

DECEMBER 2010

West Cobb Times

West Cobb Prep Academy would like to invite all of our families to join us on Saturday, December 4th from 9:30-11:30 for a special holiday treat. The Private School, for its 3rd Annual Holiday Program, will be sharing their knowledge of the various holidays celebrated and showcasing their talents. Each class (from Pre-K through 2nd Grade) has been learning about a holiday (Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the Chinese New Year) and invite you to hear how much they've learned. The program will be held at Olive Springs Baptist Church (on the corner of Austell Road and Olive Springs Road). There is plenty of seating and parking available so the more the merrier. Even if your child is not in the program, it's a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning so we hope to see you there.

All of the classes at West Cobb will hold a Holiday Party on Friday, the 17th. The Private School will hold their parties at 2:00 while Toddlers through Sr. Pre-School will hold theirs at 2:45 (this allows the children to have their full nap time). I will post sign up lists for some 'treats', healthy items, and decorations. As part of the holiday party, we are asking each family to bring in a wrapped book to exchange with other classmates. On the inside cover of the book, please write 'To my friend' and 'From _____ (your child's name)'. Of course, we love it when they write it themselves! This not only teaches our children about giving, but it helps reinforce the idea that a book is a special gift and reading is so important.

*The Private School will not be holding 'class' from December 18th through January 3rd however since full tuition is due regardless of days closed, childcare will be available at no extra charge. We will have a free field trip for Kindergarten and older children once each week (please look at the calendar for details).

During the month of December, we will be playing holiday music throughout the day both in the lobby and in our classrooms. We hope to encourage our children to enjoy the holiday season and relish in the traditions of our families. Therefore, we encourage you to speak with your child's teacher to share your holiday traditions with the class. West Cobb wishes you and your family the happiest of holidays and hopes the new year brings your family health, wealth and joy. Seasons Greetings!

Ms. Marla

INFANT 1

We have been busy this month working on our gross motor skills such as: rolling over and trying to sit up. We will miss Kaitlyn but we are excited for her as she is moving up to Infant 2.

We are looking forward to Jake starting with us this month! Welcome!
We are looking forward to adding holiday music to our repertoire.

Ms. Andrea & Mrs. Louisitha

INFANT 2

We sadly say goodbye to Jesse who moved up to the toddler class, but we have a few new friends that we've gotten to know in the month of November.

We continue to plan activities that help reinforce our fine and gross motor skills- pulling up, cruising, using a spoon, and a sippy cup.

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

For our theme of My Body- we loved playing Simon Says every day and dancing to the Hokey Pokey.

During our Five Senses theme, we made our very own binoculars and explored our sense of seeing around the room. We encouraged the children to take home the binoculars to explore their surroundings at home.

We focused on the letters H and I. We know how to count from 1-20 and 1-13 in Spanish.

Mrs. Martha and Ms. Kelly



TODDLERS

My Body was one of the toddler themes. We learned the different parts that make up our body. We sang songs such as Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Hokey Pokey, and Do Your Ears Hang Low? to help us learn the various body parts. We also played Simon Says and the children made a book about their body parts.

We also learned about our Five Senses. The children had fun finger-painting with different textures of paint, listening to different animal sounds and trying to identify the animals, making a smelly flower and eyeglasses. The signs we worked on were yes, no, please and thank you. Our colors of the month were purple and white.

Ms. Arkeyshaw

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

During our theme of My Body, the children did a great job of decorating a giant body shape of themselves. We also had fun reading the book entitled My Body Book. In our theme of Five Senses, the children had a chance to explore their sense of touch in our sensory table which we filled with oatmeal, water, and pudding.

In our phonics program, we studied Jerry jellyfish, Kayo Kangaroo, and Lizzy Lizard.

In phonics for the month of December we will focus on signals and sounds

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

Pre-K 1

This month our class focused on understanding the importance of staying 'persistent' (doing something over and over again until you get it right) and accomplishing a 'task' (your job). Also, we continue our learning of action words (things we do). To fully grasp the meaning of action words our class cooked sweet chocolate chip pancakes. First, we 'poured' three cups of water, three and a half cups of pancake batter, and chocolate chips in a big bowl. Next, we 'stirred' and 'mixed' everything inside the bowl. After that, Miss Washington 'poured' the pancake mix in a pan to 'fry' the pancakes. In addition, she 'tossed' and 'caught' the pancakes in the pan. Finally, we 'tasted' our pancakes! Yum Yum

The adventures in Reading continue with practice, practice and more practice with decoding. We are working on reading and spelling three and/or four letter words. Also, we are learning to listen (and identify) initial, middle and final consonants (in a given word). We are very 'persistent' in our quest to learn how to read.

