

**OCTOBER 2010**

# West Cobb Times

## October Happenings

Aaron Dill, an artsy photographer, is back to take pictures this month. Many of the photos on the website are his (they have a white background and are more 'action' oriented) and a flyer with examples and pricing is available at the front desk. A permission slip is required but uniforms are not.

Children from the following classes will be photographed on Tuesday 10/5: Infants, Toddlers, and both Junior Pre-School classes. Siblings with children in the younger classes should be photographed on Tuesday.

Children from the following classes will be photographed on Wednesday 10/6: Sr. Pre-School, Pre-K, Kindergarten and First/Second Grade. We will also take infant/toddler retakes for anyone who was crying yesterday. Siblings with children in the Sr. Pre-School and older classes should be photographed on Wednesday.

We also have the opportunity for family photos (where dad, mom and other siblings may join) on both days from 1:00-4:00 (you must sign up on the list available at the front desk).

**If you have any further questions about picture day- just stop in the office.**

We are kicking off our Fundraising efforts by bringing Scholastic Book Fair back to West Cobb where parents and teachers can purchase books for their own children, donate books to his/her classroom, donate books towards the library, and help us earn points to be used at the Scholastic Warehouse. All of our books in the classroom libraries and the main library downstairs came from past book fairs. The fair will be held in the basement next door on Monday, October 25-Friday October 29th. Clifford the Big Red Dog will be here since he's a Scholastic Book character on the 25th from 10-11. We will also post teacher wish lists and have a contest. The classroom which raises the most \$ will earn themselves a pizza party on November 5th. The fair will be held from 2-7pm (and even if someone is not in the room, you can check out in my office).

We are also creating a 'special' event on Friday the 29th. 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 classroom sit down in the hallway at 10:00 for a parade of costumes. This means, we will not be having a 'Halloween Celebration/Party' in any of the classrooms. 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 at West Cobb- literacy, imagination and fun.

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. Please take the time to complete a parent survey by Friday, October 15th and return in anonymously in the blue box in the front office.

Thank you for your feedback!

### From the desk of Janira

Communication is key to having a successful relationship with your child's teacher. Here at West Cobb our goal is to ensure that teachers are effectively communicating positive information to the parents concerning the development of their children. This communication comes in more than one form. We encourage daily 'small talk' with parents as they enter the classrooms to drop off and pick up. Parent-teacher conferences are also a great way to sit one-on-one with your child's teacher. The infant classes have built portfolios that reflect the different stages of development for the children, including activities and photos that they participate in. These portfolios will soon carry on to the following age groups and will be a guide when conducting parent-teacher conferences each year.

In order to help us ensure that you are receiving quality communication from your child's teacher, please give me your feedback concerning this topic.

#### INFANT 1

We would like to welcome Penelope to our class! Many of our students are holding their own bottles, rolling over and engaging in great conversation!

Thank you to all of the parents for updating your feeding plan as well as working with us to take care of each of the children's needs.

We have been working on tummy time- it shows! Emma moved up to the Infant 2 room and a few others will be ready soon.

Ms. Andrea & Mrs. Louisitha

#### TODDLERS

We had so much fun exploring with ice, jello and oatmeal in the sensory table this past month. We talked about each item- especially about the different textures and colors. The sign language for September was help- the toddlers did a great job of learning this sign. During our Community helper week we talked about firefighters, had fun painting a red fire truck, read Firebears Rescue Team, and learned the fingerplay Five Red Firemen.

We were sad to say goodbye to almost half of our class who moved onto the Jr. Pre-School 1 room, but will be happy to welcome some new children this month.

Ms. Arkeyshaw and Ms. Kelly

#### Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

In our phonics program, we focused on Catina Cat, Deedee Deer, Ellie Elephant, Francy Fish and Gordo Gorilla.

We have also been focusing on more details of the program- such as classification, different sizes, habitat, diet and distinctive features and interesting facts of all of the animals.

