



The Preschool Post

October 26, 2011 Volume 4, Issue 3

Notes from the Director

Just a note to our parents that I will be out of the office beginning 1pm on Thursday, November 17 and will return Monday, November 28. Ms. Emily Hurst, Preschool Board Chairperson will be here for me during my absence. Any correspondence to the preschool should be done via phone during that time rather than to the preschool email address.

Please also note that emails sent after preschool hours may not be answered until the next preschool day. If you do not get a response then, please follow up with a phone call as your email may have not been received. All questions about specific classroom incidents should first be addressed with your child's assistant.

I also wanted to take a minute to remind our parents of the importance of reading our newsletters thoroughly. It takes a tremendous amount of time to put together the newsletter and it is very important to read it so that you won't miss out on any important information. Thank you!



Halloween at ACPS

On October 31, the Toddlers, 3s, & 4s classes will take part in a Fall FUN-i-val. The children play games and will walk through the hallways of the church "trick-or-treating" at various rooms in the church.

Children are encouraged to wear festive shirts, hair bows, etc. on this day, but please do NOT send your child to preschool in his/her Halloween costume. We will be doing some educational activities on this day, and these can be a distraction. Also, some of our children are anxious around people "in character." Finally, we would hate for something to ruin a costume before Halloween!

Twos Parents – please see Ms. Josie or Ms. Melanie for more details.

REMINDER: All Monday students who stay for lunch will have "mummy dogs", chips, oranges and cookie for lunch on Halloween. Please only send a lunch box if you do NOT want your child to have a Halloween lunch.

Donuts for Dads

All Dads are invited to come in to have donuts with their children at the preschool! Dads of Toddlers are invited to come November 7th. Dads of Twos and Fours are invited to come November 8th. Dads of Threes are invited to come November 9th. Dads are invited to walk in to the fellowship hall at 8:30 with their child(ren) and enjoy juice and donuts until 9:00 am. Thanks in advance for your participation! Please be sure to send your response card in by November 3.

Preschool Cookbook

Just a reminder to send in your recipes! We are hoping for our cookbook to be one of your favorites! Extra recipe forms can be found on the preschool bulletin board in the hallway if you need one (or more).

Parent & Child Magazine ☺

We hope you are enjoying your subscription to Scholastic's Parent and Child magazine. The preschool is proud to be able to offer these to our families!

Take Home

Stepping Stones Kits

The Sno Cones & Stepping Stones Event was a big success - not to mention a lot of fun. Several families have asked for a take home "kit" to make stones. These "kits" will be available with directions for pick up after school until all are sold. The minimum donation per kit is \$25. We are excited about dressing up our new playground with this awesome art!

Spirit Night at Chic-Fil-a RIVERGATE

Allison Creek Preschool is thrilled to announce that we will be having a monthly spirit night at Chic-Fil-a's Rivergate location! Each month, families will receive spirit slips to use at Chic-Fil-a to turn in with your orders. You may give extras to family, friends, or neighbors to use, too! Depending on sales, the preschool has the opportunity to earn up to 20% of pretax sales in funds for the preschool! We will have Spirit night the first Monday of each month beginning November 7.

Star Quality

Everyone at Black's Peaches was so very complimentary of our group's behavior during our field trip! I hope everyone had a great time and enjoyed the farm!

Preschool Night at The Pizza Man!

Thank you for an amazing response at the Pizza Man! We were able to deposit \$300 into our fund for our preschool playground project! The employees at the Pizza Man were amazed with the turn out from such a "small school." I assured them that it was because we were such an awesome school! ;)

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. A big thank you to John & Johnny Pursley of Pursley's Grading and JP Environmental for their donation of time and work to the project!

A Gentle Reminder

Please be sure that your child has weather appropriate clothing for their "spare" set here at school. We are beginning to accumulate items that are unclaimed, as well. Please consider labeling your child's clothing with his/her name. Thanks!



