

# Shining Star

Preschool and Child Care



**Bob Prichard**

(707)  
**773-4850**

An Early Childhood Education Program

Spring 2011

## 2010-2011 Our Children

Since last spring, we have added a number of new children to our program. Our most recent addition is our youngest, **Avery York**. Avery turned one in January and joined us in February. Avery's older sister **Caitlyn** was with us from 2004 through 2007.



Below is **Nathan**



**Ballou.** Nathan started attending Shining Star just before Avery, in January. Nathan will turn 2 in July.

On the right, is **Carter Garberolio**. Carter also joined us in January. He turned 4 in March.



## And Enrollment Changes

The economy has impacted the preschool and child care industry much as it has so many areas of employment. If families have one (or both) parents out of work they can't afford and/or they don't need care for their children. (Another side impact comes from a few of those parents who take in children to make ends meet.) Fortunately, we have seen some positive changes in the last six months.



Rounding out our roster additions, **Trenton Rider** (above) has been with us the better part of a year.

Cousins **Billi Taylor** and **Justice Silacci**



also joined us last July. This month we lost Justice but hopefully he'll be back in the future.



**Sunny Days are Here Again**  
So, **PLEASE** help us and  
**sunscreen your child**

**Parent  
Wine  
and  
Cheese  
Get-together**

**Wednesday  
June 1  
4:00 ~ 6:30**



## So Much to Catch Up On



From June 2010 to May 2011 ...what a difference a year makes! Now, **Adrian's** curly locks are often remarked upon.



And of course the marked change that happens once the toddler stage of development

takes place. Above, **Katja** is just starting to walk and now she is taking on the "rock wall" climbing at our nearby park.



## Our Pumpkin Patch Trip



L to R: **Emery, Katja, Mason, Trenton, Harlan, Adrian, Ryan** and **Jamine**



**Trenton** gets a lesson on milking a cow. That big cow was pretty intimidating for many of the children.

Below our group was loaded onto a trailer pulled by a tractor. We then headed to the pumpkin and potato fields.



L to R: **Mason, Harlan, Adrian, Jamine, Emery, Trenton** and **Ryan**

The cheese tasting and fresh ice cream produced by the farm are also a bonus to this outing. We had a great parent turnout (a big THANKS) which makes our field trips possible, as well as so successful.

## Recent Events

Having a park nearby has many advantages.



Because our backyard was soaked by the set of rain storms a couple of weeks ago, we took a walk and enjoyed the beautiful sunny day at

**Riverview Park** just a block away. I forgot my camera, but in a pinch the cell phone does just fine. Above, **Carter** takes the lead crossing the poles and is quickly followed by **Emery** and **Adrian**.



Below, **Trenton** gives **Katja** a push while **Ryan** does the same for **Avery**. **Carter** is waiting to have a turn pushing as well.



**Have You Made Any Changes?  
Please remember to  
update your child's records.**

It is especially important that we have current home, work and cell phone and pager numbers.

**Thank you**

## Riverview Park



Both **Billi** and **Ryan** are able to swing across the monkey bars with ease.

This park has a variety of challenging aspects to the

different parts of the play structure.

As seen on page 1 **Katja** was "taking on" the rock climbing wall.



We also use the structure for creative play.



**Carter** and **Ryan** are preparing to do a "giant stride" into the ocean for a scuba diving

adventure. In the background, "Captain **Harlan**" has steered the ship to the dive location.



### Summer Clothes

It's time to check out your child's extra clothing. Do our back-ups still fit?

Please make sure that we have a complete change of clothes, plus a pair of shorts or swim suit.

# Report: Our 1<sup>st</sup> Field Trip of 2011

# The Petaluma Wildlife and Natural Science Museum



As always our trip was really good. Our leaders, Holly and

Kim were great. In fact, I was pleased with all of the staff.



And, as important as the high school's team was our team



of 2 grandmothers,

one aunt & 3 parents who helped out this day



was the greatest. THANKS!



Parents in the left column: **Corey** with **Carter**, **Seth** with **Katja**, **Jessica** and **Nathan**.



These photos are on our web site, presented as a movie. Many of our past field trips are also available at: [AShiningStar.com/fieldtrips](http://AShiningStar.com/fieldtrips)

The animals pictured this column: a large lizard, 2 snakes (a boa + ?) and a chinchilla (in the "bathing" dust bowl) and being touched by **Katja**.

## "What did you do..."

Cinco de Mayo is welcomed with sombreros and the Mexican Hat Dance song.



Above L to R: **Emery, Ryan, Harlan, Trenton,** (partially hidden) **Carter and Adrian**

**Avery**



I downloaded a copy of the music which the children had a great time dancing, skipping and clapping to the song.



**Trenton and Nathan's shirts read: "I do all my own stunts"**



but please be aware of the note below!



**For safety and liability reasons, please do not allow your child to walk along the top of the wall. Thank you**

## At school today?

We have been playing a lot of Uno in the last year. I have a vintage Sesame Street Uno and now a few other card sets that



we use almost daily. I have used the children's interest to encourage them to write their numbers.

I made a sheet with the numbers



1 to 9 for them to trace. Once they completed the number sheet we would stick a star on each side and they got to take the sheet home. The prize: they would then get to make their own "My Uno Cards" to take home. Above we see

**Emery and Trenton** making their cards.



Left: **Billi** is matching upper and lower case letters with a picture.

Below: **Emery** has made a design with the pattern blocks.





The top 5 photos clockwise: **Avery** and **Nathan** holding hands, **Ryan** atop a pole at the park, **Nathan** and **Adrian** with the close pins and can and **Nathan** running around the cubes (with Ryan poking out) in the playroom.



Emery Ryan Katja Adrian Harlan Trenton



Lower photos clockwise:

**Adrian** with pegs, **Billi** just smiling, **Darin** taking the picture of us on his February visit and **Harlan** fishing & **Carter** with a block box puzzle.



# **2011 HOLIDAY and VACATION SCHEDULE**

**Memorial Day  
Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Wine and Cheese Family Get Together  
Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>: 4:00 - 6:30**

## **Summer Vacation**

(Adjusted hours: open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

**Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Closed:

**Monday - Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>  
and**

**Independence Day  
Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Labor Day  
Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:00**

**Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend  
Thursday and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Christmas Open House  
Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 6:00**

**Winter Vacation  
December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Our newsletter can be viewed  
online at: [AShiningStar.com/News](http://AShiningStar.com/News)**