

September 2010

West Cobb Times

We are so excited now that our school year has begun. Our teachers and children are getting settled into the school routine and we are carrying out our program as our vision is coming to fruition. We have been busy tweaking our classrooms schedules to make it work for all, assessing children, and following the routine and curriculum that the school has set. Although we will continue to assess the program and make any necessary changes throughout the school year, we are now carrying out all of the plans we made throughout the summer. Our news room will begin to be used this month, our field trips have begun last month and our Pre-K classes will attend their first at the end of the month. Next month all families will receive a bi-annual parent survey to give us feedback on your perceptions of the school term.

But in September, we would like our parent committees to meet and begin planning the activities for the school year. On the calendar, I have placed a Fundraising, Education and Parent Advisory Committee meeting (from 6-7pm) so please note them on your calendar. The Teacher Appreciation Committee will be receiving an e-mail for open discussions on planning the year while the Parent Expertise Committee will be contacted in the upcoming months to schedule you in to show your talent/hobby/profession to our students.

Many of our teachers will ask for parent volunteers to visit the classrooms throughout the year (ie. to read a story, to share a lunch, or to talk about family traditions). We hope you take advantage of this opportunity as all children feel a sense of pride when a family member visits them in front of all of their friends. Please be mindful that this would be a scheduled visit between you and your child's teacher and parents would stay for an 'activity'.

I will be sharing West Cobb policy reminders in upcoming Monday Memos so be sure to read yours each week. As always, my door is open for concerns or compliments.

Ms. Marla

GRANDPARENTS DAY
Friday, September 10th

We are calling all grandparents to join us for a morning activity (am snack and circle time for Infants through Sr. Pre-School) and for those in the Private School- please check with your child's teacher to see the specific time and which activity they will be there for.

Our parking lot will be full, so we are asking those who are able to park in the Food Depot parking lot (all of our staff will be parking there for the morning- to free up spaces for grandparents)

Please let them know they are invited!

September is Children's Good Manners Month and it is the 9th Anniversary of 9/11.

We will study Community Workers theme this month. Children will learn all about the people in our community who help us. We will even have a special visitor one day!

I ask that you help us carry out this theme by reiterating the importance of these workers in our community.

Ms. Janira

INFANT 1

We said goodbye to a few of our babies and hello to a few new ones. We've been working hard on our gross motor activities such as rolling over and playing peek-a-boo.

We've been getting used to each child's schedule and manipulating them ever so slightly so that none of our children are crying to be fed at the same time.

I'd like to thank all of the parents for keeping the Feeding Plans current and communicating with me everyday.

Ms. Andrea & Mrs. Louisitha

TODDLERS

Because we had several new friends join our class, we have been working on learning classroom names. One way the children learn this is through our good morning song.

During our theme of Back to School, we focused on classroom rules (using walking feet and soft hands with our friends). During the week of My Family, we helped the children identify and try to say the names of family members. We introduce the book 'Courteous Rusty and Rita Play Together'. It teaches nice words to use with friends when playing together.

The letters we focused on were A and B and our colors for the month were red and blue.

Ms. Arkeyshaw and Ms. Kelly

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

The phonics program that is introduced in our class is designed to help students read, spell and write. Every letter has an animal drawn in the shape of a letter.

Every letter has a gesture that relates to what the animal does. In August, we worked on Allie Alligator, Bubba Bear, Catina Cat and Deedee Deer.

We also introduced some new file folder games in which we match letters and colors and trace letters. In September, we will begin spelling our first names and will be sending home special phonics books for our children to keep at home.

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

INFANT 2

We enjoyed our fingerplays, rhymes, books, songs, and toys this past month. Most especially, everyone seemed to love the finger painting! Our individualized lesson plans included the following activities: Clap, Clap, Clap your Hand, Gelatin Blocks, Water Play and 'Who's there, Fuzzy Bear?'

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

Back to school was a great theme! We introduced the first letter in the alphabet. We learned the sound it makes and named words that began with the letter A.