ZUMBA classes are still being offered from 12:45-1:30 pm each Monday. The cost of the class is \$5 per person. The class is open to EVERYONE - preschool family or not. And...you don't have to have any ZUMBA experience to come. Childcare will be provided for preschool families during the ZUMBA classes at a rate of \$3/child or \$5/family.

This is a very fun time for Moms to get together to relieve some stress...after all....what happens in ZUMBA, stays in ZUMBA! ;)

FALL PICTURES AT ACPs



Fall Pictures will be taken on November 2 & 3.

The schedule will be:
Wednesday, November 2:
Toddlers & Threes
Thursday, November 3:
Twos & Fours

Pictures will be taken indoors this year with the background to the left. options!

Family picture appointments are available for Thursday afternoon/evening. Family pictures will be taken on location at a local early 1900s barn. See Elizabeth to make an appointment. Slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. There is no sitting fee for family pictures - and our photographer, Monica's Memories, offers wonderful Christmas card options!



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Unit/Theme - with Ms. Meg

November: Autumn, Harvest, Thanksgiving

We hope your children have been coming home telling you all about the BOO-tastic Halloween, apple and pumpkin activities we have been doing at school. The children had so much fun exploring with apples. We sorted them by size and color and graphed them, talked about how apples grow and the life cycle of an apple tree. We concluded our apple lesson by tasting red, green and yellow apples and discussing their different tastes (sweet and sour). The field trip to Black's Peaches was a great addition to our pumpkin studies learning how and where pumpkins grow. Do you know if a pumpkin is a vegetable or a fruit? If not, ask your child and most likely they can tell you. The children learned all about the life cycle of a pumpkin and that pumpkins grow on top of the ground on a vine.

Beginning in November we will be reading and talking about autumn, taking nature walks and exploring the great outdoors. With Thanksgiving around the corner we will also begin discussing the meaning of Thanksgiving and harvest followed by many fun and exciting activities to help us learn more about Pilgrims, Indians and the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

3's - Language Skills: We will continue to work on parts of a book and Letter recognition. We are beginning to help the children learn how to spell their first name and are also working on tracing their first names. Please continue to work with your child on these concepts at home. Your children will be coming home with an envelope of pumpkins with the letters of their name. Please work with them using these shape to spell their name. Also a fun and easy way for them to learn how to spell their name is to sing and clap it. For example, E T H A N, Ethan, Ethan. Some names can be tricky due to length but be creative and have fun!

Math Skills: Recognizes #'s 1-10, Color recognition, shapes and counting by 1's and 10's

Motor Skills: We are continuing to work on pencil/crayon placement and cutting with scissors in straight and curved lines. Don't be scared to let your child practice with child safety scissors at home. Give them a scrap piece of paper or a grocery circular and let them cut. They love it and it is great practice!

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".

Our Environmental Print wall is beginning to go up and the children are amazed at how many words they can actually read. Thank you all for the many examples you have sent in. We are good right now but if I need more I will for sure let you know.

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 continue 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.

Motor Skills: We are continuing to work on pencil/crayon placement and cutting with scissors in straight and curved lines. Don't be scared to let your child practice with child safety scissors at home. Give them a scrap piece of paper or a grocery circular and let them cut. They love it and it is great practice!

Art - with Ms. Katrin aka Ms. Frizzle

"All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Pablo Picasso

We had a busy month at the preschool. We all are getting to know each other better and I truly enjoy having your children in my classroom. The children seem to enjoy school and are busy learning and playing and making new friends. I am excited to see that you are enjoying "Artsonia". I began putting descriptions up with the projects to describe what the children are doing - I hope that these will be helpful to you.

This month's color was orange, and next month will be brown.

3's and 4's:

Some of our more adventurous projects were "splatter paint" outside and line exploration to music. We splattered paint on big rolls of paper outside. Some children ended up painting their hands and explored color mixing, while another group had the most fun cleaning their brushes and examining how the water color changed.

