

❖ ALL ABOUT US ❖

Volume 46 Issue 7 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Rd. Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 March, 2010

Calendar Notes

March 1 & 2

*Dr. Seuss Celebration
Wear Your Favorite Hat*

March 10

*Enrollment for Spring
Enrichment Classes*

March 11 & 12

Magic Show

March 12

Make-up Picture Day

March 16

Staff Training

AM Classes: 10:45 – 12:45

PM Classes: 1:30 – 3:30

(Dress Down Days)

March 16 & 17

St. Patrick's Day Parties

March 29—April 2

Spring Break

Menu

Mar.1– 5 Pretzel Twists

Vanilla Wafers

Mar.8-12 Wheat Thins

Graham Crackers

Mar.15-19 St. Patrick's Day

Treats

Animal Crackers

Mar. 22-26 Goldfish

Ritz Crackers

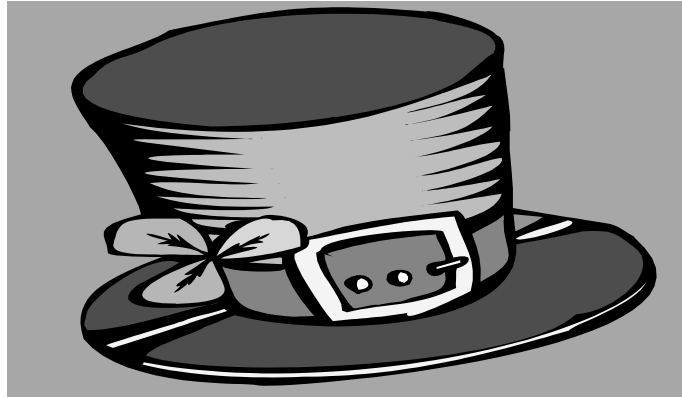
Units of Study

Leprechauns

St. Patrick's Day

Wind and Weather

Kite Flying



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S

Every day includes transitions—they are as inevitable as the sunrise and sunset. Wouldn't it be great if you could motivate children to move smoothly from breakfast to bedtime without power struggles?

Transitions, at least some of them, are difficult for most children. One of the reasons is that children have not yet developed the capacity to think, "What's next?" They live in the moment and often become completely absorbed in one activity or another. If they are in the middle of pretending to be a ballerina or a firefighter, it is difficult for them to get excited over something as mundane as taking a bath. And closing down completely, as in taking a nap or going to bed, often causes stress on the whole family.

Here are a few suggestions to help children transition from one thing to another smoothly:

- Prepare children for transitioning by announcing what is coming next. This warning gives them time to wrap it up and is an effective way to move on to something else. We use this technique at Accotink and it is very effective when getting children to finish up one activity and prepare to move on to another. Children do not always have a good sense of time, but they do understand a change is on the way when we give them some advance notice. Let them know what is coming by giving them a verbal warning— "Let's finish your picture because we will have to leave and go to the grocery store in 5 minutes." The key is to focus on key points—what is happening next, and what your child needs to do to get ready for that. There is no need for lots of talking, and keeping it simple avoids confusion. Nagging and idle threats do not work. Using a phrase like "Before we can go to Cindy's party, you have to take a bath and then we can wrap her present."

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Announcements

Dr. Seuss Celebration

On March 1st and 2nd, we will have lots of fun paying tribute to the beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss. The children will be listening to the timeless stories written by this famous author. They always delight in the magic of his silly tales and stories. To add to this festive and fun occasion, the children and staff will be bringing their favorite, funny hat from home. We always enjoy having guest readers join us for this special celebration and we thank those parents who are volunteering their time to read to the children.

Make-up Photographs

On Friday, March 12th, a photographer from Splendid Portraits will be here at the school to take **individual pictures** of students who were absent when photographs were taken on October 5th and 6th. **Also, any student who enrolled after this time who did not have photographs taken will be able to do so during this make-up session.** Please remember to make sure your child is in uniform on this day. In order to have your child's picture taken, you must schedule an appointment with the office. You may do this in person or by calling 703-451-5797 and we will gladly include your child's name on the list. The photographer will only be here on Friday, March 12th, from 9:00-11:00. If you would like to have your child photographed during this make-up session and your child attends classes on a day other than Friday, or is an afternoon student, you will need to bring him/her to the office during these scheduled times. Pictures will be taken upstairs in Room 263.