We continue to work on potty training. A few of our friends have moved on to the next classroom and we are eager to introduce new friends to our class.

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

#### INFANT 2

We used the Family Book and Early Imitation (such as lip smacks and stretching the words) to stimulate our language skills this past month.

To increase our gross motor skills, we accomplished activities such as 'mountain climbing' and 'rocking with a pillow'.

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

#### JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We would like to welcome the five new students from the toddler class who just joined us! I really enjoyed getting to know everyone better with our theme of 'Me and My Family'. Each child was asked to bring in a collage of their family. They were posted on my board and we enjoyed looking at them all month long. We also learned about the great things our Community Helpers do. We played dress-up wearing uniforms of a firefighter, a chef and a construction worker.

We focused on the letters B & C. We found objects that started with those letters and asked the parents to bring in a toy for show-n-tell that began with the letter of the week.

Mrs. Martha

#### SR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

We had such a blast learning about how to keep our bodies healthy and what our bodies need to stay healthy. We learned that our bodies have different parts and we can name most of them. We also have parts that bend. Hearing how to keep ourselves safe was fun too! If we see someone we don't know, we say 'Stranger Danger' and run away. We learned that if our clothes catch on fire we will stop, drop and roll. It was fun playing our fire game. There are certain things we can't touch like medicines, cleaners and the stove because they can hurt us. We always hold an adult hand when crossing the street and we always look both ways before crossing. We stay healthy by drinking a lot of water and milk. Milk keeps our bones strong. We learned that brushing in the morning and at night keeps our teeth healthy. Exercise is the best way to stay healthy and we learned that by participating in Olympic Day! It was so much fun. We earned medals and certificates. Helping others is very polite and we learned it makes us feel good when helping others (at home, in our neighborhood and in our classroom).

In October, we will learn about families (how they are different and made up of different members). We will also learn about feelings and about being polite.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Abigail waters our grass seeds in Pre-K 1.



Pre-K 1

Language Arts-Naming words (people and things); Following daily routines and rhyming words.

Phonics-Letters O, P, L, and A; identifying initial sounds and creating compound words.

Science-Sprouting seeds, plant parts (roots, leaves, and stem). How do plants make food? Animals grow and change. Adult animals and their offspring.

Art-Mixing primary colors to create secondary colors and collaging with mixed media.

Vocabulary-Community Garden and Sy Slider's Great Adventure.

Math-Acting out story problems, creating AB patterns, recognizing 0-10, numeral writing (1-5), one-to-one correspondence (0-5), and ordinal positions (to fourth).

Social Studies-Four seasons, Identifying types of land (farmland, hill, mountain, and shoreline)

Ms. Washington



Carter is using cereal to sort by colors in Pre-K 2

#### PRE-K 2

We continue to learn about vowels and consonants. This month we studied the letters P, A, N, and M and we are learning to read sight words. It's so EXCITING that some of the students are beginning to read and have already finished reading their first book.

In our Vocabulary lessons we have learned many new words. We learned how to listen for vocabulary words in stories and poems and that words have many different meanings. We are doing well on our vocabulary assessments.

In Language Arts we have been learning how to write in our journals. We have learned many fingerplays and have been learning how to use words to describe things (people, animals, etc.).

Our art lessons have revolved around the theme "Our Colorful World". The students have created great pieces of artwork such as: A portrait of their neighborhood, straw painting, and painting their names. These masterpieces are hanging up on our art bulletin board.

Johnny Appleseed came to visit our classroom for the celebration of his birthday. The students have been talking about this all week and were so excited when Johnny showed up with apples for everyone.

Identifying parts of plants and measuring plant growth have been our major focus for Science this month. Using a plant the students have learned how to describe the different parts that plants have. The students drew plants in their journals and were able to label them. After planting grass, the students have been measuring and recording the results every day.

The highlight of our Social Studies lesson this month was the celebration of Grandparent's Day. Many of the students' grandparents joined us for breakfast and then stayed for our morning circle time where grandparents read stories. We also learned about land & water and the four seasons.

