Hey everyone! We're just a few days away from our berry picking activity! Yay! I hope you've enjoyed the book as much as we did. Here is some information about the activity.

## LOCATION:

We are meeting at the SOMIS location of the Underwood Farms. (We are not going to the Moorpark one.) This is a smaller farm, and it's free. We have 36 kids coming!!! Which means, with adults, we are a group of a little over 50 people!! So, because there are so many of us, we'll just have to see how it goes with doing activities and berry picking. I think the safest bet is that some will do activities while others go berry picking. We'll see. I'll be set up by 1:00 and be packing up at about 2:45, so come whenever you wish and leave whenever you want. :)

Here's a picture from above of the front part of the Somis location. You'll notice to the left is an additional parking lot, if you find no parking places in front when you arrive. My plan is to set up near the two tables with umbrellas. I'll be bringing a couple blankets as well, that hopefully I can set up in the back left corner of the yard. Hopefully, l'll be able to park over there and set up a table next to my car. It will be shaded in areas, but you'll definitely want to bring sunscreen, water and hats.


## DETAILS:

Please make sure each child only has one serving of the food items, so everyone gets to sample them. (You are welcome to eat the food too! There is always enough food for moms and dads.) They will be "earning" a few pennies with some of the activities. So, of course, they will need to buy some penny candy. Please make sure that they use one penny for one piece of candy. AND, please make sure they don't buy the same candy twice (I've got enough for every kid to have one of each candy.)

With so many kids, I'm making bags only for the kids 3 and over. Hopefully, that won't upset any of the little ones (let me know if yours is the type to freak out, and l'll bring them one too).

There is a little playground there full of sand if you want to bring some sand toys. There are animals
to feed. The food machines are 25 cents, so you might want to bring some change. There is also a little market with ice cream, drinks, vegetables and fruit for pretty reasonable prices.

This is a public place, and although small, please make sure your kids are within sight at all times, as there are areas they shouldn't go in and vegetation they shouldn't trample, especially watch the little ones, if you don't want to pay for fruit a 1 year old picks. ;) We are overrunning the place, so it would be great if they didn't heave too big a sigh of relief when we all drive away. ;)

For those who have not been to one of these, when you arrive, you'll see a table with paper bags for your child to put the things they make/get into. You'll also grab a passport for them to stamp (or not). As the kids go to the different areas, there will be a letter stamp at most for them to stamp their passports with this meeting's destination name. ('ll have these instructions at the table as well.) I'll have a few different areas with activities for the kids. There will be written directions at them.
This is all interest-led. So, there is no order to the activities. They can choose what they want to do (or not do) and in what order. They don't need to do everything. If they want to just play at the playground or just sit on the side and read a book, that's fine too. :)

See below for some fruit picking etiquette and tips. Looking forward to seeing you again and meeting those of you joining us for the first time! Kelly

## Fruit Picking Etiquette and Tips

The book places a huge emphasis on right behavior. So, if you could please go over these rules for fruit picking etiquette with the kids, and make sure they stick to them, that would be really great!

- Don't eat the fruit until it's been paid for, otherwise it's stealing. That means no eating any berries while you are picking them. If you accidentally pick an unripe berry, you still have to put it into your berry box.
- Don't pick any of the tangerines from the trees, they aren't ready.
- Stay on paths and don't step on plants.
- Be nice to those picking around you, do not run around, and know where your grown-up is at all times.

A few tips about picking that might help them do well:

- Don't pick unripe fruit - it won't ripen (except the strawberries) - and don't pick wrinkled or fruit on the ground.
- Blackberries: should be black - they look like raspberries when they aren't ripe, they do have thorns, so be careful when picking them. (\$2.99/lb)
- Blueberries should be blue, not a little red (if you gently squeeze and wipe off the blueberry, you'll see the color and feel if it's hard - pick blue soft ones) (\$3.99/lb)
- Strawberries should be red, be careful to pick it with the green leafy top still on. (\$1.99/lb)
- Raspberries are red (don't pull off the stem with them, if you can't pull them off easily, they aren't ready.) (\$3.00/lb)
- Look under leaves to find ones others have missed

