

West Cobb News

October 2011

We are kicking off our Fundraising efforts by bringing Scholastic Book Fair back to West Cobb where parents, grandparents and teachers can purchase books for their own children, donate books to his/her classroom, donate books towards the downstairs library/media center, and help us earn points to be used at the Scholastic Warehouse. Most of our books in the classroom libraries and the media center downstairs came from past book fairs. It will be held in the Music Room next door on Monday, October 24th through Friday, October 28th. Clifford the Big Red Dog will be here since he's a Scholastic Book character on the 24th from 10-11. We will also post teacher wish lists in the hallway and have a school-wide contest. The classroom which raises the most money will earn themselves a pizza party on November 11th. The book fair will be held from 2-7pm (you'll bring your items/books to my desk in the main building and I can check you out).

We are also creating a 'special' event on Friday the 28th. In keeping with our literacy theme, we ask your child to join our staff in dressing up 'as your favorite storybook character' for the day. We will have all classrooms sit down in the hallway (infants will take turn in the buggy) at 10:00 for a parade of costumes. We feel the dressing up in a costume is what the children really look forward to and if we bring that together with our book fair- we really are teaching our children what we value most at West Cobb- literacy, imagination, and fun. (Remember- please refrain from scary costumes or costumes with swords/weapons). Thanks

Ms. Marla



PARENT SURVEY

At West Cobb, we strive to improve our program year after year. Here is your chance to give us feedback on the items you like and dislike about our school. (It was based on parent surveys in previous years that we now have the artificial grass on our younger children's playground)- so your comments are taken to heart.

Please take the time to complete an anonymous parent survey by Monday, October 17th and return in the black mailbox where tuition checks are dropped into (on the wall near the computer screen).

Thank you for your feedback!

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day will be Thursday and Friday, October 13th and 14th.

Children from the following classes will be photographed on Thursday- the 13th:

1. Infants
2. Toddlers
3. Jr. Pre-school 1 and 2
4. Siblings w/ children in the younger classes

Children from the following classes will be photographed on Friday- the 14th:

1. Sr. Pre-School
2. Private School
3. Siblings who are in Sr. Pre-school and older

The permission slip will be given out with the Monday Memo and will also be available on the parent section of the website. Pricing information will be included.

INFANT 1

Some of our children are mastering rolling from their tummy to their back and others have learned to sit up (with just a little help). Therefore, most of our gross motor activities included exercises which promoted these two skills.

At tummy time, most of our children are doing a great job of using their fine motor skills to grasp items that are just out of arms reach.

Ms. Laura

INFANT 2

Our babies have been working on their steps— one, two, three around the wall— cruising and having a ball!

For our Language activities— we have been clapping and repeating after me.

We say good bye to Lisa Ann who has moved onto the toddler class.

We are looking forward to October when a couple new friends will begin.

Ms. Portia, Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Louisitha

TODDLERS

For National Apple Month, we created our own red apples, discussed the color and shape of apples, and had the chance to even taste some. We discussed 'how healthy I am' and 'how I take care of myself'. We had many projects based on letters F, C and D which gave us hands on activities while learning about the letters sounds. We also read about Francy Fish, Catina Cat, and Deedee Deer in our Zoo Phonics Program.

We've been enjoying learning with our puppet, Clucky. Everyone gets so excited when he's around!

Ms. Farrah and Ms. Sheneeka

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

With our "Take Good Care of Yourself" theme, we learned about our body parts (the names and their uses). We also learned about keeping oneself safe. Each child brought a photo in from home demonstrating different ways to be safe and healthy. Some brought in photos of themselves brushing their teeth, holding an adults hand, taking a bath and exercising, buckling their seatbelts, using a car seat and a safety helmet.

We also learned different ways to help others. We help our friends to build and put puzzles together. We also learned about helping at home.

This month was National Apple Month and therefore the children brought in apples, made apple prints, and painted with apples on our easel.

We are excited to welcome James, Jesse, Iris and Olivia to our potty training crew!

Ms. Martha and Ms. LaShe'



Above: Diane and Michael touching real worms during their science experiment: Do worms like light or do they like the dark? The majority of the class hypothesized: the worms like the dark,

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 2

We learned so many ways on how to take good care of ourselves. We discussed and demonstrated ways by talking about eating healthy, keeping our bodies clean, and protecting ourselves from germs by washing our hands. A lot of our friends brought in items from home that help to keep us safe while we play (from things that we are not supposed to touch to things we should not put in our mouths).

We had fun cooking with our healthy foods in our housekeeping center and during our visits to the market. We would like to personally thank all of the children and their parents for welcoming Ms. Ericka back in our room!

Continue to work on potty training techniques at home– the children have progressed nicely!

Ms. Ericka and Ms. Jill



Happy Birthday!

