

ALL ABOUT US

Volume 48 Issue 4 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 December, 2011
www.accotinkpreschool.com

Calendar Notes

November 30 & December 1

WSHS Tiny Tots Concert

December 5-9

Toys For Tots Collection

December 13

Registration for Winter Enrichment Classes

December 15 & 16

Santa Visits and Holiday Parties

Dec. 21, 2011- Jan. 2, 2012

Winter Holiday Break
No School

Menu

Nov. 28-Dec. 2 Popcorn
Chex Mix
Dec. 5-9 Saltines
Vanilla Wafers
Dec. 12-16 Graham Crackers
Wheat Thins
Dec. 19-20 Pretzel Twists
Animal Crackers

***Apple Juice and Water served
Daily***

Units Of Study

Hanukkah
Christmas
Traditions



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

At this time of year we purchase more toys than at any other time of the year. We would like to pass on to you some information which we have gained over the years.

How many times have you bought a toy that wasn't used? Many parents buy them for their children to grow into. Buying a toy which is too old for a child just doesn't work. Make sure that you provide toys which are age-appropriate. Follow the age guidelines recommended by the manufacturer to avoid buying toys which are too juvenile or too advanced for your child's age.

Consider safety. Little pieces and sharp points do not mix with small children. Consider the manual dexterity required. Are the child's small muscles developed sufficiently? If not, he is going to become frustrated and leave the toy rather than play with it. By the time he is coordinated enough, the newness will have worn off and he will have no desire to try the toy again.

Be intelligent about the strong advertising on television. The commercials make toys seem larger and more life like than they sometimes are in reality. Is the toy a fad which will be played with for a few days and then cast aside? Does the toy stimulate imagination and creativity or does it do everything for the child?

Provide a wide variety of toys to prevent boredom and hold your child's interest. These should include toys which allow for solitary play, such as books, blocks, and puzzles, as well as those toys which invite cooperative play, like board games and tea sets. Art materials are also a wonderful way to promote creativity and self-expression. These can include coloring sets, paints and simple and easy to assemble craft kits.

For active play, bicycles, skates and bouncing balls are all good choices for developing and strengthening large muscles. These will also help your child develop good coordination skills.

Whichever toys you choose for your child, remember to exercise caution and care as adult supervision is always a key factor in safe play. Good luck on your toy shopping and remember to have fun making your

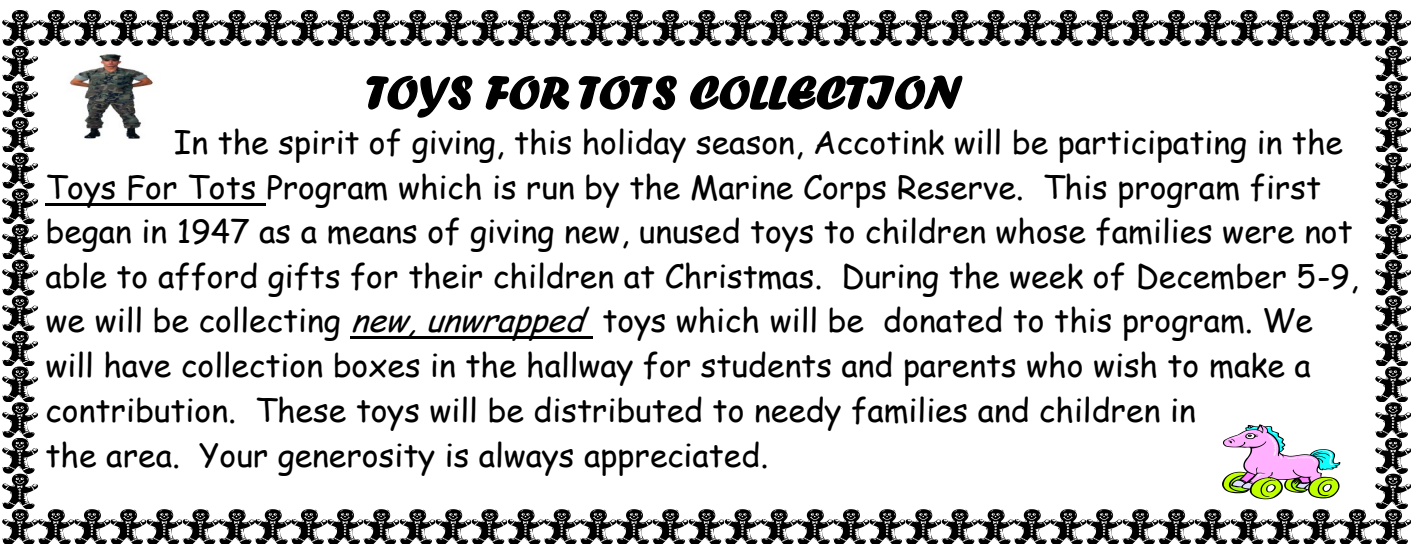
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



