

ALL ABOUT US

Volume 48 Issue 2 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 October, 2011
www.accotinkacademy.com

CALENDAR NOTES

October 3-7

Enrichment Classes Begin

October 10

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

October 13 & 14

Fall Festival

No Uniforms-Play Clothes

October 19

Staff Training

AM Classes: 10:45-12:45

PM Classes: 1:30-3:30

**(Student Dress Down Days
on Oct. 19& 20)**

October 27& 28

Halloween Parades
and Parties

Menu

Oct. 3-7 Animal Crackers
Cheez-it Crackers

Oct. 11-14 Grahams
Saltines

Oct. 17-21 Goldfish
Popcorn

Oct. 24-31 Ritz Crackers
Vanilla Wafers

Apple juice/Water served daily

Units Of Study

Autumn Changes

Christopher Columbus
Halloween



From the directors desk

The school year is off to a good start. The children have settled into the classroom routine and are busy making new friends. Special classes have begun in music, P.E., Spanish and drama. The children are having fun working and playing together.

It was nice to see so many of you at our Back To School Night. We really appreciate parents taking the time from busy schedules to attend this important and informative evening. We hope you enjoyed hearing about all the wonderful things your children will be doing and learning this year at Accotink. We also appreciate all of the support we received at our Bookworm Book Fair and hope you and your children will enjoy the wonderful books, games and puzzles you purchased.

Preschoolers are in a transitional stage of life between being very self-centered and learning how to be considerate of others. This can be frustrating for parents and other adults, but we can also see it as an opportunity to teach and a chance to model self-discipline and character. Emotional development, like other learning, takes time. Self-centeredness in children can make them more self-confident and independent, but it can also cause them to ignore or challenge your rules for acceptable behavior. Being patient and consistent with discipline is the key to helping children learn how to manage their emotions and self-control.

A child slowly learns what is socially acceptable behavior through trial and error. Self-control does not suddenly turn on like a light switch. It takes time. Regard errors as opportunities for your child to learn and for you to discover the disciplinary techniques that work for you and your child. The goal of discipline is to guide a child towards a sense of self-worth that enables him or her to do the right thing. Discipline is not the same thing as punishment. Often the only purpose of punishment is to relieve a parent's anger, not to help the child.

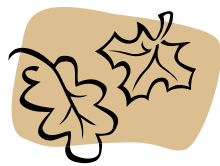
If we raise our voices at children, they will raise their voices too. Children will often mirror the actions of parents and other adults. When we discipline children, we get better results by doing so in a calm manner

Continued on page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Festival is Coming!

The Accotink Staff is pleased to announce that we will be having our annual **Fall Festival on October 13th and 14th**. The activities will include tattoos, face painting, art, games, story time, and yummy snacks. Once again, we will have our Accotink pumpkin patch where each child will select a pumpkin to take home. The Fall Festival is a special event for our students. Please be aware that supplies are ordered for enrolled children only and **we kindly request that siblings not attend this festival**. We need many parent volunteers to help out with this event. If you are interested in participating in any of the activities we have planned for Fall Festival, please let the office staff know. Volunteer forms were sent out earlier and we requested they be turned in no later than October 4th. We always love having parents help us out with these activities!



School Pictures

Splendid Portraits photographed all students at the end of September. We should receive these pictures in approximately 4 weeks and they will be sent home with your child. **If you did not purchase a picture package at the time the photographs were taken, you will receive a reminder notice allowing you another opportunity to buy some.** You will have to do this through the Splendid Portraits website. You will be able to see the picture images of your child on their site. More information will be forthcoming once we have received the purchased picture packages. If you have questions, please come to the office and speak with Peggy Long.

BOOK FAIR A SUCCESS

Our Book Fair held last month was a real success. So many parents purchased lots of books, games and puzzles which enabled us to raise money for purchasing new books our new Library Center. We would like to thank all of the parents who gave their time and efforts volunteering to help out with the Book Fair. We hope you children enjoy their new books!

Halloween Parades

October would not be complete without the fun and excitement of our annual Halloween parades! Come watch as the children parade in costume and sing seasonal songs. Please have your family join us for this fun-filled and much anticipated celebration. The children love to see their parents and siblings watching them as they parade around the parking lot with their class. Don't forget to bring your cameras because you won't want to miss this special event! You will find the schedule listed below for the times and days for each parade:

Thursday, Oct. 27th-11:00 AM

Greenhaugh 2AM
Magalong 2AM
Buell 2AM
Searle JKAM
McBride 5AM
Altman JKAM

Friday, Oct. 28th-11:00 AM

Scavongelli 3AM
Yocom 3AM
O'Pray 3AM
Buell 3AM
Winston 5AM
Druggan KAM

Friday, Oct. 28th-2:45 PM

Scavongelli 3PM
McBride 3PM
Buell 3PM

All School Dress Down Days

To coincide with our staff training day each month, children will be able to wear their regular clothing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of that week. In addition, children should wear their play clothes for our Fall Festival days and they do not need to wear uniforms. **This month, children will not need to wear their uniforms on Thursday, October 13th and Friday, October 14th since these are our Fall Festival days. Children may also wear their play clothes on Tuesday, October 18th and Wednesday, October 19th due to our staff training meeting.** If the weather is chilly during our Fall Festival, please make sure your child has a sweater or jacket since some of the festivities are held outside, weather permitting.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences and written evaluations are held twice during the school year. An assessment of each student's progress is noted and discussed during this time. Our kindergarten students are evaluated four times during the school year. Conferences with parents are an invaluable tool which provides them and the teacher with important information about their child. Our teachers are constantly observing and evaluating their children on a daily basis. They are watching how they play together, follow directions, listen, handle manipulative materials, participate in different activities and many other important things they do in the classroom.