In the lesson on "lines" we made lines with our bodies and marched through the art room in zigzag, straight and curved lines as a group. Then we used markers and walked along the table to music while scribbling various lines on the paper. The 4's classes also used a variety of black lines to create a design or a picture. During another class, we compared drawing with dry chalk and wet chalk on a variety of papers.

Several of our projects were based on apples, and we had fun with a variety of Halloween-inspired art works - witches, monsters, skeletons and mummies, as well as our Jack O'Lanterns and "creepy" cookies.

2's: Our youngest friends have been working with Ms. Josie and Ms. Natalie to finish their adorable faces and created hand-print spiders and a pumpkin patch, to name a few.

In November, our themes will center on fall and Thanksgiving. As always, thank you for the privilege to be a part of your children's lives. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

"Artists can make anything without following directions."

- Mikey Sabella (4)



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Parent Conferences

We will be scheduling Parent Conferences for Friday, November 4. Each conference will last for 15 minutes. In order to accommodate as many parents as possible, conferences must be scheduled via email with Ms. Elizabeth. Conferences will last for 15 minutes. It is imperative that parents are on time for their conference. Other staff members will be on hand to occupy your child during conference times. Conferences are completely optional. Many parents feel comfortable with the daily communication they engage in with the preschool and their child.

To schedule a conference, please email Ms. Elizabeth at acpreschool@comporium.net 3 time choices (15 minute intervals 8:15 - 12:45) by November 1. All efforts will be made to accommodate requests in a first come, first served basis. Thanks!

Pizza Lunch!



Families will have the option of ordering a pizza lunch for children in place of bringing a lunch box on Wednesday, November 16. 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 November 14 so we can order the appropriate number of pizzas. **Pizza lunches are only available to children who are at preschool for lunch.**

What We are Thankful For...

Our preschool has so much to be thankful for....most of all the preschool family! A special thank you for all you do to make our preschool so successful!

In an effort to extend our gratitude and generosity to others, the preschool will host a canned good drive again this year to benefit local food banks for those less fortunate.

Participation is completely voluntary. If your family would like to send in an item for the food drive, we will be happy to deliver those on your behalf.

Canned goods will be collected November 1 - 17.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with others!



MUSIC - with Ms. Alice

October has been a fun time in music class. It has been a joy to watch the toddlers and twos respond to and even sing along with the songs we have learned. In addition to songs we have already learned, each class has been singing apple and pumpkin songs to go along with our October theme. The threes have especially enjoyed "Ring Around the Apple Tree" (sung to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie"). In the fours classes, our top "hit" has been "Five Little Apples". I hope your children will sing some of their favorites for you. We have also enjoyed playing various musical instruments and rhythm sticks.

In November, we will be learning songs about autumn and Thanksgiving. Get ready to hear your child singing about scarecrows and turkeys! We will also continue to play some of our favorite games such as "Statue" (dancing until the music stops) and musical chairs. Our fours will also be learning songs that tie in with the letters they are learning in Handwriting Without Tears. We just might even start learning songs for our Christmas programs on December 14!

Be on the lookout in your child's folder for lyrics to past and upcoming songs.
Thanks!

Handwriting - with Ms. Bekah

October has been a great month as we continue reviewing and learning new things! All classes have been improving in all areas from manners and listening to writing Frog Jump Capitals.

The twos continue to blow me away! I have continued to review ABC's through reading fun books, capital letter cards and them telling me what the color of each letter is. Some of them are making the sounds of each letter and others are tracing them with their fingers, WOW!! We usually sing the ABC's at the beginning or end of each class. As this month ends, I am going to venture in to the world of Play Doh to help strengthen their fine motor skills as we continue learning our letters. I will also introduce some songs from the Handwriting Without Tears program that teach how to write our letters in a fun way. These products and so many more will help them as they progress into next year when they will begin writing.

