

TLC Newsletter *September* 2022

Dear all,

We are about to begin the second term of this year 2022-3. We hope everything is going smoothly for all in this large family, and that challenges met have been an opportunity for growth and self-deepening. We trust you have enjoyed the term break and are fresh and ready to start the new term on **Monday 10th October 2022** with a Work Day in **Base Camp from 9:00 - 13.30** for all children, parents and facilitators. At 11:30 we will have our TLC community gathering followed by lunch.

We request that at least one parent from each family is present in the CG (11:45 to 12:30). This community gathering will focus on our TLC TEAMS and you will have an opportunity to share about the different teams, their current needs and see the next priorities for our TLC TEAMS. If changes in teams need to be made, this will be the appropriate time.

Remember, all parents are requested to contribute a minimum of 2 hours per week to their chosen team.

If you have an additional topic for **Community Gathering** please send an SMS to Mrinalini. If time permits, we will include these topics, if not, they will be kept for the next community gathering.

Remember that it is your individual responsibility to bring all concerns or questions to the community gathering. Issues should be addressed right away in this forum. It is the time/place to share, to gain clarity, find solutions and build understanding.

In case you can not participate in Workday it is important to communicate this in our TLC whatsapp chat so we can organize the morning and you will take a task to complete in your time during the week. The community team will follow up on this and assist those who were unable to come on Monday to find an alternate task.

Schedule & Mentors

Regarding the children's schedules for next term, they will begin to plan these with their mentors on Tuesday 11th October. We will send the link for the new schedules later next week..

For the first week, October 11 to 14, please see the schedule below:




YOUNGER KIDS

Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14
Base Camp 9:00	Base Camp	Base Camp	Base Camp	Base Camp
WORKDAY all TLC community: parents, children & facilitators	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive
11.30 Community Gathering (CG) parents & facilitators	Circle for beginning together: new children and holiday sharing (facilitators and children)	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant
	snack	snack	snack	snack
	CG: TLC agreements - facilitators & children	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant
12:30 lunch together	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch
13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC
			13:30 to 14:30 Creative movement Younger in BC	
			15 to 16 Van La Piscine Swimming Younger	TLC POTLUCK
				NIGHT IN BASE CAMP SLEEPOVER

OLDER KIDS

Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14
			6:30/7:30 La Piscine Swimming Older	Base Camp
Base Camp 8:30/9:00 WORKDAY all TLC community: parents, children & facilitators	Base Camp 8:30/9:00	Base Camp 8:30/9:00	Base Camp 8:30/9:00	Base Camp 8:30/9:00
11.30 Community Gathering (CG) parents & facilitators	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive
	Circle for beginning together: new children and holiday sharing (facilitators and children)	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant
	snack	snack	snack	snack
	CG: TLC agreements - facilitators & children	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant	preparation for new restaurant
12:30 lunch together	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch
13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC
	13:30 to 14:30 Math (Maya) in BC	13:30 to 14:30 Math (Maya) in BC		
	15 to 16 Van La Piscine Swimming Older			TLC POTLUCK
				NIGHT IN BASE CAMP SLEEPOVER

For any concerns, doubts, emerging situations and help regarding your child, please remember to always connect and **communicate** with your child's mentor. Each child has an [individual mentor](#), please read the document "*Mentors in TLC*" here [Mentors TLC](#).