We had fun exploring our senses with Oatmeal! During Me and My Family every child made their own family collage. We really enjoyed talking about each one and looking at the pictures.

This month we practice saying 'Thank you' in sign language.

Because our foreign language program began this month, we've learned new songs in two different languages!

Mrs. Martha

SR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We have had a great time getting to know each other this past month. We've learned that going to a new school can be scary at times but everyone needs to learn and have fun. We have read many books in class including 'Time for School', 'Who am I?', 'The Nightingale' and 'We have Five Senses'. All of these books teach us lessons so we not only enjoy the story, but our discussion afterward as well.

We have learned new rhymes and cool fables. We have begun to recognize beginning sounds in our names as well as in words that are the same and different.

In Math, we discovered shapes and that they are able to come in different sizes. We have learned big and little- they are opposites! In September, we will learn about respect (respect for our health, safety and of others). We will learn about exercise, healthy foods, and safety around containers and medicine.

We continue to enjoy both French and Spanish and are learning new words each week.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Pre-K 1

On our first day of school, we created four important classroom rules. They are:

1. Respect other- including friends and teachers (aka Do the right thing)
2. Walk inside (aka Run Outside)
3. Raise your hand quietly to speak
4. Inside voices only (aka Don't scream in the class)

We added 12 crickets to our science area! This will enable us to explore our scientific reasoning while the teacher asks us open-ended questions. We love the fact that there is no right or wrong answer! We have also observed the crickets and learned how it moves, jumps and crawls.

In our Vocabulary lessons we have learned many new words. We learned how to listen for vocabulary words in stories and poems and to answer open-ended questions.

Our Art lessons have revolved around the theme 'lines'. We created our own sketchbooks and we finger-painted.

In continuing to build our independent skills, we have been serving our own food at lunch time. This is a first for us so we are still working on our fine motor skills to manipulate the spoon and put just the right amount of food on our plates.

Ms. Washington



Our fine motor skills and independent skills at work.



PRE-K 2

This month has been exciting as we have spent the last few weeks getting to know one another. We have established classroom rules and routines.

In Phonics, we learned that there are 26 letters in the alphabet and that there are two kinds of letters (vowels and consonants). We have studied the letters L, O, G and H and are beginning to blend sounds together.

Our math lessons this month have taught us how to identify the day of the week, month, date and year. We have learned the numbers 1-10, patterning, how to count to 10 using one-to-one correspondence, how to identify most and few on a graph and have learned positional words.

In Language Arts we have been identifying things that are the same and different, learned the poem 'Where is Thumbkin' and have learned the concept of top, middle and bottom.

The highlight of our Social Studies lessons this month has been learning the Pledge of Allegiance and how to salute and hold the flag properly. We also has a Social Studies assignment which is pictured above.

Ms. Dane

Private School Field Trips

Our Private Pre-K attends 3 field trips per year, the Kindergarten class averages 1 field trip every six weeks, and the First/Second Grade attends a field trip every month. Because they were pre-paid for and we have limited number of spaces on our bus, any parent chaperones would be responsible for their own transportation and entrance fees.

However, we would love to have chaperones who would also be able to take photos (and then e-mail them back to me so they can be included in the newsletter). If you are wanting to chaperone, please coordinate with your child's teacher.

KINDERGARTEN

Every morning we start with math in which we review our months, days of the week, and the year. We have made number towers from top to bottom, wrote and recognized the numbers 1-13, identified right and left, smallest/largest, read a bar graph, and used the terms few, inside/outside, angles and slides.

In Phonics, we reviewed upper and lower case letters and the S Suffix and blends. We also had our first assessment and the students did quite well.

In Language Arts, we talked about what a sentence is, identified sentences, recognized the capital letters that start the beginning of sentences, as well as what ends the sentence. We learned what the naming part and the telling part of a sentence is and put our sight words into basic sentences.

We started our new reading program in which one group is reading stories while the other two groups are reviewing sight words and basic letter sounds.