Our Mathematical skills are being challenged and definitely enhanced. We continued identifying ordinal positions (to fourth), showing time to the hour on a digital and analog clock, identifying (numbers) before, after, and in between, writing and ordering money amounts to ten cents, comparing objects by weight (mass), and copying and identifying AB and ABB patterns.

Earlier this month, we experienced a memorable moment at the Cobb Museum of Art. We previewed different types of art medium (portraits and photography). We learned the museum was once a post office. Our trip concluded with our original illustrations of flowers in a vase (using pastels). The day after our field trip, Officer Jones (Austin's dad) visited our class to discuss his important career. We tried on his 'heavy' blue vest and Officer Jones discussed the importance of helping your friends and family, eating healthy and getting plenty of rest.

Ms. Washington



SR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We had fun learning about Time, Weather and Seasons! We learned that there are a lot of different weather patterns (rainy and cold, sunny and hot, snowy and sunny, cloudy and cool and so many more!) We made a cool rain gauge to capture rain and made a pretend thunderstorm. We made snowflakes and learned that snow is made up of thousands and thousands of tiny snowflakes that are all different. We learned that the wind moves things that are light and not heavy. We weighed a rock and a cotton ball in our hands to see which was lighter. The cotton ball obviously won. We made a graph to see which season is our favorite- apparently Spring won. We like it because it is the season that brings everything back to life. Learning to tell time was interesting. We discovered that the long hand is the minute hand and the short hand is the hour hand. Time can come in many forms. A wrist watch, an alarm clock, an analog clock, and a timer. We used all of them to explore the idea of time and to help us wake up at nap time.

Please remember to work on number, letter and sound recognition. Have your child practice tracing each letter of their name individually.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Happy Birthday!



Mrs. Shonte (Admin)	12/2
Steven Paul (GA ASP)	12/5
Teagan (T)	12/9
Deanna (1st/2nd)	12/10
Nyasha (J. P2)	12/10
Mrs. Louisitha (I 1&2)	12/12
Catherine (I2)	12/16
Gabriela (T)	12/18
Jayden (ASP)	12/18
Austin (Pre-K 1)	12/19
Ms. Arkeyshaw (T)	12/24
Ahsha (1st/2nd)	12/25
Parker (I2)	12/29
Carter (ASP)	12/31

We ask for your help...

West Cobb is holding its staff Holiday Party on the evening of Friday, December 10th. While we are open regular business hours- we would like for our closers to be given the opportunity to go home first to change and dress up if they should prefer.

Please be sure to pick up your child on time- if not a few minutes early. thanks

KINDERGARTEN

In Math, we continued to count by twos, fives, and tens. We are up to the number 54! We are still practicing our subtraction and addition problems. Everyone has come so far. We learned the terms half, upper left, bottom left, upper right, and bottom left. The children have the best time learning about time to the hour, and are still enjoying learning the value of money. Next month they will have chance to buy items from our Kindergarten store.

In Phonics, we learned about the last syllables in a word: ble, gle, tle, fle, ple, cle, kle, and sle. We learned about how the letter Y takes the place of a vowel and how to remember when it does and does not. We learned about compound words and how to decode them.

In Language Arts, we have learned that a noun is person, place, thing, or animal. We have learned how to pick the noun out of a sentence. We continued to review about Grammar Rules, Asking Sentences, and Telling Sentences. When we come back from Thanksgiving we will start to learn about verbs: Adding S to Verbs, Exact Verbs, Present-Tense Verbs, and Am, Is, and Are.

We have been working hard for our holiday program, which is right around the corner. Please be working with your child so they feel confident and know their lines.

They have all come such a long way and I am so proud of them! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break.

Mrs. Kemp

Happy Birthday to all!

Learning an easier way to count by twos...using our friends hands to help us learn!



- To all of the parents who helped make this years Butter Braid Bread Fundraiser so successful. We raised close to \$1700!!!!
- To the Teacher Appreciation Committee for a delicious lunch feast. The food was delicious and we all felt fabulous. Special Thank you to Jennifer Phillips for coordinating the luncheon effort.
- To Mihai's parents for the donation of all of the wonderful books.
- To Alex and Adrian's family for the toy donation.

Thank You

January Happenings

Monday, 1/3- Private School Teacher Work Day (just means we'll have arts/crafts and a possible visitor that day while the lead teachers are working on curriculum and classrooms.

Thursday, 1/13- Private School has etiquette class. The entire school is invited to participate in Spirit Night at Chick Fil A from 5-8pm.

1/2 of the First/Second Grade will go on a field trip to the King Center.

Friday, 1/14- The other half of First/Second Grade will go to the King Center for a field trip.

Monday, 1/17- Center is Closed

Thursday, 1/27- Kindergarten attends a field trip to the Southeastern Railway Museum.

