

April 2011

West Cobb Times

Parent Surveys

Included on the counter next to the newsletter is the Final Parent Survey for the 2010-2011 school term. We would really appreciate your feedback in helping to make our school grow better and stronger. It is an anonymous survey, therefore we would appreciate your feedback... both positive and negative.

We will have a box in the lobby beginning on Monday, May 2nd and it will stay there for 2 weeks. Please place your anonymous survey into it to share your thoughts and feelings about our school.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
5/9-5/13

With the help of so many West Cobb Families, the Teacher Appreciation Committee has planned a week full of special treats for the staff at West Cobb. None of this would have been possible were it not for the families who contributed to the financial fund.

Thank you in advance.

**Please don't forget: We will be closed
Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day.**

PRIVATE SCHOOL GRADUATION
MAY 14th

Our graduation/end of the year celebration is being held at Olive Springs Baptist Church.

Pre-K 1: Must arrive at 9:15 as your program w/ caps and gowns is from 9:30-9:55.

Pre-K 2: Must arrive at 9:55 as your program w/ caps and gowns is from 10:05-10:30.

Kindergarten, First and Second Grades: Must arrive at 10:30 as your program will begin at 10:40. Caps/Gowns will be available for photo opportunities after the program has ended.

Please have your child dress in Sunday best- unless otherwise directed by your teacher.

*If your child is unable to attend, please inform your teacher immediately.

Thank you for a wonderful year! I can't believe it's that time again when we reflect on the past year and begin to make changes for the next fall program. I truly hope every parent takes advantage of our parent survey to give me feedback as I begin to evaluate our school year.

I'd like to thank the teachers for a great effort in trying new curriculums and getting used to new ideas that were presented to you all year long.

I'd like to thank Ms. Rokeya and Ms. Shonte for your perseverance in striving to change West Cobb always for the better.

I'd like to thank those parents who were actively involved on the various committees- as it was a struggle this year to participate.

I hope the end of the school term is a happy time for you. Please let me know if we can assist you in anyway to make the transition to the summer program any easier for you and your family. I hope your family has chosen to register at West Cobb for the fall program- but if not- we wish your family the best.

Ms. Marla

INFANT 1

We've been singing our A,B,C song and focusing on how to sit up without assistance.

One of the fine motor skills we focused on was how to hold our own bottles—which is one of the skills we would like to see our Infant 1 children have before moving onto Infant 2.

And most of our children are now able to roll over on their own! Yeah!

Mrs. Princess & Mrs. Louisitha

TODDLERS

During our theme of Space, we had fun painting a sun, stamp painting stars and making a collage of the planets. These activities promote our fine motor development.

During our theme of Science, we planted a plant. We had fun filling the flower pot with soil. Everyday a friend was able to water our plant. We enjoy watching our seeds grow into a plant. Also, this month we learned three new finger plays: Mister Sun, Three Astronauts, and The Growing Seed. We had fun reading the books 'Good Night Moon' and 'The Tiny Seed'. We love learning new finger plays and reading new books because they encourage our language development and introduces us to new words.

Ms. Arkeyshaw and Ms. Marie

INFANT 2

We worked on our Language and Cognitive Skills by using the Baby Can Read Book and Flashcards in our impromptu circle time.

We worked on our Fine Motor Skills when we finger painted!

We also named the colors we were using during our painting session—red, blue and yellow.

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

With our Sun, Moon and Stars theme we made sunny day and night sky chalk drawings.

With our Science Wonders theme, we had an ice melting experiment. We watched ice melt on the sidewalk, in a cup, and in our hands. We also watched birds build a nest outside.

We began our Zoo-phonics pre-writing skills. The children trace the basic shapes that make the letters. Then we teach them to trace the shape of the letters with our flash cards.

We also introduced our zoo-phonics decodable readers Level A-book 2.

In May, we will learn more about dinosaurs and other pre-historic animals.

*We would like to thank our parents and students for our wonderful birthday gifts.

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

For our Space Theme, we decided to take a trip to the moon! We learned all about planets, rockets, and astronauts. We even learned how to do the countdown 10 to 1. We collected moon rocks and explored them with magnifying glasses.

For our theme of Science Wonders, we made our own colors by mixing colors. The children were so amazed to see how red and yellow make the color orange. And red and blue mixed together made the color purple. We also enjoyed the texture of soil. After exploring the soil, we planted 'cilantro' and 'beans'.

If you haven't looked around our classroom lately, we started Observation Boards this month.

We'd like to welcome Hayden & Chloe to our potty crew!

Mrs. Martha and Ms. Kelly

SR. PRE-SCHOOL

In the month of April, we finished our lessons on habitats. We talked about animals that live in water and that use special tools called gills to help them breathe underwater. We made cool aquariums and found real animals to include in our tanks. We counted seashells and went fishing. We also began our new theme 'A Place to Dream'. This theme is really fun because we get to use our imagination a lot. We explored art forms like Abstract, Still Life, Portraits and Sculptures. We had a blast drawing our friends because some of them were funny. We learned our class is very artistic and creative! We even turned our classroom into a museum. Outstanding!

