



The Preschool Post

December 5, 2011 Volume 4, Issue 4

Notes from the Director

The entire Preschool Staff would like to wish all of our preschool families a Christmas season full of fun! We are so blessed to be a part of your children's lives and are thankful for the role they play in our own lives.

The preschool will be busy buzzing around with Christmas cheer the next couple of weeks....be sure to take time to talk about all the Christmas fun with your child and check out the wonderful displays in the hallway.

As a reminder....the Preschool will be closed after preschool dismisses on Thursday, December 15 and will reopen on TUESDAY, January 3.

Wishing you all a restful, refreshing, and joyous Christmas vacation!

Celebrations at ACPS

All of our children will celebrate Christmas with a "class party" on Thursday, December 15. (with the exception of the toddler class which will celebrate on Wed., Dec. 14) Each class has been assigned a room mom who will be contacting parents for volunteering to help with the "party." Class parties will be during lunch, therefore, it will not be necessary for children to bring a lunch on the day of their Christmas party.

Children who would like to send treats for classmates are welcome to do so. Each child will have a bag for collecting goodies.

Tech Check

All families should have received an email on Monday, December 5 with "Tech Check" as the subject line. If you did not receive this email, please email the preschool at acpreschool@comporium.net. Thanks!

Take Home Stepping Stones Kits

We are still offering take home kits for stepping stones. If you would like one, please email the preschool and a kit will be put together for you to take home and make one to share!

Hat, Mitten, Scarf Tree

As is our tradition, the hat, mitten, scarf tree is up in the fellowship hall and ready to be decorated. Children may bring new hats, mittens, or scarves to decorate the tree through the night of the Christmas program. All donations will be given to children in need. Participation is optional.

Preschool Cookbook

We are still taking recipes! Please send in your recipes as soon as you can...even if you have already sent some, please consider sending some more! The more recipes, the better our cookbook will be!

Christmas Program ☺

We are excited to have this year's Christmas programs on Wednesday, Dec. 14 in the sanctuary with cookies and punch to follow. Please refer to your invitation included to see what time your child's program is!

All children should be dressed in jeans and will have a handmade shirt to wear (that they will get the night of the program).

Preschool

Playground Project



We invite all of our families to watch our playground progress! It is such an exciting time here! If you would ever like to make a contribution to our capital project our playground move and renovation, you may send a check with "Preschool Playground Project" on the memo line. Our teachers would like to remind families that in lieu of Christmas gifts, the teachers would like for families to consider making a donation to the preschool playground fund in their honor. The structure for the playground should be up when we return from Christmas Break! How exciting!

Unit/Theme - with Ms. Meg

December: Holidays

WOW! It is hard to believe that Halloween and Thanksgiving have come and gone and Christmas and a New Year are quickly approaching. During the month of December we will be enjoying many fun and exciting holiday activities.

During November we read and talked about Autumn and the true meaning of Thanksgiving. The children enjoyed reading about "The Pilgrims First Thanksgiving" and learned about the Mayflower, Pilgrims and the town of Plymouth. We discussed how our lives today differ from the pilgrims life back then and the similarities and differences in the foods we eat at Thanksgiving today compared to long ago.

The children are all still adapting well and I love seeing them grow socially as well as academically. We will continue to work on many of the same concepts gradually bringing those concepts up to a new level.

3's Language Skills: the children are quickly learning the parts of a book, and what roles an author and an illustrator play in literature. The children are becoming very fluent in being able to recognize their first names and name the letters. We are still working with them on being able to spell their name on their own. Before children can begin to learn to write they need to be able to recognize the letters of the alphabet. We are working on letter recognition in class through various games and activities. Please continue to work with them at home on these concepts.

3's Math skills: We continue to count our daily apples and straws helping us keep up with how many days we have been in school. They are also learning to count by 10's. Ask them if they can sing the 10-20-30 song to you.

4's Language Skills: We continue to work on recognizing and spelling last names, identifying beginning words and rhyming words. The children are doing such a wonderful job at reading, spelling and signing their weekly "sight words". We are going to begin learning phone numbers so please send in the phone number you would like your child to learn other wise we will use the main contact number you listed on the registration form.

4's Math Skills: We will continue to count and recognize numbers 1-20, counting by 5's and 10's to 100. Every day the children continuing to add apples to the tree and straws to a pocket chart to keep track of how many days we have been at school. We are bundling our straws by 10's to help the children with their counting skills. We are working our way to 100 days of school. During the month of November we focused a lot on patterns and how a pattern repeats itself. We patterned shapes, feathers and dyed pasta and the children had so much fun and were so proud of their work.

Art - with Ms. Katrin aka Ms. FRIZZIE

November was a fun -filled month in art.

The 3's listened to the story of "The little Scarecrow Boy" who tried to be as fierce as his dad and had to practice his six fierce faces. Afterwards we made our scarecrow boys, but most of them have big smiles on their faces. We learned how to make the color brown and had fun painting our fall trees. The little ones as well participated in the tree project. Some children also made leaf prints. For Thanksgiving, we made handprint art galore and painted bubble wrap for our Indian corn.

The 4's worked very hard on their cutting skills when they made their fall trees. We experimented with dry and wet chalk on a variety of papers. The wet chalk was soaked overnight in sugar water which made the colors much brighter. One day we took walk outside on the nature trail and collected a lot of leaves, tree bark, sticks, pine needles, pine cones, etc. The children arranged their found objects on a piece of paper that they had painted with liquid cornstarch. They dripped or sprayed on it, and then cover it with chalk dust (they rubbed colored chalk over a wire mesh screen). After their compositions were dry, we took all the objects off and were left with the interesting shapes. We made Mayflower boats and had time to paint on the easels. I am really thankful for the great space we have that allows the children to freely express their wonderful creativity. We got a head start on Christmas with our "Peace on Earth" picture.