In Social Studies, we discussed community helpers, about our earth, people everywhere, families and our friends. The class's most favorite activity was making a family and friend collage to hang up in our classroom.

Mrs. Kemp



Happy Birthday!

Carson (1st/2nd)	9/3
Lauren (PK1)	9/4
Timothy (PK1)	9/7
Landon (K)	9/8
Shawn David (PK2)	9/8
Ms. Kelly (Tod)	9/9
Giancarlo (PK1)	9/11
Ms. Victoria	9/12
Lauren (1st/2nd)	9/14
Jordan (K)	9/14
Ms. Erica (Sr. P)	9/18
Ms. Laura (I2)	9/20
Sydney (1st/2nd)	9/20
Paige (1st/2nd)	9/20
Brian (PK1)	9/23
Jodi (PK2)	9/24
Maxwell (Jr2)	9/25
Shiloh (Tod)	9/26
Christine (PK1)	9/29

Happy Birthday to all!!

FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

While the 1st/2nd Grade is beginning to focus on money in Mathematics, they will be heading to BB&T Bank to learn about saving money, counting money, and guessing how much money is at that location. Should be interesting.

Kindergarten will head to the Dunwoody Nature Center to delve into their science curriculum with a lesson on parts of the plant. Please dress your child in appropriate shoes as they will be walking around in nature.

The Pre-K classes will head out on their first field trip at the end of the month to visit the Botanical Garden. They will be learning more about science with a workshop on Roots, Fruits and Seeds.

Thank You

To Kensley's family for the donation of toys and books.

To the anonymous donation of Home Depot Stationary.

To all of the families who attended the Curriculum Night. Everyone learned so much about our program!

To all of our parents who signed up to be on a committee this year.

To Landon's mom for joining their class on the trip to the CNN Center.

DON'T FORGET:

We are closed on Monday the 6th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

October Happenings

*10/1- Pre-K 2 goes to the Atlanta Botanical Garden

10/5 and 10/6- Artistic Photos by Aaron Dill are back by popular demand. (More information and examples of his work will be available in the October Newsletter.

10/7- First/Second Grade to Dunwoody Nature Center (if we don't have a second bus by then we will coordinate this trip to be split in half just like our other trips have been)

10/14- Etiquette Class for the Private School. And Spirit Night at Chick Fil A from 5-8pm.

10/25-10/29- Scholastic Book Fair in the building next door. More information will be forthcoming.

10/29- Dress Up as your Favorite Storybook Character

Parent Tips

Imitating Adult Activities

While you cook, give your child modeling clay, cookie cutters, rolling pins and dull silverware. When you do chores, give your child something to hammer, cut, dig in, rake or sweep with, or dust. Let your child 'work' alongside you.

Have children's books available when you sit down with the morning newspaper so your child can 'read' at the same time.

For children old enough to pretend, fill boxes with props. Put a picture on the outside of the box so children can see who they'll be.

*For a gas station, put in a few toy cars, an empty oil can, old rag, old piece of rubber hose or tubing, and a shoe box painted to look like a gas pump.

*For a person cooking, put in an apron, spatula or slotted spoon, some empty food boxes, mixing bowls and a pan.

*For a restaurant worker, put in napkins, plastic plates, a pad/pencil, straws, a placemat, and a cup.

FIRST/SECOND GRADE

We would like to start off by saying that we are proud of our large "classroom family" of bucket fillers. Since the beginning of school (as a class) we have put systems into place and have established expectations, and routines that have made our classroom a secure, comfortable, fun, and stimulating environment to come to and learn each day!

We started the year off in math mastering our number chart. We also use the chart to count the days that we are in school. We are going to celebrate the 100th day of school. Concepts that we learned in math also include acting out some & some went away stories as well as some & some more stories, telling time (hour ago & an hour from now), even and odd numbers, ordinal numbers to the twelfth, angles, graphing, and identifying line segments.