Way for independence						
				Children Age 6 - 14		
	Mentor	Co-mentor	No.	Name of Child	Date of Birth	M/F
	Tamar	Mrinalini	1	Chandni Mckenzie	10/04/2008	F
	Tamar	Mrinalini	2	Yann Lefranq	10/05/2008	M
	Mrinalini	Tamar	3	Lea Park	19/05/2009	F
	Tamar	Hoad	5	Kavi Colomba	26/09/2010	M
	Tamar	Mira	6	Atisha Sekar	22/08/2010	F
	Tamar	Mrinalini	7	Gautier Lefranq	17/03/2010	M
	Mrinalini	Mira	8	Sophia Azoulay	25/01/2011	F
	Mrinalini	Tamar	9	Iam Danenberg	12/04/2012	M
	Mira	Sara	10	Ilya Zhenetel	2012 /	M
	Mira	Sara	11	Goni Eshal	02/12/2012	F
	Mira	Sara	12	Mila Sekuloska	03/04/2012	F
	Mira	Sara	13	Chakor McKenzie	10/04/2012	M
	Mira	Sara	14	Lukas Winkler	22/03/2013	M
	Sara	Mira	15	Kalina Sekuloska	13/09/2014	F
	Sara	Mira	16	Avigail Cohen-Khallas	22/04/14	F
	Sara	Mira	17	Roni Cohen-Khallas	20/10/2015	F
	Mira	Sara	18	Una Lescure	02/08/2016	F
	Sara	Mira	19	Nora Ghourchian	04/03/2016	F
	Sara	Mira	20	Ravi Barba	2016/	M

Comings and Goings

We welcome back Mila, Kalina, Sashka and Peter who have been out for the full first term visiting family in Macedonia.

Adele is also back from Italy and will rejoin Mira and the kids in the garden.

Happy to have you all back among us!

Helgard and Aikya are also back from their time out of AV.

Helgard will re-start her individual "FUNART" sessions and Aikya has already begun to offer the "WORLD GAME" session to kids who wish to participate.

Please contact Aikya directly to coordinate a slot for your child.

We bid goodbye to Eswari who was working with us for the first term in IT support. She has decided to pursue her Masters degree in Germany. We wish her much joy and success.

Damien will be joining us in IT support, initially part time, and eventually 5 mornings a week. We wish Damien a warm welcome to our Learning Community and look forward to the learning journey together.

Aravind has been working this term with the campus love team, overseeing campus maintenance. He will not continue next term and we thank him and wish him luck and love in his future endeavors.

We welcome Alexey to our campus love team. He will be taking over from Aravind to help maintain and care for our beautiful campus. We look forward to a wonderful journey together.

We would like to warmly welcome the following new families to TLC!

Ravi with Mama Nicoletta and sister Nina join us from Italy after a long wait for visas. Wonderful they have finally made it and we welcome them.

Ilya with Mama Eos join us from Russia. They have also been struggling to come to Auroville for many months due to visa delays. They will be exploring TLC on a part-time basis initially. A warm welcome (;

Sara will be out the first week of the term as she went to Italy for a short trip.

TLC Nursery - How we nurture and care for our seedlings



At TLC parents have always been an integral part of children's learning journey. This takes a whole new dimension when it comes to early childhood education, where we create a learning and nurturing space for infants (0-2 yrs.), toddlers (2- 4yrs) and little children (4-6 yrs.).

The infants are part of a baby group where parents open their heart and their homes to host playdates once a week. More about this group in our next issue. In this issue we will introduce our toddler group which functions at the TLC Base Camp.

Our toddlers trickle in one by one between 8.45-9.00am. Every day some of our children and parents remember to bring a little flower or a leaf or a stone for the nature's basket. Most

forget and few remember but all are welcome in their effort to remember and with their meaning in forgetting.

As the rhythm of the day, the adults hope to hold a circle of songs once all the children have arrived. On most days, the children allow this to happen. But there are days when they have other important plans and the adults simply follow.

Soon the morning is full of happenings as each child engages in her/his own exploratory activity. One may want to play on the swing and others may join, some may want to go for a walk in the forest and call out to friends, some may want to cycle, another walk and the adults make a sincere attempt to be there for all.

The day unfolds with the children leading and deciding and engaging while the adults follow, support and assist.

The adults in the space comprise a facilitator and two parents. The hallmark of the Nursery is that each parent is also a facilitator. Each parent facilitates once a week and brings his/her own characteristic to the space and shares a special and unique bond with each child. Thus the adult is simply being present in the space, being the best 'adult' one can be.

