

NOVEMBER 2010

West Cobb Times

A Few Odds and Ends

While we have had many compliments about our website and parents have been grateful for the e-mailed Monday Memos, we have found that parents are not as informed about the activities at West Cobb as we would like. Therefore, for those who do not view the items electronically, we will have some hard copies available (of both the Monday Memo and the Newsletter) on the corner of my desk in the office for you to pick up. I'd rather spend the money on paper and toner than feel our parents do not have the information they should have.

On November 4th, I will be playing 'hostess' to introduce you to our Fall Fundraiser. We ask all families to either purchase or sell Butter Braid Bread (which are like sweet danishes). They come in a variety of flavors and they come frozen. They are great stocking stuffers, or pot luck items, an after dinner dessert w/ coffee, or something to serve on a Sunday morning for your family. They are small in size (one of the benefits to this fundraiser as it's sometimes difficult to find storage). You will have the order forms for 2 weeks (all forms along with the money must be turned in on Thursday November 18th. The final frozen product will be delivered to West Cobb and ready for you to pick up on Thursday, December 9th. Two years ago- the school made a net profit of \$1200 and we hope to be able to do the same. (We purposely planned that this is the only fundraiser you will have this year in which you are being asked to sell something). Please look at the order form for the prizes you can win.

While the private school students are the ones participating in the Holiday Program on December 4th- the entire school is welcome to join us to see our children in action (and it enables you to see what children of this age are capable of). More information will be given in upcoming Monday Memos.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving- I'd like to say thank you to Tony and Bose (West Cobb's owners) for their support and vision they have bestowed upon me throughout my tenure. I am grateful to have a job where I can step out on a branch and reach to succeed and if I falter they are there with their support and encouragement. From listening to my friends around me, I know this is not always the case and therefore would like to say thanks... Thank you for allowing me to lead West Cobb.

Ms. Marla

Results of Parent Surveys

Thank you to all who returned their anonymous surveys. The management team has reviewed each one and have created action plans to put in place what we believe are in alignment with the goals of the school.

Overall- we were quite happy to see that over 94% of the parents who answered were happy with our facility, curriculum, teachers, management, and programming.

Thank you for all of the feedback as we begin to implement the suggestions written on surveys.

ITBS Testing for Kindergarten, First and Second Grades

By using the curriculum everyday and having weekly assessments and tests, our teachers have already prepared the children for test taking. They have been focusing on word problems, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and filling in 'bubbles' which will all be apart of the ITBS tests. These tests in November are used as a base-line to see the growth in the April tests. Beginning on **11/1** (for 2 weeks) each class will take about 20-30 minutes (beginning around 8:30) to take the different tests daily.

Please have your child get a good night's rest each night and discuss with your child the importance of focusing on the exam. We have found in the past that those who take it seriously and put forth an effort to focus have higher scores than those who rush through to be able to play outside.

Thank you for your assistance.

INFANT 1

We've been working on our gross motor skills to help us roll over, crawl, sit and reach for our toys. We've enjoyed having a new friend join us, Penelope! And would you believe, some of our students will be crawling soon- they are rolling around my room. And that means they will soon move onto Infant 2.

On a personal note, I would like to thank of the parents for your thoughts and prayers during the loss of my mom.

Ms. Andrea & Mrs. Louisitha

TODDLERS

We learned about The Farm this past month. We talked about different farm animals and the noises each animal makes. We made sheep using our handprint and cotton balls. Also, the toddlers had fun reading 'On the Farm, Touch and Feel Board Book'. In addition, we explored foods that make us healthy. In the home-living area we pretended to have a picnic using our fruits and vegetables. We also had fun stamp painting fruits and vegetables. Of course, we had the most amount of fun exploring applesauce in the sensory table. The shapes we focused on were diamond and rectangle while the colors we focused on were yellow and pink. We had fun learning the sign for milk and juice this month.

Ms. Arkeyshaw

INFANT 2

This past month we loved singing our ABC's and 1,2, 3's and our children rocked along to our rhythm. In honor of Clifford's arrival for the book fair, we enjoyed reading 'Clifford the Big Red Dog'

Ms. Laura and Ms. Porcia

Jr. PRESCHOOL 2

In October, we focused on two essential questions: What animals live on a farm? And What makes me healthy? We introduced the letters Hh and li. Our zoo phonics animals were Honey Horse and Inny Inchworm. We reviewed the letters A-E, introduced memory games and more file folder games.

