

FEBRUARY 2010

West Cobb Times

Here's the scoop of the Happenings at West Cobb In February

The month of February is going to be a busy one at West Cobb. We have field trips, a Spirit Night, a Music Night, a History Program, GA Pre-K registration begins next door, an Open House for those deciding whether to choose GA or Private Pre-K, Valentine's Celebrations, and my vacation. Even with all of that, the first part of the month the management team will be in a planning phase. We will be researching, planning, and making decisions on the classroom structure, school calendar, and fee schedule for the 2010-2011 school term. During the second part of the month, it will be my job to communicate with parents about all decisions made.

I'd like to highlight two of the major events that are happening at West Cobb this month:

1. Our Private Program (Pre-K through 2nd Grade) is holding its 2nd annual History Program on Saturday 2/27 from 9:30-11:15 at Olive Springs Baptist Church. All of the students from each of the five classes will participate in studying, memorizing facts, and either acting out a skit or singing a song to showcase what they have learned. Not only do we invite the parents of the children who are participating, but also all families at West Cobb. It will be a treat for all! There will be plenty of adult seating and loads of parking. Cameras and videos are welcome! Please be sure to look out for special instructions from your child's teacher concerning attire for the program. Due to the individuality of this program, if your child is unable to attend, please notify your child's teacher immediately. Besides having our children study various influential people in American History, another reason why we have these types of programs is to expose our children to getting up in front of crowds of people and speaking up, being proud, and having confidence.
2. The Education Committee is sponsoring a Music Night for the children at West Cobb. Although we currently do not have a music program for this school term (I'm working on it again for next year), we all realize the importance of music in the education system. We have various types of musicians (mostly those that dabble into playing) who will demo their choice of instrument and allow the children to not only hear what sound it makes, but will be able to have a hands on experience with the instrument. At the end of the hour long program, we have a special activity in which not only will the children love, but parents as well. Since our program officially is from 7-8pm. we are offering the sale of Chick Fil A meals for both children and adults beginning at 6:30p.m. As a result of our Education Committee, we are having our first e-vite being sent to families from West Cobb which will not only allow you to RSVP to the event, but it will allow you to place your dinner order which may be paid on the night of the event. When is the Music Night? Thursday, February 18th!

I hope to see everyone at these two events- it's what makes West Cobb stand out from other programs around.

We would love your support-

Ms. Marla

TODDLERS

We continued to work on our language and cognitive skills. Several of the students know the words of the books we use in our Literacy Program and they can identify the animal flashcards!

The children had fun learning a new fingerplay that helped them to identify different body parts for our theme of Our Body.

Ms. Arkeyshaw, Ms. Marlena &
Ms. Princess

INFANT 2

One of the activities that has been a big hit is 'Follow the Leader'. The children imitate different animal sounds that either we have on a recording or we, as teachers, create for our students. This enhances our children's language skills. We are continuing to focus on our sign language skills (milk, eat and more). This past month we have said good-bye to a few of our friends who have moved up to the toddler room and we are getting to know new friends who have just joined our class.

Ms. Laura and Mrs. Louisitha

SR. PRE-SCHOOL

Our focus last month was learning about Living Things. We discovered all living things need food, water, and air. First we learned how people grow and change because they are living beings, but tables, trophies, chairs and doors do not change or grow because they are non-living things.

Next we explored animals. We discussed animals that live on land, in the air, and in the water. Animals also move differently. We pretended to slither like snakes, hop like rabbits, and fly like the great owl. We matched babies to their moms and were taught what each baby is called. Singing songs helped us remember their names!

We then focused on plants and even had a real live plant in our classroom that we could explore, touch and see. Plants grow and need light from the sun. We played in soil to see how it would feel. We learned about the different parts of a plant; the stem, roots, leaves and bud/flower/petals.

Lastly we learned about insects. Some can fly, others hop, and some can crawl. There are even some that can do all three! We learned the parts of an insect (antennae, abdomen, thorax and wings). As we discussed the various homes of insects, we made an anthill out of playdough.

This month we will discover the world around us (What is in the world and what we find exploring it). We will also learn to say I love you in different languages in honor of Valentine's Day.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

JR PRE-SCHOOL 1

We focused on our Five Senses last month and included such activities as taste test of various fruits and listening to different types of music. We would especially like to thank our French and Spanish teachers for helping us learn more about our theme. In addition, we learned more about our bodies by playing I Spy Games and exercising various body parts.

