

Hello Downey Families!

We are in the last month of the school year, and our big events/commitments have wound down. We still have an active month, though! Classes will be doing field trips, including Tadpoles, who will be doing their annual trip to the library. Also, we will have one final Scholastic book sale, so please check your mailboxes for the information. Downey does do a graduation for the older kids. Frogs and Leapfrogs, you will receive more information from Mrs. Lovold and Mrs. Dant, so please be on the lookout for that! And we will have our annual pitch-in at Ellenberger Park on Thursday, May 23.

My term as President is ending, and this is my final newsletter piece. As such, I want to thank people for the work they have done over the course of the year. First, I want to thank Mandy Wright-Jarrett for her work on an excellent Egg Hunt! We were thrown a curve ball with the weather, but the event was a success! Thank you to Kelly Ryan for organizing the Ice Cream fundraiser! Thank you to Sarah Bowles for all of her work on organizing the Spring Work Night! Thank you to Jen Wilkinson for her work on organizing the Art to Remember fundraiser! And now to families whose year-round work has made for a great year at Downey. Thank you to the Art Chairs and Art Materials families! Personally speaking, my daughter loved her birthday crown! So thank you Maria Edwards for her work in making sure the kids are recognized on their birthdays! This year, Downey implemented a new system for the deep cleaning requirement. Thank you Alicia Stephens for being on top of it and making sure we are fulfilling our cleaning requirement and for making sure we are equipped to clean! Class reps, you have done a great job in making sure families are volunteering in the classrooms and making sure families in your classes are informed of changes and expectations. Thank you, I know it's not an easy job at times!

As you all know, there are some family jobs that are a year-round commitment and take a substantial amount of time to do. One of those is Publicity. This year, Jena Steele did an awesome job on rebranding our website and heavily increasing our social media presence! It's been great to see so many new people connect to Downey as a result. Another job requiring more time is the Church Liaison position. Thank you to the Poisel family for their work in helping us maintain a great relationship with the church! Membership is another job that takes a lot of time. While many families were just getting acquainted with Downey, Susan was in full swing over the summer meeting families and preparing for our orientation! Thank you so much to Susan Ray for all of her work in following up with interested families, conducting tours, doing our open houses, and managing the registrations! And the other position that gets a shout out is the Treasurer position. Downey families, you have been lucky to have a great treasurer this year! There is so much work involved in making sure Downey stays financially solvent and making sure families know and follow through on their financial obligations. Thank you to Beth for her many, many hours on working on Downey financials! Last but not least, I want to thank the teachers. Downey would not be the place it is if it weren't for you. I have been honored to get to know you all and see your passion for your work and see all of the time you invest in Downey. Thank you so much for the love you show the kids every class! And thank you for all of the activities and opportunities you provide! Thank you Downey families for making this a great year. Please know that I appreciate the work all of you have done. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as the President! I know that Downey will be in great hands next year as Susan Ray and Jena Steele serve as the Co- Presidents.

Tiffany

CLASSROOM UPDATES



TADPOLE TIDBITS

April blew by. May will probably fly by too, but we will make the most of it. We will make a secret gift for our moms. Mother's Day is May 12 in case you were wondering. We will explore butterflies and flowers this month. A special thank you to Meryl Stuckey for the pansies to put in our flower box.

We will go on our first field trip. We will walk to the library rain or shine. I will need extra help those two days. Just a parent/ per two children. Tadpoles will go to the library Tuesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 8 for a 10:30 story time. We will leave Downey a little after 10:00 and return when story time is over.

I cannot believe the school year is almost over. Our little tadpoles have grown so much. Our favorite song "Animal Action 1&2". Our favorite books "The Little Mouse, the Red,Ripe Strawberry, and the Big, Hungry Bear" and the classroom book.

I have enjoyed getting to know my families. The children have been very verbal and so much fun to talk to. I hope everyone has fun and safe summer.

Thanks for choosing Downey,
Mrs. Egan



POLLIWOGS

It is hard to believe that we are entering our last month of school. It is amazing how much the kids have grown up over this year; their vocabularies are increasing, they are able to follow the routines of class, and have made so many friendships. It has been a joy to watch!

Thanks so much to all of our Polliwog families for helping to make this an incredible year! I visited another co-op last week; as all of the teachers do each year; every time I visit another school, I am reminded how blessed we are at Downey!

This last month, we will be celebrating Spring by spending a lot of time outdoors, doing some planting, and working on some Mother's and Father's Day projects. We will be taking a few walks to destinations in Irvington.

Looking forward to a great month.

Angie



FROG LOG

During the month of April, we spent some time reading and learning about rain and playing with water. The children had an opportunity to make a rain stick and a thunderstorm wind sock. There was a sink/float station and an opportunity to test the surface tension of water with coins and a dropper with water. We also had a lot of fun with light and shadows as we have had the light projector out during April. On the projector, we have played with plastic insects, translucent colored shapes, letters, and people as well as shadow puppets.

