

Issue #4
August 24, 2018



SCHOOLMATES SCOOP

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Hello from Schoolmates! This week's scoop includes information about a new sibling discount, recap of first week at Schoolmates, Kids Night Out, FAQs about Schoolmates, and more....

A Fun and Busy Start!

Thank you to all of you who stopped by during the Open House at each site. It was great to see returning faces and meet new ones!

We have been busy continuing to get our rooms set up for the year. For example, at Wildwood you will see brightly colored decorated walls, called *Taste the Rainbow*, that are just waiting to be filled with that **amazing** kid art!

Each week there is a new theme at Schoolmates. The first week it was *All About Me*. The focus was all about getting to know the kids, the staff, and building our community. Students rotated through Choice Centers such as All About Me iPad Art, Hot Dog Tag, Name Mosaics, Tall Tower STEM Challenge, and Fun with Model Magic (the activities varied by Schoolmates site).

Parents → Take a look for the parent information wall being created at your site. It is loaded with information such as schedules, activity information, weekly highlights, staff information, and more.

We have enjoyed making lots of new friends and amazed at how much our "returners" have grown.

Looking Ahead at Schoolmates

No Drop-In Week of 8/27-8/31

Until the regular bell schedule takes effect on September 4th, Schoolmates cannot safely accommodate any drop-in participants.

For next week, 8/27-31, we will set **capacity at 60** and we will not be able to allow any drop-ins.

If your child will need Schoolmates care next week, please register on ActiveNet ASAP to secure a space.

Thank you for your understanding.

New to Schoolmates...

Staff Uniforms

Have you noticed that the SM staff have all been wearing the "Schoolmates Blue" shirts this week?

Starting this year, the staff will be wearing the "Schoolmates Blue" t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. This will help you, as well as the kids, identify them on the playground and in the classroom.

Monthly Activity Calendars

Does your child love to cook, love to play outdoor games or love to create art?

Our staff is continuously creating amazing activities that kids often don't want to miss. Each site will be publishing monthly a calendar of what types of activities are happening on what days! You can find it posted on your parent wall and soon on the SchoolCareWorks parent portal.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is Thursday, August 30th. It is an early release day for all students.

Schoolmates will **NOT** be offering programming from 12:00pm - 2:00pm on August 30th. However, PRD has partnered with the school principals to offer a program that will bridge this gap. This joint effort will include a supervised lunch (students bring lunch from home) and an indoor G rated movie in the school auditorium.

Schoolmates will be open during its regular hours of 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

For decades, Schoolmates was able to cover early dismissal days with staff who were already on-site to care for half-day kindergartners. With our new staffing model, we no longer have staff available before 1:45pm. Despite our best efforts, we are unable to staff Schoolmates for these hours on August 30th. We believe that partnering with the school staff is a good solution.

Space is limited and no drop-ins will be accommodated.

To register, please go to ActiveNet: [Back to School August 30](#)

Beach Code: 184943

Havens Code: 184944

Wildwood Code: 184945

SchoolCareWorks (SCW) – Go Live Update!

What is it?

SCW is a new software registration program for Schoolmates. Families will continue to use ActiveNet to register for PRD camps and afterschool classes.

What does it offer for Parents?

Maximum flexibility in scheduling (by the hour, day or week)
An improved user interface and mobile app for easy use

What does it offer for Staff?

A more secure and safe electronic check-in and check-out process (using tablets on site)
A reduction in the amount of time spent on administrative tasks

When do we start using it?

Go Live Update! You can begin registering for Schoolmates using SCW on **September 17th (for attendance dates beginning September 24th)**. We pushed out this date to ensure a smooth transition for our staff and families. It will allow us to do more in depth testing and training. Families will continue to use ActiveNet for scheduling hours through September 21st.

A Parent "To Do": Paper Registration Packets

If your child will be attending Schoolmates at ANY time throughout the school year, please complete a registration packet. You can pick one up at your Schoolmates site or at the Piedmont Rec Department. State licensing requires that Schoolmates have these forms on site for each child. Thank you to those who have already returned these forms!

SchoolCareWorks Online Registration

Beginning September 17th, all families must complete the ONLINE registration process with SchoolCareWorks **prior** to their child(ren) attending Schoolmates. Information in ActiveNet (e.g. names, address, credit card info, etc) will **NOT** be transferred to SchoolCareWorks. We want to ensure that this is a smooth transition and that we start with accurate information.

As a reminder: To help offset the cost of the per transaction fees charged by the credit card processors, families will now be required to pay an annual registration fee of \$75 per family as part of the SCW registration process.

Introducing a New Sibling Discount

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

*More information on
SchoolCareWorks,
Kids Night Out, New
iPad Kiosks for Check
In/Check Out, and
more....*

We are happy to announce that starting September 24th, we will be offering a 5% discount for each additional sibling who attends Schoolmates during the same hours. The SchoolCareWorks system will automatically calculate the discount based on the family hours scheduled.

We have a lot more to share so please continue to look for our updates. If you miss one, you can find it on the PRD website. <http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/recreation/index.shtml>

Questions? Reach out to us at PRD@piedmont.ca.gov
