

Pre-K4SA

Education4SA

MARCH – MAY 2015

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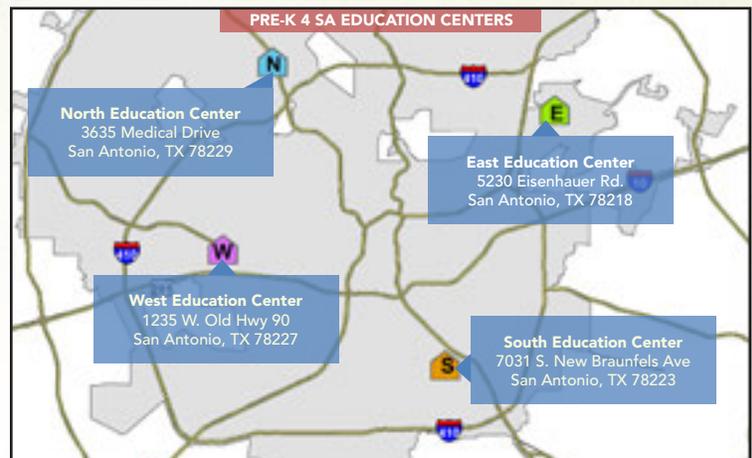
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PRE-K 4 SA PREPARES FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Pre-K 4 SA is gearing up to register students for the 2015-2016 school year. Classes will begin on Monday, August 24, 2015. The program will be fully operating with a total of 1,700 students at four Education Centers which are located in the four quadrants of San Antonio. The North and South Education Centers which opened in August 2013 will each house a total of 450 students each. The East and West Education Centers which opened in August 2014 will house 400 students each.

The Pre-K 4 SA student application period for the 2015-2016 school year began on Monday, February 2, 2015. In order to qualify for the program, children must have their fourth birthday on or before Tuesday, September 1, 2015. Children must live within City of San Antonio limits and a participating school district, and meet at least one of the Texas Eligibility Criteria included on page 3 to attend for free. Participating school districts include **Northside ISD, North East ISD, San Antonio ISD, Southwest ISD, Harlandale ISD, Edgewood ISD, and Southside ISD.**



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Pre-K 4 SA and City of San Antonio Head Start cooperatively planned and sponsored the City of San Antonio Early Learning Summit on January 23 and 24, 2015. After researching several ideas about early childhood best practices, the planning committee invited Kim Hughes, Loving Guidance Associate, to present on the topic of Conscious Discipline. Kim, a veteran educator with early childhood experience, helped participants learn about self-regulation strategies based on brain states, developmental stages of young children and developmentally appropriate practice. She also emphasized the power of a safe and connected classroom environment to optimize learning for all students. The Friday sessions were tailored to administrators in the morning and instructional coaches and facilitators in the afternoon. Saturday was a day geared toward classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. Everyone received free educational resources and many

door prizes were awarded to attendees on both days. With over 300 participants in attendance during the two day summit, the event was truly a successful collaboration enjoyed by educators from throughout San Antonio!

Due to the success of this presentation, Pre-K 4 SA will bring Kim Hughes back for further professional development in June of 2015 for a Conscious Discipline Summer Academy that will be open to all educators in the City of San Antonio. Registration will be free, as it is for all Pre-K 4 SA professional development. Look for information about this and other Saturday and Summer Academies on the Pre-K 4 SA webpage, under Professional Development: SanAntonio.gov/PreK.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES (cont.)

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

- Saturday, March 28, 2015 – Saturday Academy
- Saturday, April 11, 2015 – Eastside Promise Neighborhood Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair
- Saturday, May 2, 2015 – Saturday Academy
- **Summer Academies will include, but are not limited to:** Conscious Discipline, Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites, Spanish Language and Cultural Development, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) for Young Learners.

CENTER EVENTS

"SELRICO FARMER'S MARKET"

A Farmer's Market is held once a month at one of the four Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers. Selrico Services, Inc., the same company who produces all Pre-K 4 SA student meals, conducts the family-friendly event. The event offers families the opportunity to volunteer while students, staff, family, and friends can purchase organic produce at an affordable price. Students express excitement to participate in the Farmer's Market while they learn the importance of a balanced diet.



"CITY EXPLORATIONS"

The four Education Centers worked in coordination to develop the Pre-K 4 SA Civic Engagement Program. As a part of this program, Education Centers conduct city explorations for Pre-K 4 SA students and their families to participate in fun, engaging and free events throughout San Antonio. Some city explorations have included a trip to the Children's Museum or enjoying the holiday lights downtown. City explorations allow parents to expand their knowledge of new and exciting ways to educate their little learners outside of the classrooms.



"LITTLE READ WAGON"

The Little Read Wagon is hosted by the San Antonio Library. This program is a 'Make-and-Take' Workshop where parents and family members create fun learning activities to use with their child at home. Each participant receives two children's books, tips on how to raise a reader, and a free San Antonio Public Library membership card. These workshops are offered in both English and Spanish.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS 2015-2016

APPLY ONLINE:

Families can complete the entire application process from home!

