



# Under the Oaks...

We are officially into the last week of summer so fall is just around the corner! Friendships are forming and routines are settling in. We will soon have our map ready in the school that shows where families are located around the city. Class picnics are in the works to further get to know each other. Here at the Acorn, we have always been known for our tight sense of community. Being able to build that sense of camaraderie with parents was one of the things we missed most during Covid. We have really enjoyed having that opportunity again. For those of you who were unable to attend the orientations, we went over a few things that we'd like to revisit. We are not sharing our door codes, but we are more than happy to answer the bell and have you come in the school. We ask that you use our visitor's log to sign in. Thanks!

We have loved having families on the playground again as well. Important things to remember are:

- Only an adult may open the gate.
- We may lock it when classes are not out there, but we are happy to open it for you-just ring the bell.
- If a class is on the playground, please wait at the gate for a teacher to let you in-we want to be cautious and check ids to know that you belong on our campus. Once teachers have gotten to know you, they may wave you in but please don't be offended if someone unfamiliar with you asks to verify. We know you appreciate the extra caution as well.
- If you are early with your child, or if someone else is bringing your child to school, we'd like you to check in with us and let us know-you can ring the bell and speak to us and let us know if you need the gate lock opened. You are then welcome on the playground. Once one of our parents is on the playground, we hope you would also make sure that other parents coming on the playground also belong. Help build our community that looks out for each other and our children. I have a group of parents that may volunteer as playground monitors occasionally and they will have a school badge, acorn shirt, or hat, or all three!
- Please avoid crowding the gate and sink area. As you come in and out of the gate, please be aware that little ones sometimes spot their car and may want to make a run for it. We must make sure that we are diligent with an open gate and then make sure it is completely closed and secured.
- Finally, always speak to your child's teacher as you are leaving. Even if we have greeted you and chatted, it is helpful to know when you leave. This goes for both drop off and pick up.

Many Thanks!!

## Looking ahead:

- October 3rd and 4th School Pictures with Acorn Alum Robert Shaw
- October 10th No School
- October 17-21st Dads Days Week!

## Spotlight on our Music Teacher, Ms. Ruth Berg (pictured here with Tempo)

Ruth was born into a large Air Force family--dad was a pilot in the AF--and a Flying Tiger in WWII! She is the 5th of 7 children.

Ruth grew up singing, dancing, playing instruments, performing together with her family and traveling all over Western Europe in a '57 station wagon. She says it was great fun!



As a military child, she had many upheavals in her young life. Ruth went to 3 different schools for 5th grade—these are her words about her experiences. We “learned to be flexible and friendly as we moved often! We returned to San Antonio when I was 10 after having spent the previous 4 years in Germany attending the small, neighborhood German public school for grades 2-3-4; yes, all taught in German! Yes, I wore a dirndl to school! My love of music was first nurtured by my mother and then by my teacher in Germany and others after that. I have ALWAYS loved being around and playing with children.”

Ruth graduated from UT Austin with a Bachelor of Music (summa cum laude) with a concentration in both voice and piano. She did graduate studies in piano at Trinity Univ. and taught elementary music for 5 years in public schools before stopping to raise 4 children (2 boys, 2 girls).

She has studied at Royal Academy of Music in London and the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria and lives the mantra of being a lifelong learner by participating in LOTS of continuing education through Choristers Guild, Texas Choral Directors Association, and Texas Music Educators Conferences in and out of state

Ruth directed the children's choir at Christ Episcopal Church for 25 years (presenting a musical each year) and began the Teen Choir there; in her conducting career, she has directed children's choirs for a local opera company as well as for the Opening Ceremony performance for nearly 35,000 participants attending the International Rotary Convention at the SA Convention Center.

Ruth was hired as Primary Music Teacher and elementary choir director at San Antonio Academy, eventually serving as Music Department Chair for 10 of the 15 years she worked there. She loves to learn about children, children's developing voices, singing and Music! She is convinced every person can learn to sing and should be encouraged to "make a joyful noise"!

Ruth says, “I’ve been married to my wonderful husband of 43+ years, Jim Berg, whose love and support made all this possible. I am BLESSED beyond belief to have surrounded myself with children and music!!! BUT nothing compares with spending time (and making music with) my three grandchildren, Owen Berg (9 months), Lacey (4), and Cinco(2) Hodge.” Her other interests are exercising, hiking, reading historical novels, volunteering at her church, and burning cookies!

Ruth is currently combining her love of children and music at The Acorn and we are so lucky to have her with us!

Ruth is collaborating with Wendy on our new monthly nursery rhyme project. According to Mem Fox (from the book Reading Magic), “Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they’re four years old, they’re usually among the best readers by the time they’re eight.” This week the children started with Jack Be Nimble and had the opportunity to tap the beat and jump over an actual candlestick! We will have some connecting activities to keep these rhymes active in our brains.