

March 2011

West Cobb Times

Registration Process for the 2011-2012 School Term

The registration process differs from school to school and from year to year. West Cobb will continue its standard practice of registration however the process differs slightly depending on which program your child will be in for the fall.

For those currently in our Infant program through those in our Jr. Pre-School 2 classroom (and a couple children in our Sr. Pre-School classroom who do not make the birthday deadline for either the GA or Private Pre-K):

*Unless you paid the registration fee in 2011, ALL accounts will be charged the annual \$100 registration fee for the 2011-2012 school term on Friday, April 1st. Please include this fee in your tuition on the 4th of April.

For those who turn 4 by September 1st, 2011 and are interested in the GA Pre-K program, please stop by the office for your official paperwork. There is a special 4 page enrollment form and we would need a copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of GA residence. If you are needing to use the before and after school program, the \$100 registration fee is due at the time of enrollment. All paperwork and registration fees are required by March 31st,

For those who are interested in space in our Private School (Pre-K through 2nd Grade) we invite you to attend the Open House on Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm to learn what our private program will offer for the 2011-2012 school term.

*To secure a space in our private program, the non-refundable Book/Registration/Technology Fee is due no later than April 1st. The registration period will officially begin at the Open House.

*Don't forget: Siblings receive a \$25 discount on the registration fee.

International Night

The Education Committee is sponsoring our 2nd Annual International Night which is being held on

Thursday, March 24th from 6-7pm.

A flyer for volunteers will be given to the entire student body this week to help make this event be a success. Food, activities, art/crafts from various countries around the world will be represented. So please- come out and support the Education Committee and help our children be exposed to more than American Culture!

Please be on the look out for the flyers and sign up lists.

INFANT 1

We would like to welcome Erin to our classroom!

We've been learning our A,B,C song and how to hold onto our bottles. Most of our children are able to sit up without assistance and we couldn't be happier!

The children love when we play patty cake as our laughter can be heard down the hallway.

Mrs. Princess & Mrs. Louisitha

TODDLERS

When we explored the theme of Insects, we found our class has two favorites- bees and spiders! We made black stripes for bees and used our handprints to make spiders. The books we focused on with the theme were 'The Very Busy Spider' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Also we practiced the signs for bee and spider.

During February, we also talked about Friendship. We were paired with friends to work on art projects and we painted a picture that we gave to our friend. We, of course, enjoyed our Valentine's Party and sharing Valentine's Day Cards with our friends.

Ms. Arkeyshaw and Ms. Marie

INFANT 2

We would like to welcome Lisa Ann to our classroom! One of our activities this month focused not only on large motor skills but also our cognitive skills. We have learned to roll a ball, pick up the ball, and bring it back to the teacher. A few of our students moved up to the toddler room and we have another handful that will be on their way soon!

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

During our insect theme, we made egg carton spiders, counted insects with tweezers and made grasshopper sounds by rubbing a craft stick on a plastic comb. The kids had a blast! We also introduced photo activity cards so the students could see how insects look up close.

During our friendship theme, we read 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister. The students were very excited about this book because the Rainbow Fish is our main mural on our wall.

We drew pictures of our friends and made friendship bracelets.

Our Zoo-Phonics animals were Robby Rabbit, Sammy Snake, Timothy Tiger, and Umber Umbrella. With our phonics program, the children are doing a wonderful job learning the signals and both letter and animal names.

Special thank you for all of our tasty treats and gifts for our Valentine's Day party.

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

Learning about Insects was so much fun! We observed all types of insects with our magnifying glasses, practiced counting 1-7, and using fake worms in soil for our sensory table. The children's number one request for this theme was to read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. They even helped me tell the story using our flannel board.

In our theme of Friendship, during circle time, we discussed who our favorite friend is and what we like to play when we are with our friends. We encouraged the children to share and be polite to our friends. They loved the Valentine Exchange!

Thank you to all of our parents for our wonderful party with delicious treats!

Mrs. Martha and Ms. Kelly



Pre-K 1

Stone looks "delighted" and "proud" because his mother was our Valentines' Day "Mystery Reader."

Pre-K 1

SR. PRE-SCHOOL

We have discovered that living things are very interesting. We learned that we are living and that means we can grow, breathe, and move. Also, we need water and food to help us live. Non-living things do not grow or change or even move. We move them! Discovering all the things that are living was really fun (plants, animals, and insects). Plants need a lot of care. They need sun, water, and food to grow. We took care of our plants in the classroom and now they are growing... Hooray! We learned the different parts of a plant too (stem, petal, flower and root).