Next, we talked about stories and how there are different versions to a story. We all have our favorites in class but we talked about three classics 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Little Pigs', and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We had so much fun acting out the characters! We learned that we didn't have books a long time ago so people told stories; true and make-believe. We talked about our favorite songs and learned that they are tunes to other songs as well. We made and became musical instruments.

In May, we will finish out this theme with our music and favorite songs and also we will get to move our bodies to the music. Using exercise and dance we will see how our bodies move and learn that different parts are stronger than others. We will also see how much we have grown since the beginning of the school year.

We are doing so well with our reading and blending. Please remember to practice letter and sound recognition.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Pre-K 1

Our class learned all about story elements (character, setting, and surprise). "Character is who the story is about." While our class listened to the Gingerbread Man we discovered the characters are "the gingerbread man, old woman, old man, thrashers, mowers, horse, cow, and the fox." The "surprise was the fox." "He tricked the gingerbread man and ate him." In the Three Little Pigs the setting was the "forest." And the surprise was "the fox fell into a pot of soup." "He thought he was going to eat the three pigs."

Our class is consistent in paying for classroom items using pennies, nickels, and dimes. Also, we continued to count and compared coins. In addition, we identified and matched equivalent sets, identified and added doubles, estimated, and measured the capacity of containers using nonstandard units. We really worked diligently in writing our numbers (11-30).

In Social Studies, we learned about American symbols. For instance, our American flag represents our country the "United States." Other American symbols are "that eagle" as well as the song Miss Washington taught us "Grand Flag."

We are still working on mastering our patriotic song.

Awesome April concluded with our class venturing out to Dunwoody Nature Center. We utilized our five senses to hear waterfalls, see a real beehive, touch soft flowers "like a pillow," and smell sweet purple and white flowers.

Ms. Washington

Pre-K 2

In Social Studies our class started out by identifying the main idea in a story. The main idea is "what the story is about." Our class then talked about location words, such as front & back, left & right, up & down, over & under. At the end of the unit we discussed how to work out a conflict, you have to share and take turns with your school friends.

In science we explored "observing objects", such as how do I use my senses? How can I sort objects? And, what things are made of? Our science project was called "brown paper bag" we used different objects and placed them in a paper bag, the students were blind folded, and had to use one or all their five senses to figure out what object they pulled out the bag. We also went to the Dunwoody Nature Center to continue to learn about how various animals use their 5 senses.

In handwriting our class used different manipulatives, this allowed the students to see, touch, and demonstrate the way each letter is formed.

In phonics we are learning how to blend words together to form a complete sentence.

And in math, we are really getting into addition. Our class started out adding by 1, now we have moved up and we are adding by 2. We are also learning to count by 5's, and 10's up to 100. Our class also started the Dragon Flies leveled reading program. As a whole group, we are already on level B.

Ms. Pendleton



Happy Birthday!

Jayla (GA ASP)	5/1
Gabrielle (Tod)	5/5
Bree (ASP)	5/8
Devin (1st/2nd)	5/9
Eve (Sr. P)	5/18
Noelle (Sr. P)	5/21
Ms. Tia (Sr. P)	5/23
Newton (ASP)	5/25
Tessa (Jr. P2)	5/25
Jordan (1st/2nd)	5/26
Gavin (Jr. P2)	5/30

Happy Birthday to all!

KINDERGARTEN

In Math, we learned how to write and identify our numbers 1-115. We learned about Cylinders, Cubes, and Spheres. We reviewed the value of the money, and how to add different coins, how to write and read word problems, and how to write number sentences.

In Phonics, we have spent the month reviewing the rules we have learned throughout the year. We reviewed the Rules of Spelling, Suffixes, Prefixes, Diphthongs, Final Stable Syllables, and Trigraphs. We also worked on reading comprehension packets, and the class reviewed our old spelling words.

We spend a great deal of the month working on our reading skills. We worked on Level Readers and the Decodable Books. For Level Readers, we worked on our literature packets which consists of the following: The book title, the author, book reports, a summary of the book, why or why not the child liked the book, and discussion questions, and illustrating a favorite page of the book.

For Science, we have spent the month going over Magnets. We used two different kinds of magnets to see which part was the strongest. We used paper clips and items around the classroom to see which objects would take and which objects would not. This is helping the class get more prepared for their field trip in May.

We just finished up the ITBS test. The class did really well following the classroom rules and listening carefully to the directions. I am sure you are just anxious to see how your child did as much as I am.

With there only being three weeks of school left; please make sure you are looking out for memos going home and/or on the door. We have fun-fill month coming up!