Our children have especially enjoyed using the indoor playroom next door as it's been too chilly to play outside.

Mrs. Vee

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 2

For our theme of Five Senses, we explored smelling different scents, touching all types of textures, listening to silly music, looking at interesting things, and our favorite activity of Tasting! The children brought in a collage of their favorite sense and the best ways to use their sense. We learned so much about each child. Thanks so much for sharing with us.

During 'All About Me', we enjoyed talking about our family and our favorite things to do. The children brought in pictures of themselves doing something they enjoy. They were fabulous! We focused on the letters G, H, I and J. Everyone has been doing a great job of tracing letters and we will continue to work with using scissors to increase our fine motor skills.

Ms. Tameka and Mrs. Martha



Pre-K 1 100th day of school celebration!

PRIVATE PRE-K 1

The All Stars brought in January with celebrating the 100th day of school. Each student brought in special projects from home that showed their understanding of the number 100. In math we also began adding numbers and identifying numbers 0 to 20.

In Language Arts, the students especially enjoyed the literature based unit on "The Very Hungry Caterpillar!" In phonics, we studied the letters U, Z, C, and E. We also discussed consonant blends and learned more sight words..

In Social Studies we learned about historical landmarks in America and celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday by making a special book about his life.

In February, we will learn about American Athletes in history for our history program that will be held. In science, we created a poster illustrating our understanding about living and non-living things. In addition we discussed the season: winter.

In February, we will learn about having healthy teeth! In phonics, we will study the letters Y, D, and "V for Valentine!" In math we will continue working on our addition fact, abc patterns, and measuring.

Mrs. Lindsey

Private Pre-K 2

In Private Pre-K 2 our character word of the month was Citizenship. We learned how to be good citizens by knowing and caring about our community. In phonics, we focused on short vowel word families and beginning, middle and end sounds. In math we focused on counting to 100 by ones and tens and adding using dot cubes. We celebrated the 100th day of school!

Ms. Kelly

Happy Birthday!



Ethan (Jr2) 2/8
 Ms. Marlena (T) 2/9
 Max (AS) 2/12
 Owen (Jr2) 2/14
 Alexandria (SrP) 2/15
 Vivian (SrP) 2/16
 Ms. LaTia (ASPK) 2/16
 Madison (Jr2) 2/22
 Natalia (SrP) 2/24
 Darrick (Jr2) 2/26
 Dante (PK2) 2/26
 Vincent (SrP) 2/28

Happy Birthday to all!

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Don't forget- we were originally scheduled to be closed, however, we have decided the teacher work day is not needed and therefore we will remain open for business.

(GA Pre-K will remain closed)



Private Pre-K 2 100th day of school Celebration!

FIRST AND SECOND GRADES

In Phonics we focused on compound words, digraph & diphthong review, suffixes (ful, ness, est, er), final stable syllables (cle, tle, sle, zle, ble, gle, fle & ple) vowel y, trigraph igh, and combination er.

In Language Arts: Verbs- past, present and future tense, Nouns- proper nouns and pronouns, Abbreviation of Titles and Describing Words

Social Studies: Flat Stanley was mailed off! Thanks to all of the parents for providing the addresses for his destinations.

Math: counting and adding money, measuring to the nearest inch, dates with digits, Venn Diagram, Bar Graphs, Regrouping and place values.

Science: Our subject was soil. What it is? What is in it? Why do we need it? What can we do with it?

On our field trip to the King Center, Christine King Farris, read her book 'My Brother Martin' to the children. We sang happy birthday to Dr. Martin Luther King and ate birthday cake in his honor. MLK would have been 81 years old this year. Mrs. Farris gave our class an autographed copy of her book for the class library!

Mrs. Lyla



Etiquette Class:

Our topic was **"Making Conversation"Ask a Question and Be Nice.**

It all starts with a question! The children sat in a circle and had to think of a question to ask a friend. One student would ask a question then roll the ball to another student. The person with the ball would answer the question and then think of a new question for the next person, etc. The children were very entertaining with their questions! (With the older grades we expanded on the question and answer to keep the "conversation ball" going!)

KINDERGARTEN

We began incorporating naming words (nouns), action words (verbs) and describing words (adjectives) in our language arts program.

In math, we introduced measurement with standard and non-standard units, and continued reinforcing concepts of counting similar coins. We created story problems to facilitate processing the concept of subtraction. Horizontal and vertical addition problems were also a part of our curriculum this month.