The last week of January- Sr. Pre-School will hold parent/teacher conferences.

Parent Tips

Set Yourself Up for Success

'Children need freedom to be themselves and to explore. Right now, ensuring the child's well-being and minimizing wear and tear on the parents' nerves is much more important than interior decoration. Family life is more pleasant for everyone if you arrange your home in such a way that you have to say no as little as possible. This stage will pass. When the children are older, you can make things more pleasing to the eye.

Remember that safety is not an accident. Discuss frequently with children safety precautions you are taking and the reasons for them. Encourage them to take these precautions also, and praise them when you notice they are doing so. This method helps children develop self-responsibility.

Look over the information provided by community organizations. Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone. These numbers should include the police, fire, ambulance service, family doctor, poison control and local hospital.

Recommended Reading:

Mary Metzger- 'The childproofing checklist'

Arline Stewart- 'Childproofing your home'

FIRST/SECOND GRADE

The first two weeks of November we completed our ITBS tests and we are looking forward to seeing the results. In Math, we covered regrouping and regrouping with money, algorithms, venn diagrams, recognizing a dozen and a half of a dozen, reading thermometers to the nearest 2 degrees, mental computation to subtract, drawing and measuring line segments to the nearest inch.

In Phonics and Language Arts, we covered the vc/cvc/cv rule in multiple syllable words, spelling with final stable syllables fle, gle, ble, ple, dle, ghost letters gn, kn, wr, pronouns, plural nouns and dictionary skills.

We practiced for the Holiday program twice each day. We hope all of the families are able to attend this event- as you will be proud of what we have put together for you!

We went to Tellus Museum this past month to learn about fossils. On our field trip, we learned the difference between a mold, a cast, and a fossil. We toured the gift shop and ooh'd and ahh'd over all of the fabulous items inside, we saw a demonstration of how the earth moves around the sun by viewing a giant pendulum, and we learned about various dinosaurs through a walk in the exhibits. In the lab, we created our own molds using various fossils along with etchings/rubbings of different fossils. In the end, we were able to find our own fossils on a dig and created a take-home necklace as a keepsake of our experience.

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia



Congratulations to the Blitzer family on the birth of a baby girl- Erin.

BOX TOPS

Have you turned in your Box Tops for Schools yet? The countdown is on... last year we raised \$85 and we hope to have over \$100 raised this year!

Top Winner wins a build a bear workshop... so turn in those box tops in a zip lock bag with your child's name on it.

PRIVATE SCHOOL
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
12/6-12/10

Please be sure to sign up for a conference if your child is in our private program. They are scheduled for 12:30-3:00 all week long. The lists should be posted outside your child's classroom.

If you are unable to attend, you are more than welcome to sign up for a time slot and call in for a phone-conference.

During this conference, besides how your child is academically doing, you will hear more about their social skills and behavior and it's a great time to just talk to your child's teacher.

**BUTTER BRAID BREAD ORDERS ARRIVE
FOR PICK UP ON 12/9- Thursday.**

Please be sure to pick up your box(es) and order form from the hallway at pick up time. (We have limited freezer space)

Congratulations to the Wyns Family for being the top seller- 47 Butter Braids!!!
They won \$150 off in tuition! Way to go!

Thank you to all who participated (donated) since this is the highest dollar amount the school has fundraised at one time to date- close to \$1700!

**THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS
EVE [24TH] AND NEW YEARS EVE [31].
ALL OTHER DAYS WE WILL BE OPEN
REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS**



ETIQUETTE CLASS

This month we introduced basic Table Manners to all levels (although their instruction was differentiated based on their age level).

1. Students learned how to hold their forks and spoons correctly (no more 'shovels' in this class)
2. The students learned how to set the table so now they can help their parents at home!
3. After learning the best way to set the table, hold utensils, and sit in your chair at the dinner table, we had some fun with a napkin folding exercise.
4. In December, we will continue our lesson on Table Manners with new activities.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

The First/Second Grade will visit the GA Tech Paper Museum for their Paper Works Workshop. Not only will they learn the history of paper and the various machines used to make paper, but they will also make their own piece of paper as a keepsake item. 1/2 the class will attend on the 2nd while the other half will attend on the 9th.

The Kindergarten class has a very special field trip planned for December. We are asking all parents to have their child dressed in their 'Sunday Best' for their field trip on the 16th. We have tickets to see 'A Christmas Carol' presented at the Alliance Theater. The children will talk about the story prior to the trip through a study guide and be well-prepared for their experience. Please be sure to talk to your child beforehand about behavioral expectations in a theater setting. Unfortunately, we are unable to have parent chaperones as the tickets were purchased over the summer.