"When you take the children very young, it is wonderful. There is so little to do: it is enough to be."

And just when we thought we had our brains grasp these words by the The Mother, we read the words that follow,

*"Never make a mistake.
Never lose your temper.
Always understand.*

And to know and see clearly why there has been this movement, why there has been this impulse, what is the inner constitution of the child, what is the thing to be strengthened and brought forward—this is the only thing to do; and to leave them, to leave them free to blossom; simply to give them the opportunity to see many things, to touch many things, to do as many things as possible. It is great fun. And above all, not to try to impose on them what you think you know."

CWM-Vol12 On Education, pg 401

We humbly accept, as our children are growing up fast, we endeavour to keep pace.

Dew Drop Inn

This first term we worked a lot on restaurant space preparation, especially on workdays and children have almost finished the painting work. Now finally we have the guttering ready and rain water is not dripping inside the “dew drop inn” anymore 😊

The kitchen team comprising Seetha, Alex, Thomas and the parents involved are very productive and creative in new dishes, and we and our bellies are enjoying all the experimentation 😊

The younger kids are also very involved in the preparation of the dishes and they have learned how to cook Indian, French, Italian, Israeli, and other multi-cuisine recipes with local ingredients.



This new term October to December, we really want to open the Dew Drop Inn, first to TLC families, and later to the Auroville community - as a morning cafe and community kitchen with lunch scheme.

The kids involved are very interested in making a menu, cooking in the new kitchen and serving the customers so the planning for this term we will include many activities around this for all the children.

The first week of this term we will work to finalize the physical space with furniture and create beauty, then on **Friday 14 October we will have an ALL TLC POTLUCK** to celebrate the opening of the “Dew Drop Inn”.

Vegetable Gardens

Our vegetable gardens are really starting and growing a lot. Many children chose to have an individual garden and they enjoy taking care of the plants and harvesting the products. Our first harvest was chicken spinach and we used it in our fresh salad every day or to cook

in different recipes. We are also working to learn how to make irrigation in the gardens and prepare new beds for growing more vegetables.



One interesting exploration that has emerged in “a garden in the kitchen”:

Lukas likes growing plants so much and then came the idea to make our sprouts for the fresh salad. After resorch and



buying all the material, we have an optimal result in the production and now we enjoy the TLC sprouts.

During the workday Krishna, from Solitude and his team came to create more vegetable gardens in Base Camp and one amazing circle garden where we planted bananas, papaya, pineapple and many other plants. Some kids participated during the workday, under the rain 🌧️, to create the new beds and the satisfaction was incredible. Thank you Krishna 🙏



Trip Project

This term Tamar and Ohad began the trip project with the 6 older children.

They have been working one morning a week to develop this multi-disciplinary project, including planning of the short, medium and long trips (locations, research, budgeting, fundraising, actualisation and implementation...etc).

After beginning by sharing experiences of past TLC trips and brainstorming on all the



aspects involved in planning a trip (grouped under the 5 W's of Who, Where, When, Why and What), the children began to plan the first one-day trip. A reconnaissance mission of Tamar, Ohad and Gautier (accompanied by Aran, Yam and Laya) went out to explore the possible location in Gingee and returned with photos and practical information about transportation, the physical environment and suggestions for the

upcoming trip with the whole group of TLC's children. After bringing the different options to the community gathering, the kids decided to make it a day-trip, without sleeping at the location.

The trip group organized the bus through saier transport service, shopped for first aid equipment, tea supplies, and made the packing list for all kids.

The trip was a wonderful experience for all ... a day spent in nature, helping each other, hiking, swimming, sharing food, drinking chai 😊🥤



In TLC trips are an integral part of a learning process that values the educational benefits that children derive from these experiences. Each time we go on a trip, these values are reinforced and we see with such clarity how the children thrive and grow when we step out of our comfort zones, challenge ourselves in different ways and experience the togetherness of the tribe.

After returning from the trip, the kids in the trip group completed their research on aspects of Geography, Geology and History of Gingee, worked out the per person budget of the trip and compiled a slideshow of the chosen photographs and videos, all of which were presented to the other children at community gathering.

Summerhill Festival of Childhood

From TLC blog: [Summerhill festival of childhood – TLC Auroville](#)

We made it!!! Now DESTINATION SUMMERHILL! (by Mohini)



After a year and a half of fundraising we got the money together and bought the flight tickets! Suddenly it was real. We were going to fly to the UK to attend the Summerhill Festival of Childhood from 5-10 August 2022. We were so happy and excited! In TLC we are used to traveling around India, as we do that every year. But that we would be able to travel to the other side of the world was really going to be a huge adventure ...

Chalshiksha Educational Film Festival - Bangalore

We had the amazing opportunity to take part in the first large educational Film Festival in India, in Bangalore, where we screened our TLC film documentary. The event exceeded expectations, with an amazing variety of educational films, workshops and activities for children and adults.

The screening of our film went very well, people were touched and inspired. There were many questions and personal reflections shared afterwards.



There are so many alternative schools doing incredible work in India, as well as a growing homeschooling movement initiated by parents who see the harm that mainstream education can have on our children. Our participation and sharing in events like this puts

TLC into this movement of change, both in India and internationally. Through events like Summerhill festival of Childhood, the Democratic education conferences, and this educational FilmFestival, TLC is becoming better known and recognized by the educational community in India and Internationally. When looking at the concepts of education in Auroville such as “not needing exams”, this recognition plays an important role, as people start to understand our work and what it brings to the children.



The after-trip reflection with the 6 older children that took part in the festival revealed the following:

They really enjoyed the flexibility, and all the different activities happening at the same time. Sometimes it was difficult though, as they wanted to attend things happening at the same time. They really enjoyed all the workshops and activities, both because it was really fun, and also because they helped to connect them to other children by doing

something together. They were happy to make new friends, with whom they want to stay in touch and visit their schools, or welcome them to visit The Learning Community in Auroville. Feedback for the next film festival: make it one week long, it was too short. Keep the food the same, it was so good!! 😊

Quality Tree

A few years ago we started the quality/value tree with the intention to bring more awareness to some of our qualities and core values in daily practical life.

The idea manifests in drawing a tree on a big paper and then choosing a value to focus on. For example, the first quality we chose was kindness. The 'game' consists of: Observing, noticing during the week acts of kindness (or any of the qualities we choose) that you saw in someone or in yourself. Once a week we have a circle where everyone can share which act of kindness they saw and in whom and give a flower or a leaf or a fruit to that person. These are then pinned onto the tree. When we reach a hundred (leaves or flowers or fruits) we celebrate by planting a plant or a tree.



The last quality we worked on was patience. We started last year before the summer break and finished just a few weeks ago. It took a lot of time and needed a lot of patience to reach the 100 fruits. For that quality we planted the henna tree- a gift from solitude. We felt that this plant resonates with quality of patience... if we think about how much patience it takes to make the henna from the plant and do the beautiful henna tattoos 😊



The new quality we started just before the end of term is Joy. Atisha and Sophia drew the beautiful tree and in only one circle a lot of leaves appeared on it... It seems that everyone is happy to share moments of joy!

As Una mentioned ' It will take a short time to finish the tree of Joy!



Activities

Baking English

With the shift of the kitchen team to the new restaurant we hope to begin again with the Baking English sessions in the “old kitchen” which will now become the bakery.

Kids who wish, and who have reached competency in reading and writing skills and independence in Baking and caring for the space, will be eligible to participate in these sessions. Through “Baking English” the kids explore various aspects of the English

language, like grammar, creative writing, research topics, handwriting skills etc, using the recipe of the day as the basis for this exploration. We are happy to have the support of Thomas for this, who has a passion for baking and experience from his life in France.