Alex (Jr. 2)	10/1
Diane (2nd)	10/2
Hailey (K)	10/5
Brooke (1st)	10/6
Iris (Jr. 1)	10/7
Gabrielle (PK)	10/7
Finley (I2)	10/9
MaKayla (K)	10/11
Chloe (Jr. 2)	10/12
Kameron (1st)	10/13
Natalie (Jr. 2)	10/13
Isabelle (K)	10/14
Ember (I2)	10/16
Rory (K)	10/21
Trinity (Jr. 1)	10/24
Bobbi (GA ASP)	10/25
Dele (K)	10/26
Xiaoli (K)	10/27
Christopher (GA ASP)	10/27
Elijah (Jr. 2)	10/29
Ms. Dawn (Cook)	10/29
Lucca (Jr. 2)	10/31
Jaden (ASP)	10/31

SR. PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a wonderful month! Learning about how to take good care of our bodies was so interesting. We learned about the different parts of our bodies, how they move, bend and twist and which body parts help the others. For example, the neck is very important because it holds our head up.

Our favorite unit was learning about safety and how to keep us safe. We learned to be smart around containers, to stop... drop... and roll if our clothes catch on fire, and that 911 is the number we call for an emergency. We made cool telephones so we could practice. Stranger Danger! Stranger Danger!- is what we yell if someone tries to talk to us and we don't know them. Ms. Rokeya helped us practice and we did a great job. Thanks Ms. Rokeya! We learned how to stay healthy by exercising, eating fruits and vegetables, and drinking a lot of water. Olympic Day was a blast! We played dodge ball and ran relay races. We all earned gold medals and certificates. Helping is also a good way to stay active. We learned what to do to help at home, school, with our friends, and helping others.

In Phonics, we focused on letters A, B, C, and D. We practiced writing them as well as practiced their sound. We also recognized numbers 1-20.

In October we will learn all about Family (how they differ and also how they are similar)

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica



PRIVATE PRE-K

In phonics we continue to learn about vowels and consonants. We are able to identify initial sounds and create compound words, as well as read sight words. In vocabulary we are learning new and exciting words. We are also learning how to listen to stories and poems and pick out our vocabulary words and tell the meaning. In Language arts, we have been learning how to write in our journals and explore fingerplay activities. We have also been introduced to position words; below-above, inside-outside, and front-back. In Science we have been exploring the "how animals grow", which included two very fun activities. The life cycle of a Frog and the life cycle of a Butterfly, The students loved it! Our Social Studies theme this month was "Family & Friends", which was perfect in celebration of Grandparents Day. We had lots of Grandparents join us for breakfast and many stayed, rolled their sleeves up and participated in a fun arts and crafts activity with us. We also learned about the four seasons and how the climate changes during each. Our math focus has been on acting out story problems, creating A-B patterns, recognizing numbers 1-20, and ordinal positions to fourth.

Ms. Pendleton, Ms. Beverly and Ms. Annette



Above: Aidan enjoying a quiet moment with Max, the Sr. Pre-School's puppet.



Above: Our First Grade class learning about safe deposit boxes on their field trip to the Bank.

KINDERGARTEN

In Math, we started working on addition problems. We are learning what the difference between addition and subtraction "taking away". We also learned how to make a number sentence after reading a word problem. We always listen to the clues to help us. We practiced writing our numbers 1-31, how to read a graph, how to finish a pattern, and what "one more" means. The class's favorite part was learning about the terms first, second, third, fourth, and last.

In Phonics, we have spent the month learning the difference between a disgraph and a blend. We learned about what the letters B, C, E, K, M, U and W. We also learned when to use a K or C in a word and weather it is a CK or a K at the end of the word. We also learned about the following rules: th, ng, ing, ed, the long E and when an E is silent. (We will be learning more about the silent E next month.)

In Language Arts, we are learning about compound words and picking out the two words that make up one! We reviewed about sentences and how to tell if it is a complete sentence. We learned about "Naming and Telling Parts" of a sentence. We also learned about putting words in order to make a sentence.

For Science, we spent a lot of time learning about Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians. The class went on a field trip to the zoo to learn a little more about the difference between the three groups. We also discussed the difference between non-living and living things.

In Social Studies we talked about the world we live in, our Earth! We learned the difference between a map and a globe, what our world consists of-water and land, and the different forms of water. Next month we will be talking about Natural Resources.

Mrs. Kemp and Ms. Marie

FIRST GRADE

Mathematical Thinking

We learned that “polygons” are shapes that have “straight lines.” “Triangles, squares, trapezoids, octagons, pentagons, and rectangles are polygons. Circles and ovals are not polygons because their lines are curved.” Also, our class is working diligently in telling and showing time to the half hour, estimating temperature; reading a thermometer to the nearest 10 degrees, counting dimes, pennies, tallying, counting by 5's, and counting by 10's.

