

## NightSkies 2017

By: *Julia Owens*

Wow! You helped raise \$44,000 for Scholarships at BlueSkies!

Thank you to everyone who came out on May 6th for a night of friends, great music, celebration and lively bidding to support the BlueSkies Scholarship Fund! We are happy to report that the auction exceeded our goal this year, raising over \$44,000 in support of fee reductions for working families.



The success of this year's event can be attributed to the dedication and teamwork of the Parent Scholarship Committee. Under the vision and leadership of this year's auction co-chairs, **Jenn Nannini and Kyra Lilien**, and the incredible guidance of long-time committee chair and current Board member, **Brooke Abola**, this year's committee brought the event to a new level.

The Parent Scholarship Committee benefitted from a diverse group of parents -- some new to BlueSkies, some seasoned -- from myriad professional backgrounds. This lovely mix brought energy, creativity and new ideas to the planning process. Monthly committee meetings were well organized by our co-chairs and thoughtfully facilitated to keep a focus on the most pressing needs, while leaving room for individual contributions and healthy debate. With sub-committees focusing on discreet areas of the event, from auction item procurement and event logistics, to communications/marketing and event systems management, there is a role to meet each person's unique interests and skills.

Also supporting the event from behind-the-scenes were our Pandora parents – Kate Green, who was instrumental in securing the great space we enjoyed, and Homero Espinosa and Brian Ostreicher for helping with sound, MC and DJ duties, and all things AV. We cannot thank them enough for their contributions.

**Thank you, Parent Scholarship Committee!**  
*Jenn Nannini and Kyra Lilien,*  
*Event Co-Chairs*  
Brooke Abola  
Sunny Green  
Madeline Howard  
Jessica Luginbuhl  
Rob Onorato  
Macy Parker  
Michael Schwartz  
Simone Tureck  
Lauren Webster

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, May 4

Parent Scholarship Committee Meeting  
6:15 - 7:45 pm

### Saturday, May 6

NightSkies Auction  
6pm - 10pm, Pandora

### Tuesday, May 23rd

Staff Appreciation Lunch  
11:30am - 1:30pm

### Monday, May 29

BlueSkies closed for Memorial Day

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## NightSkies 2017, Cont.



BlueSkies parent, Matt Callahan, led the Live Auction again this year with his unique blend of wit and panache. Live Auction items such as the Nursery School projects, Schoolroom Quilt, A Day with Kiki and Rosalia's Pliny the Elder made a huge splash... and the Sunshine Fund, which raises money directly for scholarships through a paddle raise, brought in an impressive \$12,000+. Many thanks to everyone who raised their paddle high in support of BlueSkies' children!

Can we talk raffle tickets?!! This year's raffle exceeded all of our wildest expectations, raising over \$9,000 in support of scholarships! Congratulations, and huge thanks, to our TOP SELLERS:

***Kathy Allen***

***Christina Ferracane***

***Michael Lappin***

Thank you to everyone who went out and sold tickets for BlueSkies!

Much appreciation to Brooke Abola and David Hinman for working hard to create beautiful keep-sake Class Projects for the live auction. We also thank our day of event volunteers who gave up their Saturday to move boxes, set up auction tables, create signage, arrange flowers, greet guests and so much more. We could not have created such a memorable evening without you!



*"One of the reasons my family chose Blue Skies is their practice of providing scholarships so that many families can have access to excellent childcare.*

*I joined the Parent Scholarship Committee this year to do my part to help raise scholarship funds, and I found that I really enjoyed getting to know the other members of the committee and working toward the ambitious goals for the auction.*

*This is a great group, and it was fun to see all the hard work pay off at the event!"*

*~ Macy Parker, PSC Member*

**Did you see this year's class photobooks? They're amazing!**

Thank you to our parent photographers and to Lauren Webster for overseeing the project!  
Lauren Webster and Susan Webster,  
Baby House & Homeroom  
Brian Ostreicher and Erich Valo,  
Wobbly Walkers  
Sarah Shoff, Todds  
Meghan Horl, Playroom  
Jack Wood, Schoolroom

*Thank you to our supporters!*

**Hadley & Marin Blomquist  
Sybil Sylvester of Wildflower Designs**

**pandora®**

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BREWING**

**And to the 70+ businesses and individuals who  
donated items to our live and silent auctions!**

# BlueSkies-isms

*Parents often hear their children using phrases that they suspect they learned at BlueSkies. Each month's "BlueSkies-ism" will include a phrase the teachers use all the time at BlueSkies, and some context to help you use the phrase at home too.*

*"I get to choose for myself."*

When children can choose they are much more likely to engage in the activity or toy. Most of the time teachers coach children to say this when another child is trying to tell them what to do. Choosing is a privilege and given out of respect for the child's ability to be responsible for themselves. Of course there are times the teachers do not allow anyone a choice, such as sitting down to eat. Teachers encourage children to choose but take away that privilege by choosing for the child if the child is not managing to make acceptable choices. And At home parents can reply with "Often you can choose, but sometimes moms and dads choose too."



## BlueSkies Spring Family Picnic

**Sunday, April 23  
10am - 12pm**

Roberts Regional Recreation Area in Redwood Regional Park | 10570 Skyline Blvd, Oakland

The picnic will take place near the children's play structure

Parking is \$5. Bring your family, a food item to share and a ball or other toy and let's have some fun!!

### Teachers out in April



The following staff will be out this month:

- Mimi out due to a family illness
- Tianna out 4/13 - 4/17
- Kiki out 4/20 - 4/24
- LaTasha out 4/24 - 5/2

comings & goings

### Welcome!

Ayden in the Baby House with parents Asiya and Trahan

Our new Substitute Teacher, Nadera

### Books

Birthday

Birthday books and CD's are displayed in the front office and can be purchased for BlueSkies in honor of a child's birthday or any other special occasion.

## NightSkies 2017 - Can we count you in?



We are less than one month away from our biggest fundraising event of the year! NightSkies is Saturday, May 6th from 6:00 —10pm at Pandora in Oakland.

Our NightSkies event and auction raises critical funds for need-based scholarships that help make the BlueSkies experience more accessible to more families.

It's also a great chance for a fun, kid-free evening out enjoying great food and drinks, great company (BlueSkies parents, teachers, staff, and friends), and great deals at the silent and live auctions!

Our goal is 100% parent participation –whether through buying raffle tickets, making an event donation of funds or items, volunteering, and of course, attending! It's a great way to take part in our BlueSkies community.

For more event details or to purchase your NightSkies tickets, go to: [www.blueskies4children.org/nightskies](http://www.blueskies4children.org/nightskies). For discounted/free tickets and parent participation hours, contact Julia ([juliao@blueskies4children.org](mailto:juliao@blueskies4children.org)) for event volunteer opportunities.

**We are a bit more limited in space this year at the event, so tickets may sell out and we cannot guarantee they will be available at the door. Purchase yours today!**

We hope we can count you in!

*--Jen Naninni and Brooke Abola, Parent Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs*

Thank you to our generous supporters!