The month of May is chalked full of activity and fun! These children seem to enjoy games of any sort (video, board, or made-up ones by them), so we are going to focus on a game theme throughout May with a splash of animal life cycles and flowers. We have a field trip to the Irvington Library and one to Bloom planned along with an indoor/outdoor day with the Tadpoles, the Frog graduation ceremony, and a Bike Day! The children will be making and bringing home invitations for the graduation.

This month is going to fly by!

Mark your calendar now:

Wednesday, May 1 - Field Trip to Irvington Library, 10:30 am

Friday, May 10 - Field Trip to Bloom Assisted Living Center

Wednesday, May 22 - a small **graduation ceremony for the Frogs**

Friday, May 24 - Bike Day and Last Day of Preschool

Mindy Dant-Gordon



News from our friends at Downey Avenue Christian Church

Summer Camp

Children as young as 5 years old are invited to participate in summer camp! You + Me Camp is designed for ages 5 through 3rd grade and an adult and takes place June 12-15 or June 20-22, costing \$265 and \$205 respectively. New Beginnings Camp for completed grades 1-3 takes place June 24-26, costing \$205 and Explorer Camp for completed grades 4-5 takes place July 8-13, costing \$310. Scholarships are available for those interested. To register [email Pastor Melody](mailto:PastorMelody@downeyavenuechurch.org) or visit www.indianadisciples.org.

Summer VBS (Vacation Bible School)

Two things that go hand in hand in church life are summer and VBS. This year, Downey will be offering VBS for children ages 4-12 July 28th through July 31st, 6pm-8pm. Our theme is "Yes! Show Up, Help Out, and Love Like Jesus!" There will be games, art, music, theater, and more. Volunteers are needed for this 4 day event. To volunteer or register a child, [email Pastor Melody](mailto:PastorMelody@downeyavenuechurch.org).

Parlor Update

Renovation of the parlor began on April 1st! During renovation, the parlor will be closed so that we can replace carpet, replace kitchen cabinetry, paint, install new furniture, and more. We anticipate the renovation will take at least a few weeks but will be worth the wait. Stay tuned for information about the grand reveal!

Mother's Day Bake Sale

Want to purchase a sweet treat for that special person on Mother's Day? Mae Ward is hosting a bake sale on Sunday, May 12 in order to raise funds for backpacks given to Outreach high school graduates. We will have a spread of cookies, brownies, cakes, and pies. Vegan options will be available. Stop and shop right after the worship service!

Mother's Day Tea

All mothers and their children (young or grown) are invited to the annual Downey Mother's Day Tea, Saturday May 4th, at 2pm. There will be games, activities, snacks, beverages, and of course, tea. This free event is open for all but will require an RSVP. To reserve your spot [email Pastor Melody](mailto:PastorMelody@downeyavenuechurch.org).

Rev. Amie (Leap Frog Spanish Teacher)

Rev. Amie Vanderford, who began as our Student Ministry Associate while she was a seminary student and became our Director of Communications, has now been ordained and is able to look for a full-time role as a pastor through the Disciples Search & Call system. While we are so sad to see Amie leave Downey next month, we are so grateful for the ways she has made our community a better place and look forward to seeing what God has in store for her next as she transitions to a full-time role at the next church who will be so blessed by Amie as she begins full-time ministry!

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

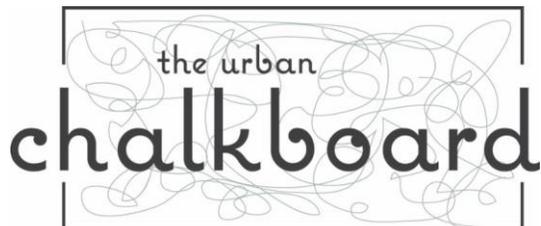
In May, we will be having our final Scholastic sale! This is a great opportunity to grab new books for the summer.



This Month at #theUC



- May 2** Family Night
- May 6** Grandparent's Day
- May 6** Sleeping Beauty with CIDE
- May 8** Multiple's Day
- May 9** Figure of Speech Demo Class
- May 9** Family Night Mommy & Me Mini Sessions- SOLD OUT
- May 11** Mommy & Me Mini Sessions- SOLD OUT
- May 11** Pumpsplotting
- May 11** Self-Love Family Yoga
- May 13** First Time Family Day
- May 16** Family Night
- May 18** Urban Beats
- May 23** Family Night
- May 27** CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY
- May 29** theCityMoms Meetup
- May 30-** Family Night



learning studios + play café

Summer Hours

We will switch to summer hours from June- August

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| Tuesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Sunday Closed |
| Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | |