

DECEMBER 2011

West Cobb Times

West Cobb Prep Academy would like to invite all of our families to join us on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:30-11:30 for a special holiday treat. The Private School, for its 4th 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 23rd. The Private School will hold their parties at 2:45 while Toddlers through Sr. Pre-School will hold theirs at 3:00 (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 NEW 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 book exchange will take place during their party time.**

*The Private School will not be holding 'class' from December 26th through January 6th 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 on the Tuesdays (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 loved reading our books about ducks this month! 'A Cuddle for Little Duck' and 'Five Little Ducks' were our favorites! We counted them from 1-5 and listened to the sound of a duck 'quack quack'.

We have a few movers and shakers amongst us and therefore, some will be ready to move onto the Infant 2 room soon.

Ms. Laura

INFANT 2

We have been working on our Language Activities throughout the month (saying/hearing hi and bye, mommy and daddy).

Infants have been moving right along- many of our children are walking and will be soon moving onto the Toddler Class.

We are looking forward to January as our classroom fills up again!

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Porcia

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We used our weather chart at circle time- and since we had more change in the seasons, we were able to use more of the chart.

We learned what a weather reporter does and what type of information he/she gives. We loved our sensory table this month- we had snow, rain, and leaves from outside.

We learned the difference between daytime and nighttime.

We continue to work on our Zoo-Phonics program (M-P)

Ms. Martha and Ms. Lashay

TODDLERS

This month we focused on time, weather and seasons. With the changing of the weather, we were able to take the children on a buggy ride outside to feel the difference between warm and cold. We discussed the types of clothing that should be worn in winter. We created our own suns and sunglasses, umbrella's, pinwheels and snowflakes.

We also created our own weather murals and made our own red strawberry ice cream for the color 'red'. The letter 'm' and 'k' were introduced.

Best of all- we learned all about Thanksgiving!

Ms. Farrah and Ms. Shaneeka

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

We learned about the 4 seasons and the difference in weather patterns, how weather is formed, and learned to identify the differences in temperature. We discussed the difference between night and day routines. The children had fun dressing in pj's in our home living area and acting out what each of them do during their morning and bedtime routines.

We discussed what we are thankful for and how to use our caring and gentle words when playing with friends.

We are continuing the learning of color, shape, number and name recognition as well as improving our potty training skills.

While we have said goodbye to a few of our friends who have moved onto Sr. Pre-School- we look forward to having many of our friends join us from Jr. Pre-school 1 by the end of the month.

Ms. Ericka and Ms. Jill

Thank You

- To all of the parents who helped make this years Butter Braid Bread Fund-raiser so successful. We raised close to \$1700!!!!
- To the Teacher Appreciation Committee for decorating our Staff Bathroom with lots of smelly lotions/soaps, cosmetics, and flowers. We felt so loved!

SR. PRE-SCHOOL

We learned about the sun and how we need it to help things grow. We also need the rain and sang our 'Rain Rain Go Away' song. The wind was our favorite discussion day because we saw how powerful it could be. It blew our hair, clothes and a cotton ball. We used the puppets to report funny weather reports and learned a cool song. We also discussed the type of clothes you should wear for each season. Max dressed up for each season and remembered to wear his special clothes each day. In the Spring, we used an umbrella to hide Max because it is our rainy season. In Autumn, we checked the temperature because it gets cold in the evening and in the morning. And in the summer, we wanted to head to the beach- but because it was cold out, we built sandcastles in our sensory table.

Did you know that in the daytime the clouds are always moving? We watched them from our windows. They can take the shape of different objects. We used a straw to blow our clouds and watch them move!

We are learning how to tell time, too! We know the long hand is the minute hand and the short hand is the hour hand. We had fun reciting 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and counting to 12. We can even recognize the numbers.

Learning about nighttime was a blast! Only certain animals come out at night and they sleep during the day. We learned about moons and how they have different shapes (whole, crescent, and half). We talked about bedroom routines and home. We also learned about 'first, next and last'.

In Phonics we wrote letters I, J, K and L. We know their sounds and which one is a vowel.

In Writing, we have mastered our first names and have moved onto our last name. Amazing!

In math, we completed numbers 1-10.
Thank you parents for continuing to work with your children at home!

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Private Pre-K After School activities for the month of November focused on the "Harvest Season." The emphasis began with "Life on the Farm" during week one and concluded with the connection between foods that farmers grow and foods served for Thanksgiving during week four.

The first week provided opportunities to construct an animal barn booklet and to hear the classic story, The Little Red Hen.

During week two, pre-k children cut out Fall objects (acorns, leaves, pumpkins, etc.) to paste for a one-to-one correspondence math activity.

During week three, children used Q-tips and paints to make a corn cut-out look like Indian corn and week four's primary activity was a "cornucopia" craft with fruit cut-outs pasted onto a "horn of plenty" to reflect "harvest abundance" leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday!

Ms. Annette

January Happenings

Monday, 1/9- 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, 1/12-

1. Private School has etiquette class.
2. 1st Grade has a field trip to the King Center.

Monday, 1/16- Center is Closed

Tuesday, 1/24- 2nd Grade has a field trip to the Cyclorama.

Thursday and Friday 1/26 and 1/27- Pre-K will have their second field trip of the year to Cobb Art Museum.

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

We ask for your help...

West Cobb is holding its staff Holiday Party on the evening of Friday, December 16th. 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



Happy Birthday!

Ms. Farrah (Tod)	12/4
Steven Paul (ASP)	12/5
Teagan (Jr. 2)	12/9
Deanna (2nd)	12/10
Nyasha (Sr. P)	12/10
Catherine (Jr. 1)	12/16
Austin (K2)	12/19
Myles (1st)	12/21
Ms. Jill (Jr. 2)	12/22
Parker (Jr. 1)	12/29

Happy Birthday to all!

KINDERGARTEN

In Math, we reviewed our addition and subtraction problems. We have been working on writing our numbers 1 to 100. We reviewed counting by 2s and 10s. Next month we will learn how to count by 5s! We learned about symmetry lines, and how to divide items in half. We can also write the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$! We are still continuing to read word problems (which we are doing great at reading all by ourselves) and writing number sentences. We learned about the term “pairs” and that in every pair there are two! We have been learning to tell times to the hour, and in the next few weeks we will be learning how to tell time to the half an hour. We are continuing to count money using dimes and pennies. Feel free to quiz us at home!

In Reading Groups, we have started working on literature packets. The packets consist of writing about our favorite part of the book, what we liked or didn't like about the book, the difference between the illustrator and the author, knowing the title, how many pages are in the book, and being able to answer questions about the book. We are using the literature packets as a different form of reading comprehension for our Level Reader Program. We are continuing to review our sight words and practice using them in paragraphs when we read.

In Phonics, we learned a lot of new rules! We learned about the sounds CLE, ZLE, SLE, and the KLE. We learned that they are used at the end of a word and never the beginning. WE learned about using Y as a vowel. We learned that the Y can be a little tricky and have a long E or I sound at the end of the word. We also learned about using the combination letters AY, ER, CH, LY, LESS, NESS, IGH, and AI. We learned how to decode the words and how to spell even more words. All of these rules are also making us much better readers!

In Language Arts, we finished up our unit on Nouns. We learned about animals and things, collective nouns, and using one and more than one. We are able to pick out nouns now in a sentence. We started the new unit on Verbs. We learned about present-tense verbs, adding s, exact verbs, using am, is, and are in a sentences. We recently started learning about different kinds of words that tell where, and how to find the past tense verbs in a sentence. We reviewed words that are opposites. We were all able to give a different example of two things that are opposite from each other. With the leaves changing we listened to different poems about leaves falling and changing colors. We were able to explore the lower playground and find our own leaves to write about. Our favorite part of Language Arts this month was presenting our mobile projects to the class! We did a great job writing complete sentences and following the topic of our projects.

In Art, we have been working on textures that we can touch and see, making “stain glass”, making patterns out of articles of clothing, and how to look at our own clothes and find the patterns. We have also been working on our props for the holiday program.

-Mrs. Kemp and Ms. Monica

First Grade

This month was filled with an abundance of “hands-on” learning!

In Mathematics our we used our colorful rulers to draw a number line and line segments to the nearest inch, locate points on a number line (0-10), create polygons on a geo-board; Identify angles of a polygon, adding three or more single-digit numbers, and drawing pictures to solve a problem. Our math voyage ended in learning how to add double digit numbers.

Our writing skills in Language Arts are alive and thriving! We are working diligently in identifying the parts of a “thank you” note. It’s important to write a thank you note when “people are nice to you” or “when someone helps you.” The parts of a thank you note are: “heading, body, closing, and the signature.” This month we practiced writing thank you notes to our parents. “Miss Washington says it’s very important to write a thank you note very neat. . . you can’t have a lot of mistakes or eraser marks.”

In Social Studies, we are learning the importance of being a citizen. “A citizen belongs state, family, and the United States of America.” Being a citizen is important because “you help people.” “You help your mom and dad mops the floor and washes the dishes.” Also, “you can give people money and food.” In addition, being a good citizen in the classroom is important. “A good citizen in the classroom listens and raises their hands to speak.” Most importantly, “be kind to friends and the teacher.”