In December, we will have fun with various advent and Christmas projects.

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. " ~Larry Wilde, The Merry Book of Christmas

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

~Norman Vincent Peale

Wishing you and your family a wonderful and magical holiday season,

MUSIC - with Ms. Alice

November was a short but fun month. All the children seemed to enjoy singing songs about leaves and turkeys, as well as some scarecrow songs. We have already begun preparing songs for our Christmas program. Each age is learning one traditional Christmas carol, as well as several other holiday songs. You will be getting a copy of the words to your child's songs so that you will know what they are singing. Please be sure to set aside the evening of December 14 to come hear your children perform for you.

Handwriting - with Ms. Bekah

November was full of ABC's, coloring, learning more Frog Jump Letters, new songs and games to make it all FUN!! They never cease to surprise me!

Twos: Letter Recognition and formation:

They are all recognizing their ABC's more and more as we continue to read, review and sing together. As we review we say the sound that each letter makes. I have started a game using the colored capital letter cards and ask each one to find a letter starting from the beginning of the alphabet to the end. I have also introduced some new ABC review cards that have a side with a textured letter and half of an animal with the letter at the top corner on the other side. These are the **Touch and Flip** cards. To make the puzzle using the pictures, you have to put the letters in alphabetical order and each time you add a new letter, it makes the entire animal. I haven't actually done this with them just yet, but I have showed them the letter and let them feel it. This is a great way for them to feel exactly how the letter is formed. I started singing *Where do you Start your Letters* from the *Get Set for School* CD. They seem to love this song and have caught quickly. Reviewing their lines and curves will also help as they begin to connect all of these new from this year into next year when they begin to write. I am constantly surprised as I encourage them on to new things. In the next few weeks, I plan to introduce them to Mat Man. He makes learning so much fun while introducing body parts and using the same wood pieces to build letters. We love Mat Man!

Threes: Grip, Coloring, Letter Recognition

We have continued to review letters in a fun, new way! I have introduced them to the new **Touch and Flip** cards. These cards have a side with a textured letter and half of an animal with the letter at the top corner on the other side. To make the puzzle using the pictures, you have to put the letters in alphabetical order and each time you add a new letter, it makes the entire animal. This is a great way for them to feel exactly how the letter is formed as well memorizing the alphabet without singing it. The animals also help with memorization just in case they can't remember what letter comes next. Most know their letters well and what comes when, but some learn by making the animals which in turn teaches them when that letter comes in the alphabet. We have continued working with grip and coloring in their workbooks that are kept at school. The *Crayon Song* on the *Get Set for School* CD (a.k.a. Pick up a Crayon). © is a great song to help

More Handwriting - with Ms. Bekah

Fours: Grip, Letter Recognition, Frog Jump Letters

WOW!!!! I can't tell you how fast all of them pick up on new things each day! We are continuing with our Frog Jump Capitals and are ALMOST done! We have just started R and should be moving on to N before this week is over. After N, M is the last Frog Jump Capital. We are continuing to review and talk about posture, grip and singing new songs as we continue on in learning our capital letters. We have also been learning numbers at the end of the past two weeks. We have gotten to the number two and should get to 4 and 5 before Christmas. That's when our Frog Jump Letters end and the rest of the alphabet continues. The letter H will be the next letter we will be learning. They have done great in every area and it is great to see improvement each day!

I can't explain how much it helps to be learning these things with your children and encouraging them in fun ways at home. Thank you so much for all that you do to make this an enjoyable experience for your child. It's exciting to see them grow each day here!

Pizza Lunch!



Families will have the option of ordering a pizza lunch for children in place of bringing a lunch box on Wednesday, December 14. The cost of the lunch will be \$5. Each pizza lunch will consist of a slice of pizza, a drink, a serving of fruit, and a cookie. Lunches will have to be ordered by December 12 so we can order the appropriate number of pizzas. **Pizza lunches are only available to children who are at preschool for lunch.**

Allison Creek Preschool Community Page



Like us on
Facebook

What a great networking tool....please be sure to like our page to get updates and communicate on the happenings at our preschool!



Merry Christmas Mom & Dad

The children have been busy making a special Christmas gift for Mom & Dad....please be sure to pick yours up at the reception following the Christmas program.

Upcoming Events

- December 12 – Deadline - Pizza Lunch
- December 14 – Pizza Lunch
- December 14 – Christmas Programs (evening)
- December 15 – Christmas Parties
- December 15 – Tuition Payment Due
- December 19-January 2 – Winter Break
- January 3 – Welcome Back!
- January 12 – Tuition Payment Due
- January 16 & 17 – No Preschool
- January 23 – Registration for 2012-2013 year for current families begins
- January 25 – Pizza Lunch
- February 6 – Open House 5-7pm and Open Registration Begins

Scholastic Book Orders

We will not order from Scholastic this month.



Spirit Night at Chic-Fil-a RIVERGATE

Last month we raised almost \$60 for just eating at Chic-Fil-a! We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the cow this morning to remind us to come out and eat at Chic-Fil-a on the first Monday of each month. Our goal is to earn \$100 in December! Hope to see you tonight!

ACPS Contact Information

Preschool Phone Number

803-325-8655

Preschool Address

5780 Allison Creek Road
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Preschool E-mail Address

acpreschool@comporium.net

Preschool Website

www.orgsites.com/sc/allisoncreekpreschool

Please keep preschool office hours (Mon – Thurs 8am-1pm) in mind when waiting for a response to emails or phone calls.