In November, we will focus more on letter tracing and spelling names.

Ms. Tameka & Ms. Ericka

JR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

In our theme of 'Down on the Farm' the children enjoyed making various animal noises along with learning how to say the different farm animals in Spanish. In Art, we enjoyed creating our own sheep and decorating chickens.

In our theme of 'Nutrition' we talked about how important it is to eat healthy and keep up healthy hygiene practices. We showed various pictures and asked open ended questions to encourage the children to tell us what was going on in the photo.

We learned words that begin with the letter E and G. In our sensory table, we've played with water, oatmeal, applesauce and jello. Mmm...

Mrs. Martha and Ms. Kelly

SR. PRE-SCHOOL 1

What had so much fun talking about all the things we could do with our families and friends. All of our families are special because they are different. We learned a cool family chant:

Some families are big,
Some families are small,
But I love my family
Most of all!

We also learned that families need a home to live in. Each house has different rooms in it. It protects us from the weather and even from strangers. There are so many ways to communicate with friends. We talk and listen, read and write, make lists and make special invitations for parties.

We had fun visiting Ms. Dawn's grocery store and our brown party (for Max's 4th birthday) was a success. Our favorite theme was when we talked about our feelings and emotions. Did you know feelings have sounds? We explored angry, happy, sad, proud, embarrassed, scared and surprised feelings. We loved seeing Clifford and buying cool books from our book fair.

Thank you to all who donated for our class.

Next month we will discover time, weather and seasons. We will become weather reporters and keep a close eye on the weather. We will also discuss what kinds of clothes we need for each season.

Ms. Tia and Ms. Erica

Pre-K 1

Language Arts-Naming Words for People, Animals (and off-spring), Rhyming Words, Recalling Family Memories, and Action Words

Mathematics-Counting Pennies, Telling Time (by the hour), One-to-One Correspondence, Identifying and Counting Pennies, Writing Money Amounts (up to ten cents), Counting Objects in a Set, Identifying Ordinal Position (to fourth), and Sequencing Daily Events

Vocabulary- "Nana's Poem" and "A Good Catch"

Science-Seed "sprout" into Plants (observing lettuce, carrot, and spinach seeds sprout) and Exploring Pumpkins

Social Studies-Describe Jobs in a Neighborhood, What is a Community?

Art-Leaf Prints, Tissue Paper Collages, Bean Letters

Handwriting-Gg, Ss, Tt, and Ll,

Ms. Washington



Congratulations to the Navarro Family on the birth of their baby daughter, Isabella.



PRE-K 2

We started off our month going on our first field trip of the year- to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Once we arrived the students had a fun filled morning learning about plants, lifecycles of many animals, we got to see some animals up close and the highlight of the day was getting to see all the many different scarecrows throughout the gardens.

This month in Saxon Phonics we studied the letters I, S, F, R. Some of our students are learning how to decode and others are beginning to read four letter words.

In math we learned how to identify the days of the week and how to identify pennies. We made a class store where we used pennies to purchase items. The students learned how to tell time to the hour. We learned how to identify before, after and between. Using candy corn we were able to correspond one to one (photo above).

Learning vocabulary words each week has turned out to be a great learning experience for our students. More and more as we read stories in class, the students are able to pick out vocabulary words that we have learned since the beginning of school. Recently when I read "A Pumpkin Patch" Carter picked out the word patch and said "Ms. Dane that is one of our vocabulary words". During the same story, Makaela said after I read the word soil "Ms. Dane soil is one of our vocabulary words". They get so excited when they hear the words they know.

In writing we used our hands to write the letter E by using shaving cream and how to write the letter F by manipulating play-doh. It's so much fun getting to use our hands while learning concepts such as writing.

In our Science lessons we planted seeds and watched our grass grow throughout the month. We also grew plants and watched as the roots sprouted in plastic bags that we hung in the windows so that sun could help them grow. We learned how to distinguish between living and non living things. Our pumpkin patch grew throughout the month and we enjoyed getting to cut open a pumpkin to see what was inside. We counted the seeds, and got to use our hands to dig out our pumpkins. We also measured our pumpkins to see who had the smallest and biggest one.

This month we enjoyed two cooking activities. We made spider cookies and pumpkin bread (YUM, YUM).