Apply now at SanAntonio.gov/PreK

APPLY IN-PERSON:

Families are welcome to visit one of the four Education Centers between 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Computers are available for families to complete the online application and assistance is available.

APPLY BY PHONE:

Families can contact the Pre-K 4 SA Enrollment Hotline at (210) 206-PREK (7735) for assistance completing the application process.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE PRE-K 4 SA

All students, both free and tuition must reside within City of San Antonio limits and must have their fourth birthday before September 1, 2015. In order to be eligible to attend Pre-K 4 SA for free, students must reside within a participating school district and meet one of the Texas Eligibility Criteria which is detailed below. Texas Eligibility Criteria:

- Is eligible for the National Free and Reduced Lunch Program or receives Food Stamps or TANF benefits; or
- Is unable to speak and comprehend the English language (as determined by assessment); or
- Is homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
- Is the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or
- Is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
- Is or has been in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services following an adversary hearing.

Children who reside in the City of San Antonio but live in a nonparticipating district or do not meet one of these eligibility criteria can still attend Pre-K 4 SA as tuition students.

WHAT'S CHANGED FROM THE 2014-2015 ENROLLMENT PROCESS?

Pre-K 4 SA has worked to streamline the student application and enrollment process from the 1st and 2nd years of the program. In addition, we began the entire application process nearly a month earlier to allow more time for families to plan for their little ones.

- Earlier application period – The application period began on Monday, February 2, 2015 which is nearly a month earlier than the 2014-2015 process.
- Earlier lottery – The student lottery process will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, over a month earlier than the 2014-2015 process.
- Earlier registration – Pre-K 4 SA student registration will begin on Monday, April 13, 2015 which is over two months earlier than the 2014-2015 process.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE LOTTERY PROCESS

All applications received by Sunday, April 5, 2015 will be entered into the lottery. On Wednesday, April 8, students will be randomly selected for the four Education Centers. Families that were not selected will be added to the waitlist. Pre-K 4 SA will send lottery results to families by mail and email on Thursday, April 9. Families selected in the lottery can call Pre-K 4 SA to schedule their registration appointment, and waitlisted families will be contacted if space becomes available. If families apply after April 5, their applications will be added to the waitlist in the order that they were received.

EDUCATION 4 SA

Pre-K 4 SA has recently begun filming a TVSA show. The show features different educational issues and highlights stories from Pre-K 4 SA Centers. Previous episodes have focused on nutrition, gross motor skills, parents as a child's first teacher, and year 3 registration processes. Future topics may include structured television time and internet safety, the importance of spending time outdoors, and other opportunities throughout the year including seasonal events. The program lasts for 30 minutes and is released on a monthly basis. Anyone can view the program on the TVSA YouTube Account "COSA Gov", on the City of San Antonio website: SanAntonio.gov, or through the official Pre-K 4 SA Facebook page. TVSA is also available on Time Warner Cable Channel 21, Grande Cable Channel 20, and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

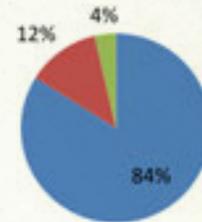
PARENT ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

One of the main targets for Pre-K 4 SA is to provide an array of educational programs and events in order to motivate family and friends to be highly involved in their child's education. The variety of these events is vast; families can learn anything from how to make healthy meals on a budget to handling grief with their child. Just from September 2014 to January 2015, Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers have offered over 40 educational programs and events and over 1,600 individuals have attended at least one event.

When polled in December of last year, 97% of Pre-K 4 SA families expressed interest in the events offered at their Centers. In a Mid Year Survey sent to parents, over 83% of respondents believed that Pre-K 4 SA offers the right amount of events, while 12% felt that we should offer additional events and courses.

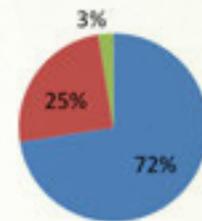
We strongly believe that parents, family, and friends play an essential role in the wellbeing and success of our students. Pre-K 4 SA believes it is just as important to offer the proper tools to families just as we give to students so that as a team we can reach greater heights in learning.

How do you feel about the number of events offered?



- The right number of events
- I would like Pre-K 4 SA to offer more events
- There are too many events

Have you found interest in the events offered?



- Very Interested
- Somewhat Interested
- Not Interested



Kathy's corner

We have seen so much growth in our children! Only 3 ½ months to go – we know they will be off to a great start for kindergarten. We have over 1,000 families who have already filled out applications for next year! If you have a child who will be four by September 1, 2015, let us know. Please let your friends, family, and neighbors know to apply now – the lottery will be April 8.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GENERAL

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