Ms. Dane

# Teacher of the Month

We would like to congratulate this month's winner of the most parent votes for Teacher of the Month: Ms. Erica from the Sr. Pre-School Class. Ms. Erica became a West Cobb employee in February 2007 and has worked in our toddler class, our after school program, and has for the past year worked with Ms. Tia in the Sr. Pre-School class. She earned a Bachelor's degree in 2005 and is one of the parent favorites in that she always shares her smile with the children and parents, shares her observations in the daily notes, and is always willing to hug and hold the children in her care when they need to feel special. Congratulations Ms. Erica!



## Happy Birthday!

Alex (Jr. 1) 10/1  
Ms. Dane (PP2) 10/2  
Diane (1st/2nd) 10/2  
Joshua (ASP) 10/2  
Jaida (Jr. P2) 10/2  
Brooke (K) 10/6  
Gabrielle (JR. 2) 10/7  
Kylon (1st/2nd) 10/9  
Makayla (PP1) 10/11  
Chloe (Jr. P1) 10/12  
Kameron (K) 10/13  
Mikayla (ASP) 10/13  
Natalie (Jr. 1) 10/13  
Isabelle (PP2) 10/14  
Jacob (K) 10/25  
Xiaoli (PP1) 10/27  
Christopher (ASP) 10/27  
Ms. Dawn (Cook) 10/29  
Elijah (Jr. 1) 10/29  
Ms. Wells (ASP) 10/30  
Lucca (Jr. 1) 10/31

**Happy Birthday to all!!**

**-Oops... and I forget one birthday  
last month:**

Carter (PP2) 9/26

### KINDERGARTEN

In Math, we learned how to write and identify our numbers 1-30, worked on basic addition problems using our "counting sticks", and recognized our shapes and how many sides and angles the shapes have. We are learning the terms first, second, third, fourth, and last. We are continuing to review our month, days of the week, and our year.

In Phonics, we worked on writing and sounding out the letters K, C, B, M, and E, learned about the CK and K rule, the TH digraph, and the -ing rule. We are still continuing to review our upper and lower case letters and the sounds that the letters make.

In Language Arts, we started out the month learning about what is a sentence, identifying sentences, and recognizing the capital letters that start the beginning sentences, as well as what ends the sentence. We learned about ABC/123 orders, about what a compound word is, reviewed the CK and K rule, and reviewed our blends.

In Science, we learned about the life cycle of a frog and a butterfly. We discussed the stages of each cycle and what happens during each phase. We also talked about which animals are mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. We will continue to review this during the beginning of October.

Mrs. Kemp

# Thank You

To all of the grandparents who visited us in honor of Grandparents Day.

To the Navarro family for the donation of diapers/pull ups.

To the parents who attended and/or participated in their committee meeting.

To Brooke's mom for joining the Kindergarten's field trip to the Dunwoody Nature Center.

To all of the parents who return updated Immunization Certificates upon expiration.

# November Happenings

11/1-11/12: Kindergarten, First and Second Grade will be taking their ITBS tests. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

11/4: Fall Fundraiser Kick-off- Butter Braid Bread samples will be available at pick up time along with the order forms. The final order forms are to be returned no later than Thursday, 11/18.

11/11: First/Second Grades will head to Tellus Museum in Cartersville to learn about Fossils. Etiquette Class for the Private School. And Spirit Night for the Whole School at Chick Fil A from 5-8pm

11/22-24: The Private School Lead Teachers will be on Thanksgiving Break, but since families are still required to pay regular tuition, there will be no extra charge for childcare during that time. We will also add in some field trips and cooking projects.

11/25 & 11/26: West Cobb is Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

## Parent Tips

### PUTTING THINGS INTO GROUPS

There are many things around the house and yard to sort and match, such as silverware, leaves, yarn, shoelaces, buttons, stones, corks, cut-up magazine pictures, old postage stamps, nuts, socks, washcloths, and small towels. Things to put grouped collections into include egg cartons, shoe boxes (put labels on them), a board or tray divided into squares with tape or markers, cupcake tins, and TV dinner trays.

