



West Cobb News

August 2011

CHANGES...

I am extremely excited for the new school term to begin! Over the summer we made many changes to both the private school and the rest of the programming. We have some new pairings of teachers in some of the younger children's classrooms while we have some new staff working with our after-school program! Rokeya has also been working hard on stream-lining the curriculum for Toddlers and Jr. Pre-School school to align them with the Sr. Pre-School curriculum. Documentation boards will be present in all of the rooms throughout the program (except for the private school) which will give purpose to what will adorn our classroom walls. We now also have artificial turf for the Toddler/Jr. Pre-School playground!

Our private program has experienced much change. We are going to be in school a half hour more than last year (instead of 8-2:30, we will now be running the academic program from 7:45-2:45). With the splitting of our second grade from our first grade, we have all new field trips planned for many of the classes. We now have student editions for science, social studies, and art (which means you as a parent have more to keep track of). Our private school will now include the Smart Board activities on their lesson plan so you know what types of interactive games they played (all are for science, listening skills, or math). Kindergarten will begin the school term with a half hour rest time which will disappear by December (many of our students had a hard time giving up their one and a half hour rest time from Pre-K).

Our after-school program has more structured activities and the teachers are working with Rokeya to make a cohesive lesson plan each week. We have added new enrichment programs (karate on Thursday afternoons, and we are still working out the details for a yoga class). Our dance class is being finalized and won't begin until after Labor Day (when our Mandarin Classes will begin for Jr. 1 and older).

BUT SOME THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED...

Most of our teachers are returning for the fall program. The newsletters and Monday Memos will be e-mailed, made available on the website, and hard copies available each month to keep parents informed. The daily sheets will continue to be given out at the end of the day for Infants through Jr. Pre-School 2. The volunteer committees are still there as we believe we can only achieve our goals if we all work together! A few of the fundraisers are back—namely the Butter Braid Bread. The two parent surveys will continue to help shape our program. And while we have changed the history program for the private school to be shown at West Cobb, the Holiday and Graduation programs continue to be a hit (we have added costuming and the use of the slide projector). While Shonte will be working the GA Pre-K hours and won't be here in our building, both Rokeya and I will continue to manage the programs in the main building. Rokeya will mainly work the 6:30-3:30 shift while I will mainly work the 10-7 shift (although once every two weeks we'll swap hours just to shake things up a bit). We are both looking forward to our new school year!

Private School Orientation

Please remember if your child is registered with us in the Private Pre-K through 2nd Grade, the Mandatory Orientation is being held on Thursday, August 4th from 7-8pm. We will cover the following topics: Basic Curriculum questions, New Schedule, Parent Agreement 2011-2012, Text Book Replacement, Homework and In-clement Weather policies, Enrichment Registration Information, and, of course, meeting your child's teacher.

Remember— this meeting is for adults only and therefore I will understand if only one parent can attend.

If you are unable to be there, please see me by the 5th for detailed information and paperwork.

Ms Marla

INFANTS

Our Infants absolutely loved our water play time! We used rectangular buckets and filled them with 1/2 inch of water. We provided them with floating toys to play with- but the children just loved to splash away!

Our Cognitive Activities this month included Flipping the light switch, Looking from one object to another, and Responding to new sounds.

A few of our friends moved up to the Toddler class and we will enjoy a couple new additions to our class in August.

Ms. Laura, Ms. Porcia &
Ms. Louisitha

TODDLERS

We had fun this month learning about the sun. We learned that the sun is yellow, round like a circle, and feels hot. Also, we learned the sun lives in the sky.

Another favorite theme this month was Frogs. We used our gross motor skills to hop like frogs around the classroom. Also, we made frog puppets and used them to tell a story about Five Frogs on a Log.

The colors we focused on this month were green and yellow. Also, this month we focused on the baby sign for Up, Down, and Frog.

We had so much fun this summer on our water days! We had a blast splashing water. Also, we are enjoying our new playground surface!

Ms. Arkeyshaw and Ms. Marie

We sadly say goodbye to the Blitzer family who have purchased a house a little too far away from West Cobb. They've been with us for 5 years and we'll miss them dearly.



JR. PRE-SCHOOL

We loved working with the colored sand at the Sand Art Cart and enjoyed filling our bottles to make beautiful rainbows! For our pottery week, we worked on our small motor skills by using rolling pins and cookie cutters with our playdough.

For our theme of colors, we explored different ways to learn our colors through our color-filled water table, easel painting, and gluing and pasting items with different colors. We even made variations of colors as we began to mix the colors we had.

During our sports theme, the children were asked to bring in their favorite sports ball to share with a friend. We practiced taking turns and sharing.

Welcome Rafael to our program!