-Mrs. Kemp



Ms. Andrea's After School Program (In March)

Safety is the lesson that was taught in the after school program. We learned the importance of traffic and bike safety. It is crucial that children learn early on the importance of traffic and bike safety. With so many different people on the roads, and everyone in a hurry, children need to learn how to keep themselves safe and what to look out for when riding their bike or riding in a car. We also made traffic stop lights and played Red Light/Green Light to help the children understand what each color meant.



June Happenings

June 8th- Wednesday, Musician/Storyteller Eric Litwin joins the entire school (all except infants) at 10:00. We will meet next door in either the music room or in the carpeted room.

June 17th- Friday, All dads are invited for morning snack for Donuts with Dad. Please join us for your gift/card and donuts.

Spirit Week

May 23-27

Monday: Tie-dying t-shirts today. (Please bring them in by Friday the 13th so we can be sure everyone can participate)

Tuesday: A sock hop dance! Have your child dress in some wacky socks for their dance.

Wednesday: Outdoor Picnic Lunch for each class

Thursday: Relay Races among the classes (including ball games, egg run, and sack races). Have your child dress in their new tie-dyed t-shirts.

Friday: Have your child dress in your favorite sports paraphernalia.

FIRST/SECOND GRADE

We have been reviewing various concepts learned throughout the year along with preparing for the ITBS tests.

In Math, we learned about angles, rounding to the nearest tenth and hundredth place, mixed numbers, estimating, and equal groups.

In Phonics, we focused on the dropping rule, doubling rule, long multi-syllable words, final stable syllable ture, and sight word wrap up.

In Social Studies, we reviewed our family unit, and learned about map skills, groups, resources, jobs and income, taxes and government.

In Science we reviewed landforms, weight and measurement, characteristics of living things, health and safety, planets and habitats.

In Language Arts, we reviewed grammar, punctuation, verbs, nouns, adjectives, commas in places, names, and dates.

We've been practicing for the end of the year celebration and are looking forward to our postponed field trip to The Millennium Gate.

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia

TRANSITIONS FOR MANY OF OUR STUDENTS- 5/23rd

Current Sr. Pre-School Children: All children who will join either the Private or GA Pre-K in the fall term will move to the back right classroom on 5/23, however you will still keep both of your teachers, Ms. Erica and Ms. Tia. They will continue to use the same curriculum and will add one day of using the water park. A letter will be forthcoming about the water park regulations.

Infant 2-Jr. Pre-School 2 Children: Some of the older children from each of the rooms may receive transition letters for the next classroom. If we feel your child is ready and is age-eligible for the next classroom, you will receive a letter via your child's cubby the 2nd week of May. Those children who are 3 and potty trained in the Jr. Pre-School 2 room will move on 5/23 to the Sr. Pre-School class.

Ms. Tameka will move over to the Sr. Pre-School class for the summer.

All those who are 2 1/2 and are in the Jr. Pre-School 1 room will move over to the Jr. Pre-School 2 room on 5/23.

If you have any questions, just stop in and ask.

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED PRE-K AND OLDER...

The calendar and registration forms for Club Adventure are available in my office. The activities include field trips, cooking projects, visitors, arts/crafts, and drama. We had much success in previous years holding an academic program from 8-10 am to ensure our children do not forget all of what they learned this year- which we will continue to do again this summer. Remember, this will be used as a review, not necessarily learning new concepts.

Space is limited on field trips and by the time this newsletter goes to print- I will have already made staffing decisions that will effect the Summer Camp program.

But if you haven't signed up and would like to- just stop in to see me.

Mother's Day Celebration

Calling all Mom's!

We'd like to invite you to share in the celebration with 'Muffins with Mom'. You are invited to stay for morning snack on Friday,

May 6th (whenever your child's class has morning snack on their schedule). Although adult seating is limited, your child will be thrilled to hand you your card/gift and share with you their daily schedule.

*Parking is limited, so please use the Food Depot parking lot instead.

CONFERENCES

The private school will hold their Parent/Teacher conferences the week of May 2-6th. For those who are regularly picked up at 2:30- we have early dismissal at 12:30 instead. Those children who are in the full day option will automatically go into the afternoon program with the assistants.

This is the final conference of the school year- so be sure to sign up for yours.



ETIQUETTE CLASS

Kindergarten through 2nd I'm a Great Guest!

I explained to the students that they should use their Good Manners every time they leave the house! We discussed Good Manners to use at a hotel, such as being quiet in the room, hallways and elevators. We also discussed going to a friends house. We taught them to follow the house rules which may include no running inside, participate in the game everyone is playing and clean up before you leave! Using some clothing props, the students acted out how to meet their friends parents. The First and Second Graders learned how to introduce their parents to their friend and introduce themselves. The Kindergartners learned to introduce themselves to the parents.

Pre K 1 and 2 I Tell the Truth

We discussed the importance of telling the truth no matter how difficult it may be to do so! We reviewed what to do if they break their friend's toy. Every one raised their hand and said, "I promise to tell the truth!"