Ms. Dane

Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Martha in the Jr. Pre-School 1 class. She has been a Jr. Pre-School teacher at West Cobb since July of 2008 and has been well loved throughout the years. How she structures her classroom, her love of acting silly with the children, and her genuine caring nature for the children in her class and for those that have left it make her the Teacher of the Month for November 2010. Please be sure to congratulate her when you see her in the hallway!



Happy Birthday!

Damon (T)	11/4
Hayden (T)	11/4
Lauren (PK2)	11/6
Kensley (K)	11/7
Ms. Andrea (ASP)	11/7
Mrs. Kemp (K)	11/9
Anaiyah (PK2)	11/10
Samantha (K)	11/10
Katie (I2)	11/12
Lauren (Sr. P)	11/13
Symauria (Sr. P)	11/16
Nathan (K)	11/16
Peyton (1st/2nd)	11/17
Ms. Marla	11/20
Sophia (Sr. P)	11/25
Maya (K)	11/29
Zoe (1st/2nd)	11/29
Ms. Porcia (I2)	11/29
Samantha (PK1)	11/30

Happy Birthday to all!

KINDERGARTEN

We had a busy month which included such events as the Book Fair, Clifford visiting our school (some of our children are found on the next page posing with him), a field trip to the Fernbank Museum, seeing a magic show and learning about Halloween and it's history.

In Math, we learned how to write and identify numbers 1-45, worked on basic addition problems using our 'counting sticks' and started talking about subtraction. We are learning about what is short, shorter and shortest. We have started counting by 10's, 5's and 2's. We have learned the value of a penny and its name.

In Phonics, we worked on writing and sounding out the letters V, X, and J. We learned about the long E, O, and A with the sneaky E. We reviewed the Floss rules, the SH sound, the VE rule, the final C rule and the double OO.

In Language Arts we learned what is a sentence, identified sentences, and recognized the capital letters that start the beginning of sentences, as well as what ends the sentence. We learned about Nouns, Grammar Rules, Asking Sentences, and Telling Sentences.

During the first two weeks of November, we will be taking our ITBS tests (so please be sure to be on time to school each day). Throughout the entire month of November we will be preparing for the Holiday Program on December 4th. While the children will be practicing their lines everyday- please be sure to work with your child at home so they feel confident in their memorization.

Mrs. Kemp



Here is Pre-K 2 at the Botanical Gardens. They were entering the Caterpillar and after a long winding path (and informational talk) we ended up coming out of the Butterfly.

To Jalen's mom for joining Pre-K 2 and to Lucas's mom for joining Pre-K 1 on their field trips to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.

To all of the families who purchased books at the book fair. Although final numbers are not in- it looks like it was a successful event.

To all of the families who gave donations to our parents new non-profit organization- One Good Apple.

To the Freeman family for the large donation of Book Binders!

To all of the families in the Sr. Pre-School class who brought in donations for Max's Brown Birthday Party!

Thank You

December Happenings

12/2 and 12/3: 1st/2nd Grade to GA Tech Paper Museum

Saturday, 12/4: Private School has their Holiday Program at Olive Springs Baptist Church. Be there at 9:30.

12/6-12/10: Private School- All those who normally leave at 2:30 are released all week long at 12:30. Those in extended care will be moved to extended care at 12:30. Private School has parent/teacher conferences. Be sure to schedule yours!

12/9: The second half of the 1st/2nd Grade will go to Tellus Museum to learn about Fossils.

12/9: Etiquette Class for Private School and Spirit Night at Chick Fil A. Also- Fall Fundraiser Butter Braid arrives. Please be sure to pick yours up today.

12/16: Kindergarten goes to the Alliance Theater for A Christmas Carol.

12/17: Final Day w/ main teachers for the private school for 2 weeks. Report Cards will be mailed tomorrow.

Friday, December 24 and Friday December 31st- West Cobb will be closed in observance of the holidays.

Parent Tips

Building a Solid Self-Image

"How children feel about themselves will affect their choice of friends, how they get along with others, and how they develop their potential. In other words, self-esteem influences all aspects of their lives.

To foster a sense of self-worth:

*Stop all negative criticism.

*When things go wrong, focus on the *behavior* that was unacceptable.

*Use words that describe what the child has done
'You hung your coat on the rack'

*Do not put people down behind their backs. Children may assume you say the same things about them.