While sorting and matching by shape or color are mathematical concepts, for the older children the concept of groups is a part of social studies. This past month our 1st/2nd grade discussed various groups and leaders of groups. It helps children of all ages to understand groups and differences and similarities of items to make a group.

## FIRST/SECOND GRADE

In Phonics we continue to learn new rules to become master readers. We know that C's that make the soft sound are coded with Cedillas and hard C's that make the hard sound are coded with kbacks. The bossy r changes the sounds that a vowel makes when it follows that vowel. We also learned that the 'sneaky e' is at the end of a word only to make the vowel in that word long. That sneaky little 'e' doesn't even make a sound of its own- it's silent.

In Language Arts we continued to work on identifying homophones and contractions. In Writing we continued to work on proper paragraph structure- indenting, how to write a title, sticking to the title, proper sentence structure, and proper capitalization and punctuation.

In Science we began our 'What's the Matter' unit. We created our own matter museum. Each child brought in a solid, a liquid, and a gas to display. During our science lessons we played fun and exciting interactive matter games on our SmartBoard. We even took a class quiz on our SmartBoard in which we scored a perfect score! Also in science, we created our very own matter mixture... Icecream=solid, Soda=liquid, bubbles from the soda=gas. That mixture equaled one yummy science experiment!

In Social Studies we began working on map skills= reading maps, drawing maps, and interpreting maps.

Our Math lessons were just as fun! We used our SmartBoard to interactively learn how to divide shapes into fractional parts. We learned how to tell the temperature by reading thermometers. We also began learning how to read, draw, and interpret various types of graphs.

On our field trip, we visited BB@T Bank. We learned how to spot a counterfeit dollar bill, how much money a small bank would hold each day, how heavy the door is to the safe deposit box safe, and Mr. Rich played a game with us so we could get a better sense of how much money it takes to purchase various items. And most of all- we learned in order to purchase almost anything, we have to save money first.

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia



Here's Sr. Pre-School celebrating Olympic Day with their award they earned.

Kindergarten, First & Second Grades  
Mandarin learned in September (due to the inability to type macrons and brev- the coding for the language- on the computer- I am unable to write out all of the vocabulary the children have learned).  
Here are some:

Bye/ di ge an    Be Quiet/ an jeng  
China/jong gwar America/Mae gwar  
Boy/non shung    girl/noo shung  
I and Me/ wo    you/ ne  
up/shong    down/shi

We've also been learning the days of the week, the months of the year, today, tomorrow, yesterday, family members and body parts.

Because the program is daily- we will only be able to highlight some of the vocabulary words- but ask any of the students and they will be able to tell you!

**FRENCH**

Due to some family obligations, French will be unavailable during the month of October.  
French will resume again the first of November.

**SPANISH**

Letters: G and H  
Color: Orange/Black Anaranjado/Negro  
Shape: Triangle/ Triangulo  
Relationship: Hot/Cold Caliente/Frio  
Profession: Farmer/ Granjero  
Math: 7 and 8 (20-25 for advanced)  
Song: Viejo Granjero  
Book: About Shapes

**ETIQUETTE CLASS**



'Look at Me Shine!' the children are looking at themselves in the mirror before they go anywhere. We sung a song entitled I'm going to scrub my face... I'm going to brush my teeth... I'm going to comb my hair... I'm going to put on a smile- now I am ready to go. The last thought as the children look in the mirror (emphasized by the flashlight) is "look at me Shine"

The children learned a lesson in honesty. When you find something (example of the baseball glove) that you would *really* like to have, the right thing... the honest thing... to do is to return it to the owner!

We introduced ourselves with a great smile and eye contact.

And finally- the hula hoops were used to give concrete examples of the amount of personal space we should give our friends. You can talk and visit with your friends and teachers without touching them!