SPRING ENRICHMENT CLASSES

On Wednesday, March 10th, we will be holding registration for the Spring Enrichment session. Due to the number of days missed in February, the spring session will be shortened. More information regarding the offerings and registration will be forthcoming soon. Enrollment for this session will begin at 8:45 AM upstairs in Room 209.

Jake The Magician Coming This Month

On March 11th and 12th, our students are in for a real treat as they watch "Jake the Magician" perform his magic here at school. He has been lauded as one of the best entertainers in the DC area in the Washington Post Magazine. He was also voted as a finalist for "Children's Entertainer of the Year Award" in the Washington Families Magazine. We are looking forward to seeing what surprises he has 'up his sleeve' for us!

Director's Desk, continued from page 1

- Limit the number of transitions as much as possible. By doing this, you will definitely cut down of frustrations—yours and theirs. Keep children occupied so things run smoothly from one activity to another. It can be disastrous if you set a 2 year old in a high chair with nothing to do while you set the table or finish fixing dinner. You can let a toddler play quietly nearby with a box of toys or some pots, pans or plastic containers while you are busy with meal preparations. Waiting is difficult for all of us, but it is especially hard for children.
- Have a playful attitude and make transitions fun when you can. Sprinkle kids with pretend slumber dust at naptime or bedtime. Play Simon Says on the way to the dentist. When picking up the toys from the bedroom floor, pretend to step over the dinosaur taking a nap in the middle of the room. Help your child get dressed by putting his socks on his hands instead of his feet. This type of clowning around brings delight to a mundane task.

Wishing you all a wonderful Spring!



Accotink Recital Update

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17th, for our spring performance at Lee High School. The children are practicing their songs and dances and getting ready for the big day. Costumes have been ordered and are already beginning to arrive. This year the theme will be Singing and Dancing Through Spring. We promise you won't be disappointed when you see this wonderful show! More information will be coming home next month with further details. Below you will see show times and when the classes will be performing.

<u>1:00 PM SHOW</u>	<u>3:30 PM SHOW</u>
<p>Mrs. Buell's 2AM class Mrs. Magalong's 2AM class Mrs. Greenhaugh's 2AM Mrs. Altman's JKAM class Mrs. Scavongelli's 3PM class Mrs. McBride's 5PM class Mrs. Winston's 5AM class</p>	<p>Mrs. Buell's 3AM class Mrs. Buell's 3PM class Mrs. Yocom's 3AM class Mrs. McBride's 5AM class Mrs. Scavongelli's 3AM class Mrs. O'Pray's 3AM class Mrs. Searle's JKAM class Mrs. Wagner's and Mrs. Greenhaugh's Kindergarten class</p>

Plan now for your child to attend our

Summer Sunshine Program



When: June 3—July 23, 2010

Where: Accotink Academy Preschool

Ages: 3—6 year olds (child must be three by April, 2010 and be toilet trained.....child's seventh birthday must be after December 1, 2010)

Proof of age is required for children who have not attended Accotink Academy previously.

Time: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Programs Offered:

2 Day Program (T/Th)\$60.00 per week
3 Day Program (M/W/F)\$90.00 per week
3 Day Program (T/W/Th)\$90.00 per week
5 Day Program (M-F)\$150.00 per week

Registration: Ongoing through May 21, 2010. **If you register by April 7, 2010, you are guaranteed space on all of the days you request.** Registration forms are available in the office or on the bookshelf next to the Hall Monitors' desk. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$45.00 due at the time of registration. Completed registration forms may be turned in to the office. If you have any questions, they should be addressed to Fran McBride, the camp director. She can be reached at 703-451-5797.

Countdown To "Hundreds Day" For Kindergarteners

On Monday, March 8th, our kindergarten class will be celebrating "Hundreds Day" which marks the 100th day of learning in school. We are hoping that our winter storms are now over and won't delay this fun occasion. This is an annual celebration which the children look forward to each year. Parents and teachers work together to create activities which allow the students to make good use of their counting skills and "hundreds" knowledge. Lots of fun activities are planned for this special day and the children are getting excited as the anticipation of reaching their "100th" day in school approaches.

****** Correction To Staff Training Dates ******

The Staff Training session dates for the remainder of the school year were listed incorrectly in the February Allaboutus newsletter. The correct dates for the remaining Staff Training days are:

Tuesday, March 16th

Tuesday, April 13th

Tuesday, May 18th