In the threes' classes we are continuing to review our wooden pieces through songs as well as building Mat Man. The big line teaches them some new, big words such as horizontal, vertical and diagonal. These words will help in writing our capital letters. We've also been practicing making snakes with our playdoh to help form letters on our Roll-a Dough trays. We're also reviewing with capital letter cards and wooden pieces as well. We've also been coloring in our very own workbooks, which stay at school. "Aim and Scribble" activities teach grip, colors, staying in the lines as well as practicing our alphabet and counting. We even have songs to sing along with as we color! Because of all of these activities, we will begin writing before you know it!

The fours are soaring! We have begun writing our capital letters. You may have heard your child singing a song about a frog. That would be because the first letters they are learning are 'Frog Jump Capitals.' There is a fun song that we sing to teach us exactly how to write these letters; F,E,D,P,B,R,N,M. They are called 'Frog Jump Capitals' for a reason. Each of these letters begin with a big line, starting at the top of course :)! Next you drop the big line to the bottom and then JUMP back to the top to finish the last step or steps to complete the letter. We are also reviewing grip and singing songs to help us with each part of writing our letters. We use each of the tools mentioned in the previous Preschool Post to help with starting a new letter. Mat Man has been hanging out with us and now has a bellybutton!! Haha :) The kids love this! Mat Man is a great friend who helps with knowing how we're built, taking turns, sharing with friends and listening as well. And the fact that he's made from all of our pieces that make our letters is even better!!

I have been so impressed with how fast each child is learning and catching on to new things. It is neat to see improvement as well as some who continue to surprise me. They are all doing a great job as we continue reviewing and learning new things. Thank you for all your help you do at home. It is essential for learning here at Allison Creek Preschool.

Thanks!! :)

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Upcoming Events

- October 31** Preschool Fall FUN-i-val
- November 1-17** – Canned Food Drive
- November 2** - Fall Pictures - Toddlers & Threes
- November 3** - Fall Pictures - 2s & 4s
- November 3** - Family Picture Appointments
- November 4** – Parent Conferences
- November 7** – Donuts for Dads - Toddlers
- November 7** – Chic Fil A Spirit Night
- November 8** – Donuts for Dads - 2s & 4s
- November 9** – Donuts for Dads - 3s
- November 14** - Deadline for Pizza & Shirts
- November 15** – Fall Picture Orders Due
- November 15**– Tuition Payment #4 Due
- November 15** – Scholastic Book Order Deadline
- November 16** - Pizza Lunch
- November 23&24** – Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 2** – Fun Friday - details in newsletter
- December 14** – Christmas Programs (evening)
- December 15** – Christmas Parties
- December 19-January 2** – Winter Break

Scholastic Book Orders



We are anxiously awaiting our Sept book order. October flyers are up for orders on Scholastic. Should you decide to order, please do so by Nov. 15.

To order online:

- 1 -Please go to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs to order.
- 2 - Sign up for a user name & password. If you already have one, just log on.
- 3 - Enter our Class Activation Code: H32YP.
- 4 - Place order
- 5 - Pay securely

*****Please note, every online order scholastic receives from our preschool, the preschool gets a free book! All book orders allow the preschool to accumulate points and earn free books!**

If you have any trouble ordering online or if you have any questions, please send the preschool an e-mail!

Looking Ahead - Christmas Program

Last year's Christmas Program was so much fun and the kids looked precious in their handmade shirts! We are going to keep our tradition and have the children make shirts, again, to wear for the program. The shirts will be \$8 each (for shirts and materials). We would like for all children to make a shirt. Please send your child's shirt money in the appropriate envelope with shirt size by November 14 so we can have shirts ordered, decorated, and ready for the show. Thanks! We do not want this project to be a hardship for any family. If this is the case for you, please talk with Ms. Elizabeth. Thank you!



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ACPS Contact Information

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