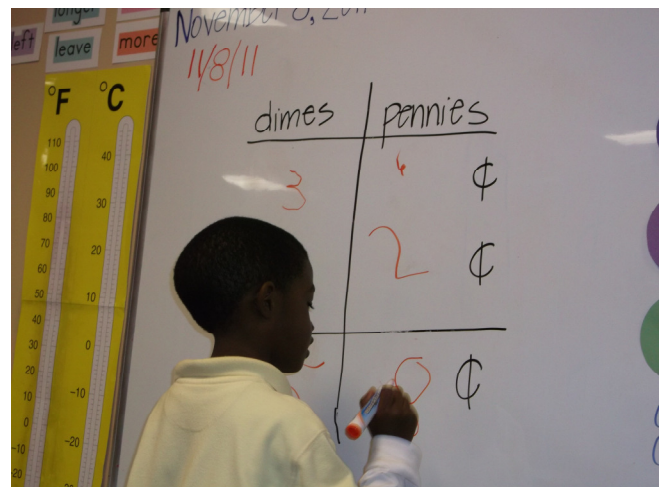
In Science, we explored the wonderful world of “magnets.” A magnet “is something that sticks to something metal.” It is made of “iron.” A magnet has two poles. “The names of poles are north and south.” Opposite poles “stick together” and “the same poles push away.” Also, we used a giant horseshoe magnet to find out which items in our classroom are magnetic and nonmagnetic. The items (in our classroom) that are magnetic are “the big white board,”

“Mrs. Bryan’s doorknob,” “our triangle manipulatives,” “the legs of Miss Washington’s chair,” and the “rings inside our binders.” Nonmagnetic items are “wooden chairs,” “the window,” “a closet,” “and an animal.”

We visited the Paper Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. Our class learned how to make paper (using special water, cotton fibers, and an iron), observe how a water wheel works, and we watched a T.V. show about paper. Lastly, we learned that the Chinese invented paper.



Cameron Taylor is creating paper.
Myles adds double digit numbers.



Second Grade

In math we worked making shapes from the given perimeter, addition algorithm, drawing and measuring lines to the nearest inch, locating and naming parts on a line segment, drawing pictures and writing number sentences for equal group stories, identifying and drawing line of symmetry, writing division problems in three ways dividing by 10, 7, and 1, and identifying quotients.

Our very first Kids' Café was a huge success! The students measured & mixed the appropriate amounts of the ingredients needed to make plain and chocolate chip pancakes. The waiters and waitresses took orders and served the customers breakfast. The cashiers tallied up the customers order, took payments and gave the appropriate changes for all orders. This hands on lesson reinforced previously taught concepts such as: fractions, adding money, regrouping, and reading a chart.

In phonics we worked on identifying and coding suffixes. A suffix is a letter or group of letters added at the end of a word to alter the meaning of the word. We also worked on distinguishing diphthongs from digraphs. A diphthong is when two vowel sounds come together so fast that they are considered one syllable. The diphthongs we worked on this month are oi, oy, ou, and ow.

In our art lesson we worked on putting the elements we've learned thus far into various art projects. The class' favorite project was making family scenes. We created foregrounds in our pictures by drawing large objects. We created backgrounds by drawing images a lot smaller. We create depth in our pictures when we follow this pattern.

In language arts we are worked on identifying nouns in the subjects and verbs in the predicates of sentences. We learned how to distinguish between two types of verbs...action verbs and the various forms of the verb "be". In writing we learned how to write "how to" essays.

In technology Mrs. Bryan has an avatar that helps introduce and teach various lessons. Each student in the class will create their very own avatar to use to communicate with via email. Each student will also enter the Voki classroom to complete assignments that are posted.

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



PRIVATE SCHOOL
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
12/19-12/22 (M-TH)

Please be sure to sign up for a conference if your child is in our private program. They are scheduled for 12:30-2:30 Monday through Thursday. The lists will 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.

ETIQUETTE CLASS

This month began our series on Table Manners for all grades. At the end of class, each group completed a napkin folding project to take home.

Pre K learned how to set the basic table: plate, fork, spoon, drink and napkin. We taught them how to hold their spoon correctly. (see picture) We reviewed many rules regarding what to do before you go to the table!

Kindergarten:

In addition to being able to set the table, these students now hold their spoon or fork properly. They know many delightful manners to use at the table that will make their parents proud!

Grade 1 and 2:

We reviewed table setting and taught the proper way to hold a knife and fork when cutting food on your plate. We developed a wonderful "Menu of Manners" for the table through a question and answer game.



**BUTTER BRAID BREAD ORDERS ARRIVE
FOR PICK UP ON 12/1- 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 Holman Family for being the top seller!

They won \$150 off in tuition! Way to go!

Thank you to all who participated (donated). We raised close to \$1700!

THE CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY THE 26TH AND MONDAY THE 2ND IN OBSERVANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.

ALL OTHER DAYS WE WILL BE OPEN
REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

The Kindergarten classes and Second Grade have very special field trips planned for December. The Kindergarten classes have tickets to see 'A Christmas Carol' presented at the Alliance Theater (K1 on 12/13 and K2 on 12/14). The second grade class has tickets to the Fox Theatre to see 'The Nutcracker' on 12/9.

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.

We are asking all parents to have their child dressed in their 'Sunday Best' for their field trips. (The first grade has their 'special trip' in February).