Ms. Martha, Ms. Ericka and Ms. Beverly

Here's Jesse enjoying his adventures with
The Sand Art Cart



SR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We have completed our Zoo Phonics animal review. For the rest of the summer we will be focusing more on our pre-writing skills. The students have been doing a great job working in our summer pre-writing skills workbooks, which will be sent home on the 5th of August. We have begun to read our Zoo-Phonics mini-books which offer simple, controlled vocabulary. The students are able to signal and sound out each word.

Our students had a blast when the Sand Art Cart came to visit. I was so proud of them for listening and following oral directions. During our pottery theme we used our scented play-doh to make fruit shapes.

With our theatre theme we used our Zoo Phonics puppets to sing our Zoo Phonics theme song 'Come meet us at the Zoo'.

With our Sports theme, we make a sports collage and played different sports/games outside for nature exploration. We looked great in our favorite Atlanta Team Apparel.

Thank you to our parents for the classroom donations and for a wonderful summer.

Ms. Tameka and Ms. Jill



Here's Lauren from Club Adventure 1- the activity of the day was to use our new neon playdough!

Happy Birthday!



Stone (Club 2)	8/11
Luke (Club 4)	8/14
Ms. Princess (Toddler)	8/15
Ms. Lyrica (ASP)	8/19
Kailyn (PPK)	8/21
Jesse (Jr. 1)	8/21
Johnathan (Club 4)	8/29

SR. PRE-SCHOOL 2

We have had a wonderful summer! In July we learned how dinosaurs are extinct and that they lived a very long time ago. We also produced a nice sand art project when The Sand Art Cart came. We used beautiful colors and did it all by ourselves. Awesome! We also learned about pottery and how to make it. People use clay to mold an object on a spinning wheel. It goes really fast! Then it goes in an oven to cook. We decided to make our own pottery flowers out of modeling clay. They turned out great! We also drew flowers.

Talking about the ocean and theatre was interesting. We looked at a globe and noticed it was mostly blue. That is a lot of water. In theatre, we pretended to be actors and actresses. We have learned to write, identify and spell 14 words!!! That's amazing! We are even learning to write small sentences.

In Math, we are learning to identify which numbers are 'greater than' and 'less than', which numbers we can add to and which numbers we can subtract from. We learned which numbers come next and how to write our numbers backward.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Tumblebus: This program (tumbling/gymnastics) is offered for ages 18 months and older and is held on Friday mornings. This is a year-round program and can begin and/or stop at any time. Photos and recaps of how they spend their time is posted on their board.

Soccer: This program is offered for ages 3 and older on Tuesday mornings. This class teaches the basics of controlling a ball, how to play one-on-one, and ultimately hold a group scrimmage. This program is set for 9 week sessions.

Chess: This program is offered for children in Kindergarten and older on Monday afternoons from 3-4. This program asks for parent volunteers in exchange for discounted sessions. Each child will need to purchase a chess set.

Karate: This program is offered for children ages 3 and older on Thursday's at 3pm. This program is a self-defense program which teaches children how to avoid conflict whenever possible and to defend themselves with minimal force should a need arise. Parents report increased self esteem, better health and improved academic performance.

Yoga: We are currently working on bringing a yoga program to West Cobb. This program is designed to produce muscle strength, increase flexibility, promote coordination and increase body awareness. Stay tuned for further details.

Dance: This program is offered to children ages 2 1/2 and older. This program teaches ballet and tap dance, includes a recital at the end of the school year in their studio production, and adds a home/school program where every child receives a worksheet explaining a term they covered in class and a description of the move (so parents can follow along). This program will begin after Labor Day- details will be forthcoming on times/days.



Chloe and Rafael, Jr.
Pre-school children,
enjoying their water
park days!

Important September Dates

Monday, 9/5- West Cobb is Closed for the Labor Day Holiday

Saturday, 9/17- Please join us at the Taste of Smyrna- West Cobb will have a booth and we'd love to see our families there!

Tuesday, 9/20- Kindergarten Field Trip to Zoo Atlanta

Thursday, 9/22- First Grade Field Trip to BB&T Bank

Thursday, 9/29- Pre-K 1 Field Trip to Botanical Garden

Friday, 9/30- Pre-K 2 Field Trip to Botanical Garden

PRIVATE SCHOOL CURRICULUM NIGHT

8/23 @ 6PM

(Childcare is Available)

We want to encourage all of our Private School parents to attend the Curriculum Night to learn more about how the lesson plan you see posted in your child's classroom is actually implemented with the children.

We will have demonstrations of math, phonics, science, vocabulary, and social studies.

*Please leave your child in his/her classroom and join the designated area (look for the signs) for your age group.