In science, the students were intrigued by the concept of motion. We discussed the force of gravity and how applying force affects the motion of objects. The students participated in experiments to discover how mass affects gravity and how force can determine speed and pressure.

We capped the month of January with a field trip to the Dunwoody Nature Center where we learned about the 5 senses and how it relates to animals in their natural habitat. The students were able to touch a bearded dragon and discuss how they used their senses in nature.

Mrs. Ranasinghe and Mrs. Dollar

SPANISH

Letters/Letras: n, n~

Color: Rosa/Pink

Figure/Figura: Corazo'n/ Heart

Relation/Relacio'n: Limpio, Sucio/
Clean, Dirty

Math/Matema'ticas: 15, 20 or more

Song: Cabeza, hombros y pies (head, knees
& toes)

The children will also make something in
Spanish class for Valentines Day.

FRENCH

Letters: MNO

Math: 11-15 (20-25 for older children)

Color: Rose/pink

Shape: Coeur/heart

French Tradition: Chandeleur/Crepe party

Theme: Les animaux/animals

Song: Ainsi font, font, font les petites
marionnettes (Here come the puppets)

Book: Pilaf la girafe / Pilaf the giraffe

DID YOU KNOW?

~While we finally have a website up and running- it's not our final version. The new one will have a photo gallery of West Cobb events, a parent log-in where you will be able to view Monday Memo's, and a place to download the newsletter/menu/calendar. It should be available in March.

~You can have your tuition payment automatically debited from either your checking or savings account and even your credit card each week? Inquire at the front desk.

~Our referral program is working out well for parents. If you refer a family to West Cobb and they stay enrolled in our program for 60, you will receive a \$100 credit in your account. More than 10 families have taken advantage of this program in 2009 alone!

~Our parking lot is running so much smoother now that 99% of our families are following the 'No Parking in the Left Lane' rule. Way to go!

~We will be having our semi-annual Tornado Drill sometime this month. I'm sure your child will tell you all about it- we use a Boat Horn to signal the drill.

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

3/1: First/Second Grade Class has a field trip to the Dunwoody Nature Center.

3/4: West Cobb is holding Spring Pictures. Will need some parent volunteers to help comb hair and clean faces. We have a different company photographing our students this spring- so I will be sure to ask you for feedback!

AND...

Primary School Open House from 6-7p.m. This is your time to learn more about our Kindergarten, First, Second and Third Grade Programs.

3/26: We will be sponsoring a Trike-a-thon to raise funds for St. Jude's Research Hospital.

3/30: Kindergarten 1 will return to the Dunwoody Nature Center to learn about Tree Cycles.

AND....

The annual registration fee is due for Infants through Sr. Pre-School children. \$100 per child (siblings receive a \$25 discount)

OPEN HOUSE TO LEARN ABOUT THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
GA AND PRIVATE PRE-K!!!

Please look for the letter in your child's
cubby in your child is eligible for either
program!

Open House

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

6-7pm

Childcare is Available

We will cover the following topics:
Tuition Rates, Curriculum & Philosophical
Differences, class sizes, teacher
credentials & program similarities.

*If you are unable to attend the meet-
ing, please see me on Friday 2/26!*

A photo of a few of our girls in the Envision Dance Enrichment class!



~Michael's mom for helping during reading group each
week in PK 1.

~Darrick's mom (Jr1) and Carson's mom (K1) from the
Education Committee for helping to make our Music
Night such a success.

~Ms. Michelle, of Envision Dance, for putting on such a
great Winter Recital.

~The Parent Advisory Committee for their feedback
every six weeks. You are really shaping the school!

~Diane's mom (K2), Deanna's mom (K1) and Shawn
David's dad (Sr.P) for selling Chicken Biscuits to our
parents each Wednesday. We sure appreciate it!

K2 students discover how opossums
identify their babies by scent.



VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. Sign Up Lists are posted outside each classroom door.
2. Please bring in a shoe box for your child to decorate for his/her Valentine mail-
box.
3. A Class Roster of first names only is in your child's cubby.
4. Please have someone from your family (your child if old enough) write the first
name of each child on an envelope. Please be sure to include a Valentine for
every child.
5. Please have your child dress in red or pink.
6. Reminder- store-bought only items, please.
7. We had so much left-over treats from the Christmas party that we are
asking for less items this time around.