We talked about our favorite story 'Jack and the Bean Stalk' and made magic beans that grew our plants. When we learned about animals, we talked about the different ways animals move. Animals also need food, water and shelter. They need a home like we do! We learned the names of many baby animals and had fun matching them to their mommies. Also a lot of food that we eat comes from animals. I think our favorite is chicken nuggets!

Our favorite sub-theme was insects but we call them creepy crawlies... Ewww! Insects have 3 main parts; head, thorax, and abdomen. Some of them even have antennas! We also made cool ladybugs using M & M's as their spots.

We focused on letters Qq, Rr, Ss, and Tt. We reviewed our sounds and items that begin with each letter.

In March, we will continue to explore the world around us. What is in our world, how we get around our world, and how great our world is.

Thank you for our wonderful Valentine's Party donations. We loved sleeping in our jammies.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

In Language Arts, our class collectively explored the "writing process" which is web writing, first draft, revised draft, and final copy. Our topic of choice was "Tuck the Frog." As a class, we dictated (to Miss Washington), *Tuck has BIG spotty eyes. He looks green and spotty. He has a long, red, slimy, and sticky tongue. He sits on a lily pad. His feet are sticky and slimy.* Also, we colored an ENORMOUS frog. Tuck will be displayed in our classroom for a limited time. Please stop by a pay Tuck a special visit.

In Mathematical Thinking, we created a graph highlighting our favorite "winter activities." The categories were "catching snowflakes on my tongue," "have a snowball fight," and "make a snowman." Three friends enjoyed catching snowflakes, ten friends love snowball fights, and one friend would rather build a snowman. In addition, we've learned about objects that are whole, half, empty, full, and half full. Our month of arithmetic activities ended in learning about estimation ("guessing") and capacity ("how many kids can fit in a room").

Our fine motor skills are strong and intact. This is due to our cutting, hole punching, and lacing hearts. Also, we created original pinch pots using moist gray clay, cookie cutters, dough tools as wells as our "pinching" our clay into original shapes.

We enjoyed a memorable Valentines' Day/Pajama party. Friends exchanged colorful and original Valentines and ate festive treats. Mrs. Chambers (Stone's mother) was our "Valentine Mystery Reader." She read two awesome stories. Our party could not have been a success without the wonderful treats and stories. Thank you Pre-K I parents.

Ms. Washington

Pre-K 2

In social studies we talked about a long ago and today. Our class focused on the ways people communicate to each other now and way back then. We also talked about different modes of transportation. During our "share" time we talked about all the ways our family communicates with one another. We use telephones, cellular phones, computers, and we do still mail letters and post cards. (I had to explain what a post card was, but it was fun!) Our class also talked about how our families move from one place to another. We use cars, buses, trains, boats, planes and some of us ride in taxi cabs, this unit was very fun and the students really enjoyed it!

In science we studied how to sort and change objects. Our class discovered that objects can be sorted by physical properties and we use our five senses to observe an objects physical properties. We all learned that materials can be changed bIn handwriting our class is learning to distinguish between letter forms with similar shapes such as b and d, p and q, m and n, and n and u. It is an important perceptual skill.

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In March for Language Arts, our class will be focusing on identifying complete and incomplete sentences. We will focus on capital letters and periods, as well as rhyming words.

Ms. Pendleton

St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon

We believe children are never too young to begin learning the rewards of community service. On Friday, March 25th we will be holding a Trike/Bike a thon. Please look for flyers and information in your child's cubby over the next week or two.

St. Jude's Research Hospital concentrates their efforts in discovering medical cures to save children around the world. It is a place 'where cutting-edge research and revolutionary discoveries happen every day'.

Events such as this help our children to develop a healthy sense of responsibility for others in our community.

West Cobb wants to instill this in each of our children. Those that will participate in this event will be the Sr. Pre-School class and older.



Happy Birthday!

Braylen (Tod)	3/1
Caz (Sr. P)	3/10
Arianna (PK 2)	3/10
Nicholas (Sr. P)	3/13
Emma (Inf. 2)	3/16
Tiffanie (PK 1)	3/17
Adrian (ASP)	3/24
Kaitlyn (Inf. 2)	3/24

Happy Birthday to all!



Congratulations to Rolando's family on the arrival of a baby girl.

KINDERGARTEN

February was full of love and laughter. We had a great month! We had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day. The class enjoyed coming to school in their pajamas. Kindergarten did a great job practicing for the history program. I am so proud of all of them.

In Math, we learned how to write and identify our numbers 1-88. We reviewed pairs, how to count pennies and dimes, and how to tell time to the "half past" the hour. Next month, we will be learning about the value of a nickel and how to count nickels, dimes, and pennies.