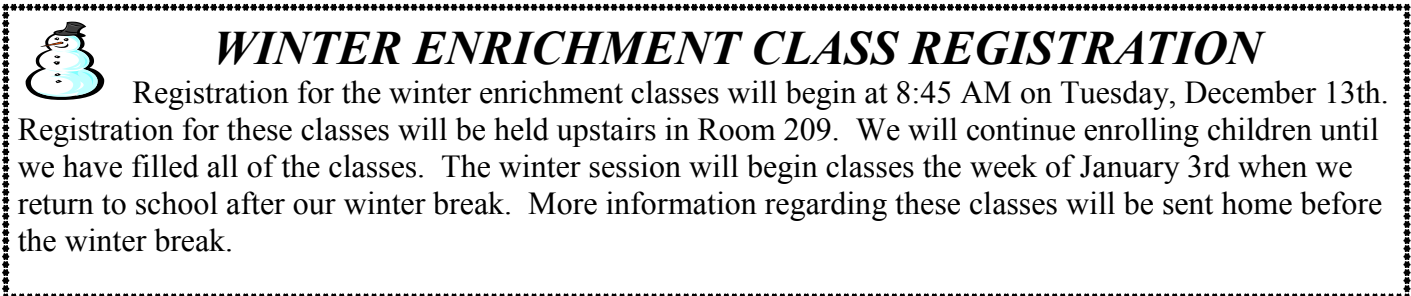
ECHO FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

Our November food drive for ECHO was a *huge* success thanks to all of the children and parents who contributed to this worthwhile event. We were able to fatten up our “Tom Turkey” with all of the donations we received. The children had a wonderful time counting and charting all of the contributions. We can’t thank you enough for your support and contributions during a time when the shelves were getting low and the holiday season upon us. We were able to collect **over 50 bags of food!** The ECHO staff was extremely grateful for the amount of food collected. At a time when so many are in need, the spirit of giving is evident by your generosity and we thank you so much for your help with this endeavor.



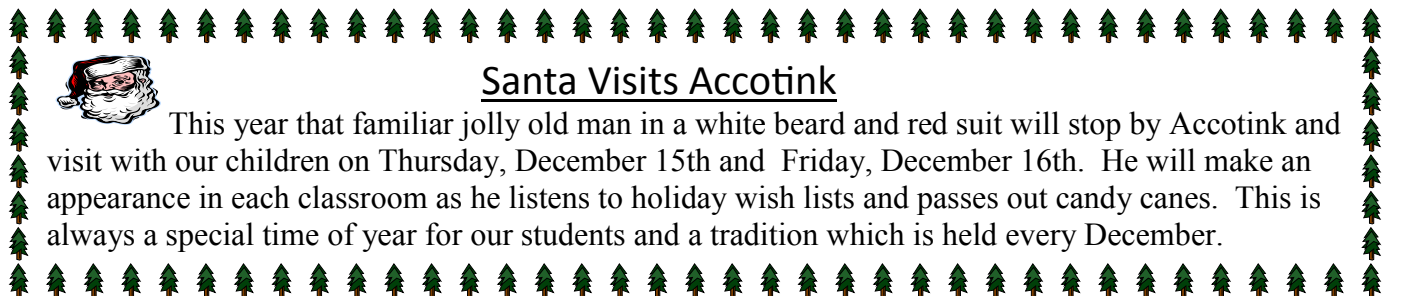
TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION

In the spirit of giving, this holiday season, Accotink will be participating in the Toys For Tots Program which is run by the Marine Corps Reserve. This program first began in 1947 as a means of giving new, unused toys to children whose families were not able to afford gifts for their children at Christmas. During the week of December 5-9, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys which will be donated to this program. We will have collection boxes in the hallway for students and parents who wish to make a contribution. These toys will be distributed to needy families and children in the area. Your generosity is always appreciated.



WINTER ENRICHMENT CLASS REGISTRATION

Registration for the winter enrichment classes will begin at 8:45 AM on Tuesday, December 13th. Registration for these classes will be held upstairs in Room 209. We will continue enrolling children until we have filled all of the classes. The winter session will begin classes the week of January 3rd when we return to school after our winter break. More information regarding these classes will be sent home before the winter break.



Santa Visits Accotink

This year that familiar jolly old man in a white beard and red suit will stop by Accotink and visit with our children on Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th. He will make an appearance in each classroom as he listens to holiday wish lists and passes out candy canes. This is always a special time of year for our students and a tradition which is held every December.

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holiday selections.

As we look forward to another coming year, our staff would like to extend our wishes for you and your family to have a happy, holiday season, good health and much happiness in the New Year.

Lexie and Susan



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Fairfax County Public Schools open two hours late, our operating hours will be from 10:45 AM to 12:45 PM, and 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. On days when inclement weather threatens, parents should listen to radio and television stations for announcements concerning schedule variations. Information is also available on the school answering machine (703-451-5797) as well as our email alert system. When Fairfax County schools close for the day, Accotink is also closed as well. If we miss more than three days of school, every effort will be made to make up as many days as possible.

