

Alumni Newsletter



Still Learning Through Play

At La Playa, play continues to be at the heart of everything we do. This year, children have been especially drawn to dramatic play, building/tactile play, and play dough—spaces where imagination, collaboration, and problem-solving naturally unfold.

Our cooperative classrooms remain rich with parent involvement, strengthening the sense of connection and shared care that alumni families know so well. The focus on emotional intelligence is woven into each day as children practice naming feelings, navigating conflicts, and supporting one another—

skills that stay with them long after their La Playa years.

We also carried our values beyond the classroom by partnering with The Plunge food drive, offering children a tangible way to experience generosity and community care.

The rhythms may look familiar, but the impact remains profound: playful learning, strong relationships, and a deep foundation for empathy and resilience.

La Playa Cooperative

In this newsletter you can expect:

What we've been up to

Community News

Alumni Spotlight

Upcoming Events for Spring Term

Fundraising Events/Updates

Ways to Keep in Touch

Community News

One of the most special things about La Playa is the way our community shows up for one another—big moments, small moments, and everything in between. This fall and winter, we were thrilled to welcome new babies to the La Playa family! Congratulations to Kora, Margot, and Wesley's families—your newest additions have already brought so much joy to our community.

Beyond the classroom, families found ways to connect through park playdates, giving children (and grown-ups) extra time to play, chat, and strengthen friendships. These informal gatherings are a beautiful reminder that La Playa extends far beyond our school grounds.



Chili Off

Our annual Chili Cook-Off was a huge success and a wonderful reminder of the strength of the La Playa community. With eight chilis in the competition, great food, and lots of family fun, the event raised just over \$5,000 to support our preschool programs. We also celebrated a very special milestone — Teacher Teri's 15 years with La Playa! Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and alumni families for helping make this event such a joyful and meaningful day.



Thanks to an incredibly active WhatsApp group chat, hardly any alternates have been called in—proof that when our community communicates, it really works.

We're also deeply grateful to the Kirk Douglas Theatre, who generously donated over 40 tickets to La Playa families for a special performance of *The Enormous Crocodile*. It was a magical theater night and a memorable shared experience for our families. Thank you for supporting the arts and our community in such a meaningful way.

Moments like these remind us that La Playa is more than a preschool—it's a village.



Art of Play Winter Gala

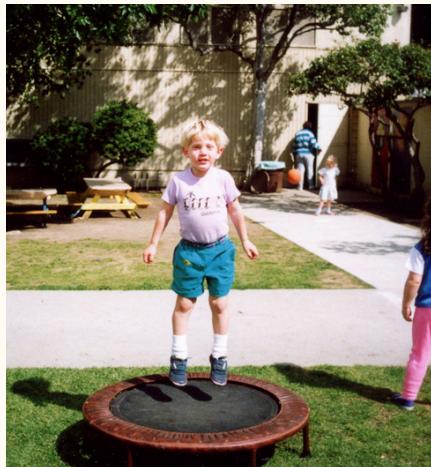
This winter, La Playa families gathered for a joyful Red Carpet Celebration that truly captured the spirit of our cooperative community. With a wonderful turnout, families enjoyed reconnecting, celebrating our children, and simply spending time together outside the classroom.

The evening featured a student art gallery, music and dancing, creative activities, and plenty of laughter. From the red carpet photo moments to the dance floor and cozy movie wind-down, the event was a reminder of how special it is when our community comes together to celebrate our children and one another. Thank you to the families, volunteers, and partners who helped make this memorable night such a success—we loved sharing it with you.

Alumni Spotlight: WILL BRODE

La Playa Class of 1992

This spring, we're delighted to shine our Alumni Spotlight on Will Brode, a proud La Playa alum who's carried the spirit of play, curiosity, and community into every stage of his life.



Where is he now?

Will earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from UC Irvine, launching a career that blends creativity and technology. Today, he's a Software Engineer at Activision, helping build tools that empower teams to create video games enjoyed around the world.

Outside of work, Will keeps his passion for creativity alive through improv, a love he developed during his college years. He jokes that improvisation came naturally because he learned to be playful early on... "maybe at some preschool or something."

Life has brought Will his greatest accomplishment yet: he's now a dad to three wonderful boys—twin 7-year-olds [Also Alumni!] and a 4-year-old—who keep him laughing, learning, and rediscovering the joy of childhood every day.

Favorite La Playa Memories

Will's memories of La Playa are filled with discovery and friendship. He vividly recalls placing grapes on the warm pavement and returning days later to find they had turned into raisins—his very first self-directed science experiment, and a triumphant one at that! He also treasures the memory of celebrating his 4th birthday surrounded by his La Playa buddies, a gathering that left a lasting imprint. And when he returned to visit La Playa as an adult, he instantly recognized the iconic climbing cubes—one of his favorite parts of preschool life.

Interested in being featured?

We love hearing from our La Playa alumni and seeing all the amazing things you're up to—whether it's applying to college, performing in a show, launching a creative project, or just growing in your own unique way.

CLICK HERE TO BE FEATURED

Upcoming La Playa Events

Spring at La Playa is shaping up to be full of learning, connection, and celebration. Our children will experience several field trips:

- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
- Water Basin
- Culver City Library
- Walking to the Mailbox

Our community events continue to bring families together in meaningful ways.

- **Most Fridays** - Parent and Me music
- **2/21** - Drive In at the Brodes
- **3/1** - Screenland 5K [[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)]
- **3/20** - Multicultural Spring Celebration
- **4/20-4/24** - Spirit Week
- **4/25 | 9 AM to 11 AM** - Teacher Teri's Reading @ Village Wells Bookstore
- **5/8** - Parent's Lunch
- **6/20** - Dockweiler Summer Bonfire

We love keeping our alumni connected to the traditions that make La Playa so special.

Alumni Scholarship

La Playa is proud to support our alumni as they continue their educational journeys. Each year, we offer an Alumni Scholarship to help offset college expenses and celebrate the lasting impact of a La Playa foundation. It's one small way we stay connected to our graduates and cheer them on as they take their next steps forward.

Thank you for reading!



Dine & Donate

Order in for La Playa

Skip the dishes and support our school! Join us for a delicious series of restaurant fundraisers—just order from our featured spots on their date, and a percentage of sales will go directly to La Playa Cooperative Nursery School. It's an easy (and tasty) way to give back!

- **1/14** - Mendocino Farms
- **1/28** - Chipotle
- **2/25** - Panda Express
- **4/8** - Luna Grill
- **5/6** - California Fish Grill
- **5/20** - BJs

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