These conferences are a wonderful vehicle for communication between parents and teachers so they can have an understanding of how their child is doing at school as well as home. This is a special time that gives teachers and parents a chance to talk directly one on one. Conferences also can help parents feel more comfortable talking with the teacher about specific concerns, behaviors seen at home, etc. Likewise, it allows parents a glimpse into what their child is doing in the classroom and how he/she behaves, etc. It is an opportunity for parents to ask questions about the program and how their child is performing as a part of the class. Prior to your conference, you may want to ask your child if they have any questions or things to say to the teacher that you may want to convey during conference time. Teachers are always available after school hours to discuss any concerns a parent has about his/her child.

Children benefit when experiences at school are supported and extended at home. Sharing information between

SNEAKER REMINDER!

Please remember to put your child in sneakers when your child has P.E. It is **very** difficult for them to run around in shoes other than a sneaker. We love the cute rain boots and other shoes the children wear, but they are not safe for outside play, climbing, and during P.E. class.



Visitors and Volunteers Sign-In Procedures

We are requesting that all visitors to the school, as well as parents who volunteer in their child's classroom, please sign in with one of the Hall Monitors before proceeding to the classroom. We have a sign-in log book which is used for this purpose and a Visitor or Volunteer badge will be issued to you. Should you come to volunteer or visit in the afternoons, please check in with the office before proceeding to the classroom. We will be doing this in an effort to continue to monitor the safety and well-being of the children when visitors and others are in the building.

Also, remember to call or check in with the office staff if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child. We need to make sure that this person is authorized on the enrollment form before we can release your child. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with these procedures as we consider your child's safety first.

Box Tops for Education

Don't forget to keep collecting the box top logos from General Mills, Pillsbury and Betty Crocker products. With your help, we will be able to continue to add to our playground through the collection of these box tops. We are happy to have Jackie Cordiner, (Andrew's mom), coordinating this effort again this school year. We hope you will take the time to clip and save these for the school as each box top is worth **10 cents**. In the past, we have been able to provide additional playground equipment, along with the Child Enrichment Program, for our students to enjoy.

The color sheets Mrs. Cordiner has given us have been a huge success since the children can decorate them and actually count the box tops they attach to them. We hope to exceed a goal of \$500.00 this year. The collection box is located next to the Hall Monitor's desk on the Parent Resource cart. We will be accepting these box tops throughout the year, so you may drop them off at anytime. Your cooperation with this effort is greatly appreciated as it benefits our Accotink students.

From the Director's Desk, continued

and teaching children to express their feelings in acceptable ways. Some suggestions which we often utilize in the classroom may prove helpful at home. Some of these are listed below.

- ◆ **Be clear and consistent**—Set and discuss rules and consequences. Make sure the rules are clear, simple, and few. Children need to have limits and boundaries set for them. Dangerous and destructive behavior should be averted so that others do not get hurt or have property damaged. Children should know that it is unacceptable to hurt themselves, other people or things. Our teachers use the approach in a calm manner stating, “You may not hit Ben. We never use our hands to hit other people.” We then acknowledge how they feel by adding, “I know you are angry. Can you tell me why?...OK, how can you let Ben know that you want to play with the truck?” Children are encouraged to use their words to resolve issues rather than using their hands, etc.
- ◆ **Offer choices**—By using phrases such as, “Would you like to brush your teeth now, or do you want to wait until we have read the story?” “Would you like juice or milk to drink with your snack?”
- ◆ **Ignore certain behaviors**—As long as the behavior is not harmful to other children, it can be ignored. Throwing things, or hitting, scratching and biting are types of behaviors which need to be addressed and dealt with. Children will learn quickly that by fussing, crying, pouting, etc., nothing will be gained since these are all unacceptable behaviors. On the other hand, he will learn that good behavior gets results and a favorable reaction from grown-ups.

No matter what we adults do, there are times when children lose control. Aggressive acts may call for removing the child from the action in a brief time-out. The point of this is to give the child a few minutes to calm down. Those minutes come in handy, too, for helping a frustrated parent cool down and think of what to do next! Remember that children will react to what they see and hear around them.



We hope you all enjoy the Fall season!

Lexie and Susan



ENRICHMENT CLASSES BEGIN

The Fall session for enrichment classes will begin this month the week of October 3rd. On Mondays, Spanish enrichment classes will meet. Soccer classes will meet on Tuesdays, Old Fashioned Games will meet on Wednesdays, Music classes meet on Thursdays and Yoga sessions will be held on Fridays. These sessions will run for 8 weeks and the cost is \$88.00. Enrichment sessions are held in the fall, winter and spring. Classes run from 11:45 PM-1:00 PM. Parents are reminded to send a **small healthy snack** for their child to enjoy at the end of each class. **Please label your child's snack bag or box with his/her name and date.** Afternoon students should come to school at 11:50 AM, having already had their lunch. ***Please keep in mind that on Staff Training days and delayed openings, Lunch Bunch and enrichment classes will dismiss at 2:00 PM.**

Staff Training Days Begin

This month we will begin holding our staff training sessions for our teachers. These meetings provide our staff with ongoing educational opportunities and developments in the early childhood field. Staff training days will be held once a month beginning in October and continue through May. From October through January, staff training days will be held on a **Wednesday**. From February through May, we hold these meetings on **Tuesday**.

Staff training sessions from October through January will be as follows:

October 19th
November 16th
January 11th

Morning classes will be held from 10:45AM - 12:45 PM on staff training days. The hours for the afternoon classes will be 1:30 PM-3:30 PM. You will find these dates listed on the lime green 2011-12 school calendar and teachers will also remind parents on the days we hold staff training meetings.