In Phonics we are getting into the swing of masters rules that will enable us to become better readers and spellers. Rules that we have mastered so far include the "VC" rule which tells us if a word has consonant following the vowel - the vowel makes the short sound, the "V" rule which tells us that if a word doesn't have a consonant following the vowel - the vowel makes the long sound, and the "K and C Spelling Rule" which tells us that if we have a word with the /k/ sound in it, we use the letter k when spelling the word if the /k/ sound is followed by an i, e, or y and we use the letter c to spell the word if the /k/ sound is followed by an a, o, u, or any consonant. For example calendar begins with a **c** because the /k/ sound is followed by an **a** and the word kite begins with a k because the /k/ sound is followed by an **i**.

In Language Arts we are learning about sentence structure and rules on writing paragraphs. We started our Social Studies unit off by discussing various groups and what groups consist of. We made family collages to show off the most precious "group" that we are a part of. In science we started off our unit with comparing and contrasting the attributes of living and nonliving. We are also learned the definitions of new scientific terms that we use throughout the entire year - words such as predict, hypotheses, and data.

Note: The concept of the bucket filler management system is that everyone living thing in the world has an invisible bucket. The purpose of this bucket is to only hold our good feeling and thoughts. We need each other to fill our bucket. When we do something or say something courteous to someone - we are filling their bucket and when they do or say something courteous to us - they are filling our bucket. On the other hand a bucket dipper is someone who says or does something mean to someone. By hurting someone's feelings a bucket dippers dips into that person's bucket and empties their good feelings. Our class is proud to be full of Bucket Fillers!!

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia

FRENCH

Jr & Sr. Pre-School:
 Numbers 1-5
 Color: Red/Rouge
 Shape: Circle/Rond
 Relationship: Hot/Cold/
 Chaud/froid
 Story: 'De toutes les couleurs' All Col-
 ors
 Song: Clap, clap your hands 'Tapent,
 Tapent petites mains

Pre-K and Kindergarten:
 Review numbers 1-10, Alphabet A-E,
 Circle, and Red.
 Family/La famille
 Story and song same as Jr. and Sr.
 Preschool

1st/2nd grade:
 Review numbers 1-20, Alphabet A-Z,
 Days of the Week
 Curriculum: Time and Monnaie (\$)
 Same song as above

SPANISH

Letters/Letras: D, E, F
 Color: Blue/Azul
 Shape/Figura: Square/Cuadrado
 Relationship: Grandparents/Abuelos
 Vegetables/vegetales

Math: 4, 5, 6 and 1-20 for
 older children

Older Classes:
 Review of alphabet, numbers and greet-
 ings
 Introduction of nouns, ordinal numbers
 (1st through 5th), sizes and compara-
 tive words (a lot/mucho, a little/ poco,
 and none/nada) and plural/Singular.

Private School Only
Mandarin

In August we began to learn our Chinese
 Names. We learned how to see Hello (Nee
 How), Goodbye (Zai Jian), Thank you (Xie'
 Xie'), and You're Welcome (Bu ke ti).

We learned a new song that we will con-
 tinue to sing throughout the year entitled
 'Two Tigers'. And during our game section
 of our program, not only did we play games
 to learn animal names/sounds, we listened
 to various songs from China in the back-
 ground.

Because our class is every day, we will be
 adding more and more concepts each
 week through song, movement/dance, and
 games.

Mr. Greg's Musical Madness
 9/23 at 10:30

All of the children (from toddlers through 2nd Grade)
 will be heading to the music room next door for this
 special Whole School Event.

Mr. Greg will have a sing-a-long for our entire school.
 There maybe musical instruments, there maybe catchy
 songs... but one thing is for sure... there will be lots of
 laughter!

You are more than welcome to join us for this event
 and share in the fun.



Our Kindergarten students visited The High Museum of Art to continue their education on lines, textures, and shapes in art. After the tour of the museum, the children were able to create their own works of art in the classrooms at the High.



Our First and Second Grade Classes took a trip to the CNN Center to learn more about broadcast news before they work at West Cobb News Room in September. Each child will have the opportunity throughout the year to learn to work the camera, report the weather, and inform the school about special daily activities and leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Stay tuned for further developments.