Scientific Thinking

We are currently exploring “Motion and Force.” In order for an object to “move we give it force.” A force is a “push, pull, or twisting something.” The objects that we manipulated were “marbles, wooden cars, plastic spools, and golf and tennis balls.” The objects moved fast when a lot of force was applied and it moved slowly when a little force was given. In addition, we dropped a tennis ball and a feather witnessed gravity. “Gravity is when all objects fall towards the center of the earth.” “Outer space does not have gravity . . . you can float!” When an object needs to stop moving an invisible force called friction stops the object.

Social Studies

Our class studied the importance of opening a savings account (at a bank). “When you open an account you are sharing money with other people who need it . . . like if they need to buy a house . . . the money is still yours.” Two students bartered watches. . . “that’s exchanging toys without money.” When a trade is involved you exchange money for goods. “Like when your mom shops at Wal-Mart (for food) and pays for it with cash.” “When producers want to make or grow one good . . . that’s call specialize.” Finally, we discussed the importance of needs and wants with Mr. Rich who gave us a tour of BB & T Bank.

Language Arts

Our first grade class understands that a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with an appropriate punctuation mark (for instance, a period, question mark, or an exclamation point). I have definitely seen awesome improvement in sentence writing (and spacing between words). Next month, we will officially begin learning all about the writing process.

Ms. Washington

Kindergarten ASP

The month of September has come and gone and we have had a lot of fun. We talked about nursery rhymes and short stories, colors, among other things. Last week we made several items that dealt with the nursery rhymes and short stories that we learned. A clock was sent home that we made from the rhyme Hickory Dickory Dock, and on Friday we also discussed the Gingerbread Boy and we decorated gingerbread man cookies and ate them. We do a lot of fun activities and I believe the children really enjoy them and are having a good time and are learning a lot. If you have any suggestions on things that your child is interested in learning about please feel free to let me know so I can incorporate it into my weekly lessons. Looking forward to having a wonderful October!!!

Mr. Michael

ASP

Some of the activities the children have been enjoying are: exercising and stretching at the beginning of each day to get them to expend some energy and loosen up from the school day. We have done a variety of arts and craft projects. We have made a counting book where the students learned to count to ten in Swahili. We have done a Klimt art project where the students cut out different color, size and texture shapes to create a Klimt style portrait. We have also done some jewelry making where the students made necklaces and bracelets to there liking. On the academic side of things I think the students have been doing a pretty good job with their homework and I will continue to help as many of them as I can each day in the allotted time that we have set aside for homework. In addition to that we do grade appropriate spelling contests to give them additional spelling help and incentive to learn. We have math competitions where they have to answer simple math problems in there head without using paper an pencil. We also play fun academic games to review and keep them sharp, like color, shape and number Bingo where sometimes I give them the numbers in Spanish. As the school year progresses we will continue to do fun an enlightening activities to keep your student interested and engaged in what we are doing in the After-School Program. We are creating a fun and educational environment where the students not only have fun but they also continue to learn and grow as people, where they develop their social skills as well as their academic skills. Thank you for allowing me to be an influence in your students future and I wish you continue having a great and prosperous year.

Mr. Kevin

SECOND GRADE

There's a lot of learning going on in 2nd grade! The children are taking the initiative to transfer & apply concepts learned in one subject to other subjects and even in their daily lives! Way to go 2nd grade!!

In math we learned how to round numbers to the nearest tenth, how to identify and draw polygons, octagons, and hexagons. We worked on how to write fractions using the fraction bar, how to make an organized list, regrouping tens and ones, how to write fraction number sentences that equal 1, identifying a dozen and a half a dozen, reading numbers to 1,000, estimating the sum of two digits, estimating, measuring, and drawing line segments using centimeters, adding multiples of ten to a number using mental computation, and ordering 3digit numbers.

In phonics we worked on recognizing and spelling sight words (part 1), the VCCV rule: which tells us that if a vowel has more than one vowel (not next to each other) than it has more than one syllable. It can be divided (with a division line) by coding it with the VCCV pattern and separated into syllables. We also worked on open vowels and vowel digraphs (ei, ie, oo, ay, ee, ai, oa, and ea). A digraph is two letters that come together to make one sound.

In art we learned about the color wheel and how to mix primary colors together to get virtually any other color that they would want to use. We also learned about traditions in dance, tactile textures, and the artist Alma Woodsey Thomas. Alma saw nature in a special way and she used it to make art.

In science we learned about vertebrates (animals with backbones) & invertebrates (animals without backbones). We carried out an experiment using live worms! Worms are invertebrates. We predicted that worms would prefer being in a shaded area. Once our experiment was complete...our prediction was confirmed! In science this month we also learned about animals long ago and how animals become extinct. We now know that one way animals may become extinct is if we change their habitats! We learned about some of the endangered species that are in America and ways that we can protect them from becoming extinct. In addition, we learned about the life cycles of an apple tree and conifers. We reenacted the life cycles of each tree... as an "in class" group assignment. We performed our skit in front of 1st grade.

