



November Newsletter



Director's Desk

If November is even half as lovely as October, we're in for a marvelous month! Halloween is now a memory. We really believe it's the children's favorite holiday despite the stress caused by all that sugar. They all enjoyed dressing up in costumes, singing songs and eating special treats!

November conjures up images of colorful leaves and crisp days. In keeping with tradition, each class will study seasonal changes and explore what they are thankful for from their unique perspective.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on Tuesday, November 5th. If you cannot make your assigned conference time, please talk to the teacher to make other arrangements. Also, be sure to let her know if you will be coming in-person or if you would like her to call you for a phone conference. GMS will be open for all-day care children only that day.

If your child has skipped breakfast, or enjoyed a sugary start, please let us know! What children eat for breakfast has an immediate and dramatic effect on behavior. We understand how difficult mornings can be, so please help us help your child!

Knowing how a child starts the day can add to a teacher's patience and understanding. Sincerely, Jackie

Reminders

- A sick child belongs at home! Sore throats, coughs, fevers, vomiting and diarrhea are excellent reasons to keep your child home. Children should be fever-free for 36 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
- Changes to your Emergency Contact information? Please let us know IN WRITING right away!
- If you are sending in a special snack, please make sure the teacher knows. Food needs to be store-bought and in the original container with a label attached. We are a peanut-free school, so all incoming items will be checked.
- Please mail all birthday invitations rather than sending them through the school. No matter how careful a teacher is, feelings are hurt if everyone is not included.
- Kindergarten parents: Now is the time to start looking into first grade options! Please talk to Jackie or Elizabeth if you would like information regarding local options.

Holiday Programs

Parents/special guests are invited to meet us in the parking lot behind the school to hear the classes sing songs. The children will come inside and have a special snack in the classroom.

Monday, December 9th

9:15: Ms Adrieen and Ms Cindi

Tuesday, December 10th

9:15: Ms Alicia, Ms Kelly and Ms Tracy Garlow

Wednesday December 11th

9:15: Ms Mickey, Ms Meg and Ms Michelle

Classroom parties for 2's:

We will have a special snack in the classroom and we will have pictures to share with the parents! We have found that, for this age child, seeing parents during school time creates a difficult transition back to class.

Thursday, December 12th

10:00 Ms. Erika and Ms. Karen's Holiday Party

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CALHOUN FAMILY, WHO RAISED THE MOST MONEY FOR OUR FALL FUNDRAISER FOR ALL 4 MANOR SCHOOLS! THEY HAVE WON FULL TUITION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

What we are learning

2's- Ms. Erika and Ms. Karen's young charges have made incredible progress. It's wonderful to me how quickly two-year olds seem to grow. They studied themselves in September and were introduced to the world of senses in October. Now they plan to talk about families and how we all relate, then explore their homes. It's a gradual evolution away from an awareness of themselves towards an awareness of their environment. Great things are happening here. It's exciting!

3's- The three-year-old classes go on safari this month and study jungle animals. During the next three weeks they become experts on animal behavior and can easily mimic the antics of chimps, lions, and elephants. For many of the children a visit to the Virginia Zoo would be a marvelous reinforcement of the animals they are studying. It's also a wonderful way to spend a warm fall day. The Threes finish the month with stories and crafts relating to Thanksgiving.

4's- Our four-year-old classes hit the trail as they learn about horses, cowboys, and rodeos. This is an exciting unit that combines the factual information on horses with delightful stories of the American cowboy. In keeping with their developmental levels, the Fours will enjoy stories about the Wild West. Letter and number recognition as well as phonics instruction continue on an individual basis.

PreK- The pre-K classes become environmentally aware as they focus on habitats and endangered species. The children become aware of the fragility of various ecosystems as well as the types of animals that can inhabit them.

K- The kindergarten class explores nature as the original Americans found it. We learn what the Native Americans discovered when they arrived on this continent and how they adapted their lifestyles to their environment. The emphasis is on the culture, clothes, and lives of different tribes around the continent.

Save the Date

November 5Conference Day (open only for all-day students)

November 11Veteran's Day/School Closed

November 28 - 29Thanksgiving Holiday/School Closed

December 28-January 3Winter Break/School Closed

January 6School resumes

January 13Martin Luther King, Jr Day - School closed

January 27Teacher In-service - School closed