Electronics

We (myself and the kids , it's 2 way teaching and I'm learning a lot) have been running a weekly class based around electricity . Lots of discussion around electricity and where it comes from, how it's used and stored , pros and cons and anything else that arises from the discussion .Alongside some practical work, we first made a lead light with a plug and a switch that the kids took home . And we are currently working on a skill buzzer game .



Hopefully giving the kids some insight into how we use power and a little basic practical knowledge on the ways it is transported to us ,mixed in with some safety tips and a sprinkle of fun.

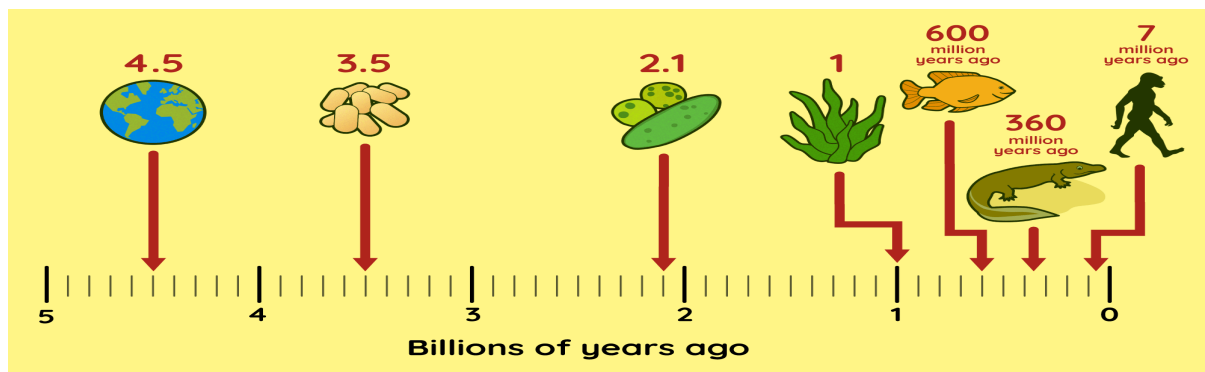
Open spaces



We are happy to announce that [Open spaces will begin again on Friday afternoons 1.30-3 pm.](#) Many activities and workshops will be offered for all Auroville children (6-14 yrs) to participate in a free flow format. Open spaces will be coordinated by Annick and Sashka from the community team, and will begin from the second week of term.

Great Story - this year “The Story of Life”

In this term we will start to explore the Great Story of Life. This is a project where we will explore many areas from plants, animals, the 5 kingdoms, the history of our planet Earth to Us, the human species. We will have a presentation together then we will work in groups on different topics and individual explorations following the interests of each child. Last year we explored the Great story of the Universe and next year we hope to explore the Great story of Humankind.



To remember for Base Camp

The children are welcome to arrive between 8.30-9.00 and settle in with their work.

All children need to have arrived before 9 am otherwise the day after they need to come early with parents and help in the service preparation.

Remember that morning is a quiet zone in Base Camp, and adults and children on campus need to keep in mind to speak softly as others will be engaged in focused work. The day ends at 13:00 for the Nursery children and 13:30 for the older children. All children are expected to remain in Base Camp until this time. For the Nursery children the moment after lunch is needed to close the day together in a quiet way before their afternoon rest. For the older children playtime and socializing after lunch is an important part of the morning - enabling the kids to deepen their connections with others and to allow the many vital expressions of their beings to emerge during play. After 13:30 children will have individual schedules, depending on their sports activities, individual nourishment sessions and others.

These schedules will be finalized in the first week of the beginning of term.

We encourage all older children to cycle to Base Camp, please support your child in this.

Remember Pencil Cases!

Each child needs to have a proper pencil case. The pencil cases are kept in Base camp. Your child's pencil case should be ready at the start of the term and contain:

- Several new pencils (old ones can get dry and hard to sharpen)
- A good pencil sharpener (marked with your child's name)
- Scissors (marked with your child's name)
- Color pencils in all colors (also new so that they can sharpen easily)
- Eraser
- Ruler (marked with your child's name)
- Glue (marked with your child's name)



Monthly Parent Contribution

Please remember to set up your monthly parent contribution through financial services..