In social studies we learned about different landforms. We learned that we live on plains and that a valley (land between mountains and hills) has rich soil good for farming. We also learned about natural resources. We know that nonrenewable resources can not be reproduced (oil). Once we use them...they are gone forever! However, renewable resources can be reproduced again (cotton). The only time we can use a flow resource is when it occurs (sun, wind, etc.) We also learned about various things that we can do to conserve our resources. We are now committed to doing our part to help save the earth! We have created a class recycling committee and we are in the process of making recycle bins for our school to start recycling. Please look out for various bins throughout the school and join us in our effort to help conserve our Earth's resources!

In language arts we are working on simple and complete subjects and predicates. We know that subjects tell who or what the sentence is about (noun) and the predicate tells what the subject does (verb). We are working on writing simple and compound sentences, and how to combine sentences. We are also continuing to work on strengthening our writing skills.

In technology we are using email to communicate with our group member when we complete "group assignments" for homework. We are still working on strengthening our typing skills. Every "Technology Tuesday" we log onto our class website: <http://teacherweb.com/GA/WestCobbPrepAcademy/MrsLyla> and complete our technology homework. We use the smart board in every subject to gain instant exposure to imagery that reinforces what we are working on and also to play fun and interactive games centered around concepts learned in class. We used the smart board this month to watch "School House Rock" clips to help us in language arts with subjects and predicates. The smart board makes learning so much fun for us!

In reading we are working on learning strategies that we allow us to develop a deeper comprehension of every piece of literature that we read. This month we began working on connecting what we read in the text to our real life experiences.

Sincerely, *2nd grade Home of the Bucket Fillers*

ETIQUETTE CLASS

2nd and 1st Grade:

You Can Trust Me! We taught the students how important it is to be trusted. When an accident happens, how each of us handles the situation will determine if others will trust us. We reviewed many situations and told a story about trust with a huge assortment of animals.

Kindergarten:

Look at me Shine! Each of us is a shining star! We taught the students that when they look in the mirror they will see a proud and honest person. We acted out what to do when you find a special trinket that you would love to keep but it didn't belong to you.

PreK:

I am Proud of Me! Personal space is very important! The picture shows us using hula hoops to show the students that everyone has an area of personal space and we should respect that space.



November Happenings

11/1- 2nd Grade to GA DOT

11/3- 1. 1/2 Kindergarten to Fernbank

2. PM Pick up- Fall Fundraiser Kick Off: Butter Braid Bread Samples available and order forms

11/4- 1/2 Kindergarten to Fernbank

11/7-11/18- ITBS Testing for Kindergarten and Above

11/8- NO GA Pre-K- however drop ins will be available next door in GA Pre K building

11/15- 1st Grade to GA Tech Paper Museum

11/17- Fall Fundraiser Orders and Money are Due

11/21-11/23- Private School is Closed (however childcare available at no extra cost)

11/24 and 11/25- Whole School Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

GA PRE-K ASP

This month has been amazing for GA Pre-K. We started talking about our families and what makes us different. As Jodi said 'We are to be nice to everyone no matter what they look like'. Then we learned all about me and we really enjoyed showing off our families and our hand flowers. And so now the kids love to show who is who during centers. We really enjoyed talking about the table manners (not to mention our fruit salad party that we prepared). Special thanks to the parents who were able to join us! During our practice, the girls said 'Look Ms. Lyrica. We made a hexagon- it has 6 sides'.

We've also enjoyed our sight words, making our own sentences, and our character word of the week. With the start of Fall- we've been observing the trees changing color outside our window. Ms. Lyrica



Here's what we were learning in Mandarin...

<u>Jr. Pre-School through Pre-K</u>			<u>Kindergarten and Older</u>	
Hello	My name is...		Review of younger classes info	
Good Morning	daddy/mommy		Family Members	elder
Good Bye	Basic Family Members		Music- I love my family	
Numbers 1-20	Storytime	Music/Movement	Put on a play: My family	How old are you
Three Little Pigs Story	The body	Hair Eyes	Directions	Pointing Game
Ears Nose	A Spotty Dog song		Game for Body Parts	

Thank You

- To all of the grandparents who visited us in honor of Grandparents Day.
- To the parents who attended their committee meeting this past month.
- To the moms of Rory, Carter and Hailey for chaperoning our field trip to Zoo Atlanta.
- To Brooke's mom for chaperoning our field trip to BB&T Bank.
- To Ms. Princess for donating additional teaching resources for the private school.
- To all of the parents who have been patiently waiting for a dance class for the girls.