



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Castro Valley Parent Nursery School CERTIFIED as a GREEN BUSINESS
Only Preschool in Alameda County to Earn This Environmental Classification

Castro Valley – Castro Valley Parent Nursery School (CVPNS) and the Bay Area Green Business Program announced today that CVPNS has been certified as a green business, serving as an example of an innovative, boundary crossing new partnership between Alameda County public agencies and the early educator sector.

“Our world is ever changing and the early childhood arena is no different. We are thrilled to receive this certification status, especially as the only preschool in Alameda County to hold this award. The certificate that hangs in our window communicates to our participants and the community that we value and care about our environment and actively make choices to reflect this. The Green Business Program was pivotal in getting us to this point,” said Charlene Giffin, Teacher/Director.

CVPNS, which can serve up to 60 children annually, is the first preschool in Alameda County to complete the new pilot checklist for child care facilities, created this year through collaboration between the Green Business Program and the Alameda County Green Child Care program. CVPNS was designated a "Certified Bay Area Green Business" by meeting the Bay Area Green Business requirements for environmental compliance, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. This achievement builds on the preschool's 2014 recognition by Castro Valley Sanitary District as a "4R Star" for achieving high waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting goals.

The following are among the "green" changes implemented by CVPNS:

- Overhead T-12 lights replaced with super-efficient LEDs , resulting in:
 - Markedly improved lighting, brighter, without any discernible increase in monthly usage
- Switched all cleaning products to non-toxic, environmentally friendly choices
- Implemented recycling and composting education and practices in classrooms; doubled compost capacity and reduced landfill capacity by half
- Took necessary steps to make evening parent meetings and various preschool gatherings waste-free
- Integrated sustainability principles into CVPNS classroom curriculum

“CVPNS’s certification is a stamp of approval that this educational institution has met or exceeded all our environmental standards,” said Pamela Evans of the Bay Area Green Business Program, Alameda County, which has a track record of working with over 900 County businesses over 18 years. “We need

more education leaders like CVPNS to take an active role in protecting our environment and preparing our young people to be environmental stewards in the future.”

CVPNS’s designation as a certified Green Business is a major accomplishment for the 60-year-old institution, established in 1949. With technical assistance from the local Green Business Program, Castro Valley Sanitary District, and the Alameda County Green Child Care program supported by StopWaste, the CVPNS green team spent 6 months dedicating themselves to implementing the changes necessary to become a state and county recognized green business.

“The changes we made in our school resulted from the dedicated focus and efforts of our ‘village’-the CVPNS Green Team and all of the parents and children at CVPNS. We want to increase the learning for parents and children through teachable moments and hands-on learning experiences. It is our hope that children and adults will think about their environmental actions and make informed, responsible decisions not just at the preschool, but also at home. I believe that “every successful society teaches its children early and its adults continually” (author unknown). We are proud of our accomplishments and are thankful for the continued support of Castro Valley Adult & Career Education, CV Unified School District, Castro Valley Sanitary District, the Alameda County Green Business Program and the Alameda County Early Care and Education Program” continued Charlene Giffin, Teacher/Director.

“We hope that many County preschools will join CVPNS by creating healthier environments for children’s early cognitive and social development,” said Caroline Judy, Acting Director of Alameda County’s General Services Agency which houses the Green Child Care Program. “We are proud of the cross agency collaboration that has leveraged public and private resources to benefit our community’s future.”

About Castro Valley Parent Nursery School (CVPNS)

CVPNS is a unique parent participation/parent education preschool program that provides the opportunity to impact families, children and parents who learn together. The mission of Castro Valley Parent Nursery School is to provide parents with the tools and skills necessary to enable their children to become respectful, responsible, resourceful, and resilient participants in their communities. To learn more about the program visit the schools web site; www.cvpns.org

About the Alameda County Green Business Program

The Alameda County Green Business Program, started in 1996, is a partnership among businesses, the government and the public that certifies businesses based on their environmental performance and practices. For more information on certification or a directory of Green Businesses, contact Pamela Evans at 510.567.6770 or visit www.greenbusinessca.org

About the Alameda County Green Child Care Program

Green Child Care is a project of the Early Care and Education Program at Alameda County General Services Agency. The program, a recent recipient of a National Association of Counties Achievement Award, has recently expanded work to promote all environmentally healthy practices in early care settings from three years of StopWaste and Altamont EAB funded work to educate 650 teachers and 2200 preschool age children about the 4R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and rot, and divert 306 tons of waste from the landfill. For more information, contact Kim Hazard at 510.208.9645 or visit www.acgov.org/ece.