In Phonics, we worked on writing and applying the rules AU, AW, OA, EY, PH, the soft G, GN, KN, and WR. We also learned about "Wild Colt Words", Double/Dropping Rule, and Ghost Letters.

Language Arts was filled with a lot of review. We reviewed how to write number words, one through ten, how to write the months of the year, and how to classify objects. We spent the most time learning how to tell if a word needs to be capitalized in the middle of a sentence. We learned to add est and er to the end of the same word to show how it can change the meaning of the word.

-Mrs. Kemp



- For being so patient when we were having technical difficulties with our phone/computer system.
- To the private school parents who worked so hard with their children to memorize their lines for the History Program.
- To all those who wished me a Happy Anniversary- celebrated 3 years at West Cobb!
- To the staff at West Cobb for being so positive especially at the staff meeting.
- To the dedication and hard work of all of the private school teachers. The History Program could not have happened without you.

Thank You

April Happenings

April 1: Although it's April Fools Day- it is not a joke that the registration fee of \$100 for Infants through Sr. Pre-school will be added to all accounts.

April 4-8th is Spring Break for Cobb County Schools and it is also our Spring Break for our Private Program. This means while your child's teacher will not be at West Cobb, we will have activities for your child to participate in as full tuition is due.

April 14th and 15th: 1st/2nd Grade classes will be going on a field trip to Millennium Gate.

April 18th-29th: Kindergarten, First and Second Grade classes will have it's final ITBS testing this year.

April 21 and 22: Pre-K students will attend a field trip to the Dunwoody Nature Center to learn about 5 Senses.



FIRST/SECOND GRADE

In Math, we covered the following concepts during the month of February:

Multiplication 5's, 10's, 2's, and 3's, Identifying parallel lines, perpendicular lines, and vertexes, expanded notation and place value.

In Language Arts, we've worked on writing creative stories with adjectives, synonyms, and replacing adjectives with 'exact adjectives'.

In Science, we continued learning about the solar system. We learned various characteristics of each planet and stars.

In Social Studies, we began learning about the importance of various jobs that people perform in our neighborhood. We answered 'What are good and services and how people both give and receive both goods and services'.

In our History Program we demonstrated our knowledge of African American Excellence- past, present and future!

*Special thank you to Ms. Julia for helping to create the program the Kindergarten class executed.

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia

SPRING PHOTOS

We will be having 'school photos' taken on Wednesday, March 9th for the entire school. (The Private School will have special Cap/Gown photos on Friday, March 11th).

This year, Life Touch will bring two photographers to photograph all of our students. They will set up in the Kindergarten classroom (which will make it easier to transport the little ones).

In order to be photographed, you MUST have a permission slip returned to our office by Tuesday the 8th.

I am sending out the permission slip on Tuesday, March 1st in your child's cubby or folder. It gives you a choice of background, you can customize the photograph, and have siblings photographed together and separately. The company will return when the photos are ready to be purchased. They will set up an area in the hallway where you can view and purchase the final photos.

We will begin with the youngest classes at 7:30 and work our way up to the older classes. If you are wanting to be there when your child is photographed, please mention this on your permission slip and also on the morning of photos to Ms. Rokeya.

Employee of the Month

Mrs. Lauren Kemp came to West Cobb just over a year ago. She holds a Bachelors of Science degree with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She has been a lead teacher in both Private Pre-K and Private Kindergarten and has been in management in a previous childcare center. We love her patience level and enthusiasm she brings to our program each day. Her parents say:

'She is caring and strives to bring the best out of the kids'

'She produces great results with my kid'

Congratulations Mrs. Kemp



PRIVATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

If you are interested in our Private Pre-K through 2nd Grade, you are invited to attend our Open House on Wednesday, March 16th from 6-7pm. I will present information about the 2011-2012 school year including information on curriculum, foreign language and pricing.

ETIQUETTE CLASS

Our Feb class was all about Friendship! Friends have a big heart! They are always nice to each other and always help each other. I put on my special friendship glasses. Every where I look I see friends!!

Kindergarten, First, Second

We emphasized Friends Helping Each Other!

Through role playing and using puppets, we showed the students how friends have different emotions and can help each other when one is happy, sad, scared or angry. Then they played a game "Funny Friends", which they have to help each other!

Pre-K

Be a Good Friend!

We acted out how important it is to share toys, especially when someone doesn't have a toy.

We read a story Why Frog and Snake Never Play Together, a folktale about friendship.



A simple smile will always have you surrounded with friends. We had half the class act out their saddest face and asked the other half of the class if they want to be friends with any of these students. Of course, the answer was "nooooo". Then, we had the students all smile their biggest smile and of course everyone wanted to be their friend now!! It is that easy to have friends....show your smile!