Tschlatter3@comcast.net

To purchase tickets for the event, please contact Gwen Schlatter @ 510-331-4020 or via email – Tschlatter3@comcast.net. Admission is \$20 per person and includes dinner and \$5 in gaming chips. VIP packages are also available and include admission for two, sixty dollars in gaming chips and additional amenities. "Vegas in the Valley" will be an adult-only event.

## To Contribute to the Celebration or Enroll in the School...

If you cannot attend the event but wish to support the preschool, please do so online at [www.cvpns.org/donate](http://www.cvpns.org/donate).

Parents interested in learning more about the preschool can visit [www.cvpns.org](http://www.cvpns.org) or contact the membership director at [membership@cvpns.org](mailto:membership@cvpns.org).

#

#

#

#

For more information, to arrange a visit to the school or on the night of the casino event, or to schedule interviews with any of the people quoted within, please contact Katey Pronske at 510-728-1235 or at [kateypronske@yahoo.com](mailto:kateypronske@yahoo.com). A full list of possible interviewees and their contact information is available upon request.