*Enjoy the uniqueness of your children. Accept them just the way they are, not as you wish they were.

*Allow your children to build their own feelings of self-worth through accomplishment. Doing things for them that they can do for themselves robs them of this opportunity.

*Avoid talking about your children within their hearing.

A child's self-esteem is a precious thing and should be handled with great care."

FIRST/SECOND GRADE

In Math, we continued to work on Fraction Notation. We began to work on place values (ones, tens, and hundreds place). We also learned how to use a ruler. We measured various items throughout our home and class- rounding to the nearest inch. We continued to work on counting money.

We began a new classroom management program this month. Each student has a classroom 'job' that they are responsible for carrying out each day. Fridays are paydays! Each student receives their very own paycheck. Once they cash their check at the class bank, students have the option to purchase coupons from the class store OR deposit their money into their savings account.

In Phonics, we learned final stable syllables: ble, gle, tle, fle. and ple and the following digraphs: sh, oo, ch, and sh, vowel and consonant y, and the vowel consonant e rule.

In Science, we finished up our unit on Matter and began learning about landforms.

In Language Arts we finished our unit on nouns and began working on action words- Verbs! We had an amazing time at the Dunwoody Nature Center where we learned the differences between an insect and a spider (count the number of legs and you'll know the difference). We learned that insects have three body parts (the head, thorax and abdomen) and an insects eyes are very unusual to help them see movement all around them.

We have been taking time to learn our parts for the holiday program. We started early because much of our program will be conducted in Chinese.

Mrs. Bryan & Ms. Julia



Private School Parents

Please place Saturday, December 4th on your calendar from 9:30-11:30. This is the time/date for our Holiday Program at Olive Springs Baptist Church. Family, Friends and Neighbors are invited to attend- the more the merrier! Their parking lot is huge and there is plenty of adult seating.

But don't let your child be late!!!

FRENCH

Jr. 1-Sr. Pre-School:

Numbers 1-5

Orange/jaune- orange/yellow

Rond/Circle

Discuss Autumn

Story: Ou est il? Where is he?

Song: Tapent, Les petites marionnettes / The puppets

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

Review #'s 1-10, Letters A-J, Circle, Orange and Yellow, Discuss Family

First/Second Grade:

Numbers 1-100, months of the year, Alphabet, Days of the week, Curriculum: Time and Money (monnaie)

SPANISH

Letters I and J

Color: Brown/Café'

Rectangle/Rectangulo

Noisy/Quiet/ Ruidoso/Quiento

Library/Biblioteca

Math: 9, 10, 11 (25-30 advanced)

Song: And the Cow jumped over the moon/ 'y la vaca brinco sobre la luna'

Themes: Autumn and Thanksgiving



Check out some of our Sr. Pre-School children getting ready for their parade of Storybook Characters to end our Book Fair!



BOX TOPS

Attached to this newsletter is information concerning Box Tops.

Our school participates in this program and with every families help- we can raise up to \$60,000!

There are lots of items you regularly buy that have a Box Top symbol on the outside. Just clip it and put them in a zip lock bag with your child's name on it. We will be having a pizza party in December for the winning class and a gift of a Build a Bear Workshop for the child who turns in the most.

Please be sure to review the information attached to see how you can help West Cobb in our Box Tops efforts.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE DURING THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

Just a reminder- the Private School (Pre-K and older) does not have class the week of Thanksgiving. Your child's teacher will not be working that week. However, since your tuition is still due, you will be able to bring your child to West Cobb Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. On Tuesday, Kindergarten and older children will head to the bowling alley. Please be sure to sign the permission slip.

West Cobb will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will post sign up sheets outside each classroom to help us decide how many teachers can use vacation time around the holiday. Please note on the form whether your child will or will not be attending that week.

Many of our teachers have requested time off- so your regular teacher maybe on vacation.

ETIQUETTE CLASS

In the top picture we learned to Be Kind! Share your toys and watch others Smile! Here is our Kindergarten class sharing with each other!

We also learned a way to be kind is to let someone go before you to get a drink from the water fountain or on the slide at the playground.

(As the class left, all of the children were saying to each other 'after you' to go out the door).

We also reviewed and acted out all of the Magic Words we have learned. We should always include "I'm sorry" with our magic words! Here's Pre-K 1 engaged in remembering their magic words.