For older group children, parents contribute rs 500/month for one child in TLC, rs 750/month for two children, and rs 1000/month for three children. This goes to a common pot to cover common expenses during the year, such as trips. (Only Aurovilian parents contribute as this is included in the student fees that newcomer and guest parents pay).

In addition, parents now need to add an extra 150/- per month to cover the cost of the weekly swimming bus. Please change your monthly f/s transfer accordingly.

The parents of Nursery children contribute the same as above. This goes to cover facilitator maintenance and other expenses.

The contributions for the older group should be made through an automatic monthly transfer to FS **account nr 103229**

The contributions for the nursery group should be made through an automatic monthly transfer to FS **account nr 253047**

Please set up your automatic monthly transfer asap so that the finance team does not have to have the task of following up on individual parents payments, as this becomes extra unnecessary work. Thank you!

Communication Guidelines

Our main guideline for whatsapp groups is that **we only share short messages** about everyday things that need to be communicated. If there is a need for a response it can be done as PM/DM (private/direct message). We **don't answer with emojis or short comments** that are not necessary for all. If this is not followed the whatsapp groups get overloaded with messages and we don't pay the same attention to them. Important messages can be missed.

For anything that needs deeper discussion or is of a sensitive nature, we meet to talk. We never use whatsapp or email for this. **Contact the mentor or a member of the aspiration team to book a meeting.**

We don't use voice messaging as it requires a lot more time from the receiver, and also there is no way of knowing the nature of the content beforehand. Therefore voice messages require to be listened to in private. Most of the facilitators have children around at home, or live with other people, which makes it difficult with confidentiality and privacy in regards to content shared if parents communicate with voice messaging.

We have four whatsapp groups:

- **TLC integral learning** - for sharing of practical information for "older children" (not nursery), our newsletters, questions to all etc. All parents and facilitators need to be a part of this group as there can be important info shared regarding practical functioning. This group should only be used for messages relevant to all the children (or the majority) - it is NOT for messages pertaining to individual children. Please message your child's mentor or the relevant facilitator in these instances.
- **TLC nursery** - a group for sharing of nursery activities, our newsletters, questions to all etc. All parents and facilitators need to be a part of this group as there can be important info shared regarding practical functioning.
- **TLC photo moments** where we share photos of the kids, quotes, reading material, invitations to events in av and other stuff to share with all. Please keep your sharings positive! (People can silence this group if it gets too much for them) People no longer in TLC are welcome to stay in this group to stay connected.
- **Team WhatsApp groups** to discuss week/monthly work that needs to be done. Depending on which team and task you will choose to participate in, you will then be automatically added to the relevant group.