Should bad weather occur while children are already in school, parents should stay near the phone in the event we have to notify you of an early dismissal due to poor road conditions. If you use day care, please inform the provider that conditions may develop during the day which would require his/her availability to come for your child at other than normal dismissal time.

A WORD OF THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who have helped us out with our Fall Festival activities, Thanksgiving Feasts, chaperoning field trips, participating in parties and special celebrations, and all of the other things you have done to make these occasions festive and special for our children. We are grateful to have such caring and supportive parents to help us out. We would also like to thank you for the delicious goodies and snacks you have provided for our staff members. We appreciate all that you do for us!

Wishing you and your family a joyous and special holiday season!

Accotink Preschool Staff





Internet Activity Monitoring

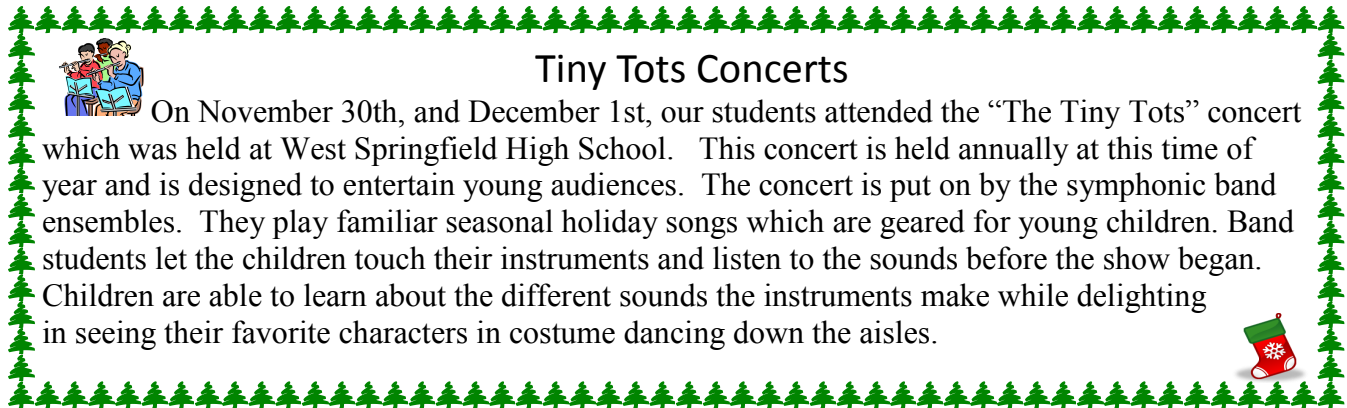
The Fairfax County Sheriff Office is offering parents Internet software to help them assess what their children are doing online. The program that is used is called ComputerCOP Free Internet Activity Monitoring Software. The ComputerCOP program scans the computer for potentially objectionable images and is available free of charge for Fairfax County residents at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/news/fingerprint.htm.



Available Parent Resources

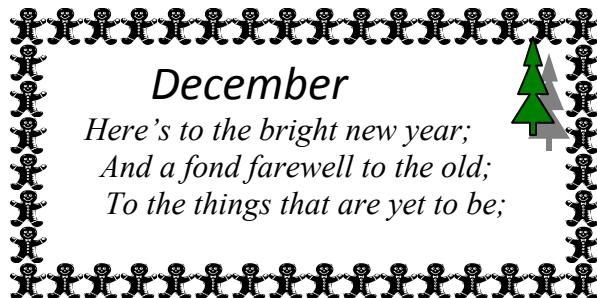
Parents are encouraged to take advantage of several resources which are available here at Accotink. You will find helpful information on our 'Accotink To Parent' bulletin board, along with several books and periodicals on the Parent Resource Cart. These resources are located just outside of the office in the hallway by the Hall Monitor's desk. Parents are welcome to check out any of these books—just let the office or the Hall monitor know if you would like to take one home.

Parent workshop information is also available through the Preschool Child Find office posted on the bulletin board. These workshops are free and are offered throughout the school year in 3 area locations. Some of the topics include language development, understanding childhood behaviors and information about a child's social development. Child Find is a program offered through the Fairfax County Public Schools which provides free screening and evaluations when developmental delays and areas of concern are identified in young children. The new website address for Child Find is "www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ecids/index.htm".



Tiny Tots Concerts

On November 30th, and December 1st, our students attended the "The Tiny Tots" concert which was held at West Springfield High School. This concert is held annually at this time of year and is designed to entertain young audiences. The concert is put on by the symphonic band ensembles. They play familiar seasonal holiday songs which are geared for young children. Band students let the children touch their instruments and listen to the sounds before the show began. Children are able to learn about the different sounds the instruments make while delighting in seeing their favorite characters in costume dancing down the aisles.



December

*Here's to the bright new year;
And a fond farewell to the old;
To the things that are yet to be;*