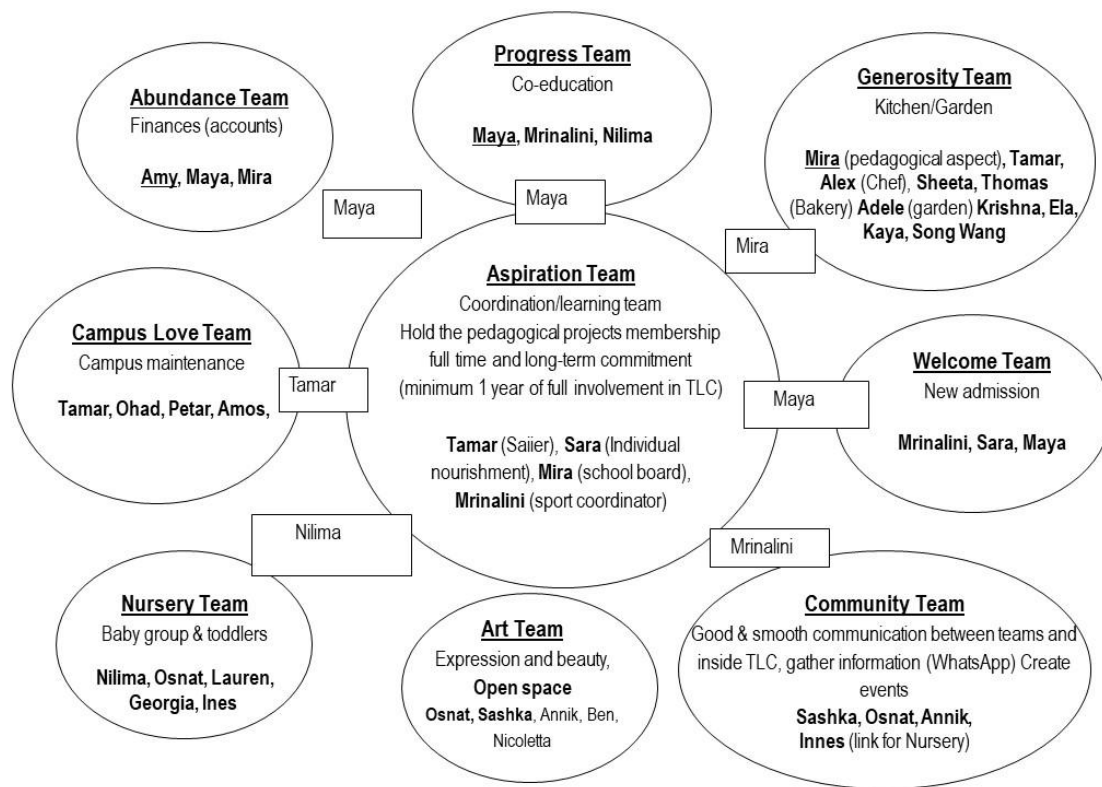
We have an all-TLC email where we mainly send newsletters, schedules etc. It is not used so often. Please remember to inform the community team if you change your email.

Thank you for taking care of all by following these guidelines.

Teams and Tasks

Please see the attached file showing the overview of the work in our teams. This was the teams document from last year and it will be amended after all parents have signed up for their teams this year. The document should be regularly updated by each team with their ongoing work, and with the names and timelines of the tasks. Remember that each parent needs to contribute at least **2 hours per week** in the teams, and it's your individual responsibility to sign up for this work in your team. If you are unsure of what you can do, ask your team coordinator. If you do not contribute your 2 hours the workload will be more for others. Joining TLC you have committed to fit this into your weekly schedule.

More about this will be shared in the Community Gathering during work day.



If you would like to take a look at the teams and tasks document from last year, and the type of work done by each team, please [click here](#)

Community Events for your Calendar

- ☐ **Meetings within your Team** - these are scheduled by each team and will be finalized after the teams are in place for this term..
- ☐ **Workdays** Monday October 10th, Tuesday November 1st, Thursday December 1st, are the workdays for this term. Remember that **all parents are expected to participate**, and the **kitchen team will prepare lunch for everyone**. If you for some reason are not able to participate please share this in the tlc chat beforehand and check for a work task to do at another time of your convenience in the week of the workday.

We look forward to a great start working together!

If a parent needs to be temporarily relieved of their TLC responsibilities (team participation, workdays etc), this has to be shared with the community at the CG. Joining TLC means making time to be a part and prioritizing this unless there are very special temporary circumstances that then are shared and agreed upon in the all TLC community gathering. It is very important that everyone is aware if a family is not able to participate, to keep the engagement and positive energy in the community. If you have any issues regarding your community participation, share this with the community team who will help you bring the topic to the community gathering.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. We look forward to another beautiful year of living and learning together with ourselves and our children, growing in the implementation of the Principles of Integration in our lives, and deepening in the knowledge of beings, inner and outer.

Thank you for dreaming with us...

~

With love, gratitude and joy
Aspiration team
(Tamar, Sara, Mira, & Mrinalini)

