

# ALLABOUTUS

Volume 48 Issue 1 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 September, 2011

## Calendar Notes

### September 5

Labor Day Holiday

### September 8 & 9

Orientation Days

### September 12

First Day Of School  
3 and all 5 Day Students  
including Kindergarten

### September 13

First Day Of School  
2 Day Students

### September 21

Registration for Fall Enrichment  
Session

### September 26

Lunch Bunch Program Begins

### September 26-30

Bookworm Plantation Book Fair

### September 27

Back To School Night

### September 29-30

School Photographs Taken

## Menu

Sept. 12-16 Graham Crackers

Wheat Thins

Sept. 19-23 Ritz Crackers

CheX Mix

Sept. 26-30 Pretzels

Popcorn

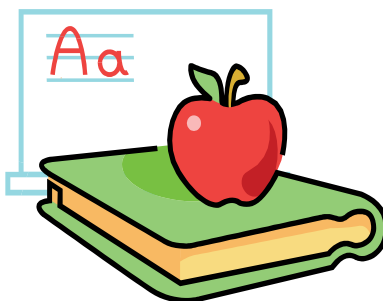
\*Apple Juice Served Daily\*

## Units Of Study

Getting To Know You

Making Friends

All About Me



## **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

Welcome to the beginning of our 48th year here at Accotink Academy Preschool. Our staff has been busy preparing for the new school year and we are eagerly awaiting all of our new and returning students.

We welcome you to the first edition of our 2011-2012 monthly newsletter, the *Allaboutus*. Our monthly publication will keep you informed about happenings in the school as well as units of study, snacks, upcoming events and special announcements.

The beginning of each school year is greeted with anticipation, excitement...often questions...and sometimes anxiety. Please know that we are here for your children to help make this transition a smooth one. All of our staff will be on board during the first week of school to make the children feel welcome and help them adjust to their new environment.

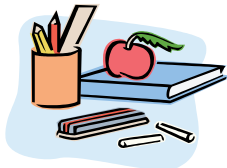
As we begin a new school year, our focus will be on making new friends, cooperation and learning about classroom rules during the month of September. Parents play an important role, just as teachers do, in helping us achieve these goals. Below we have listed a few suggestions which should help make the transition from summer to the beginning of school a little easier. The key to a stress free day for everyone involves **anticipation, preparation and attitude**.

- **Anticipation:** Whatever can go wrong can sometimes definitely go wrong. Children wake up with fevers or pink eye. They misplace their shoes or socks or even a small pet. You can't find your keys or the baby's bottle. Carpoolers and school buses run late or come early. The refrigerator has been raided and you don't have your child's favorite cereal or breakfast food.
- **Preparation:** The great thing about preparation is that it saves so much time in the long run. It is not as if things don't have to be done anyway. Lunches must be packed, clothes selected, pets fed and walked and breakfast prepared. Many of these things can be done ahead of time or the night before when you are not facing deadlines and the uncertainties of the early morning. Decide the night before which clothing your child will wear to school the next day. You can also assign each family member a box which is kept near the front door. Whatever has to go out the door in the morning can be put in the box the night before, except for perishables. Lunches can be prepared in advance and stored in the fridge. This will make mornings less hectic while trying to get breakfast on the table before children leave for school.

*Continued on page 2*

- **Attitude:** Since children pick up cues from adults and those around them, it is very important that we model good behavior and a positive attitude which will lead children in the right direction. Having a good attitude will help to allay fears, apprehension, stress and anxiety in your child. Be sure to keep a smile on your face even if the daily routine has you frazzled. Provide lots of hugs and goodbye kisses no matter what else is going on. Don't forget: Kindness is contagious!

As we begin the new school year with new changes and routines, encourage your child to look forward to coming to school and making new friends. When it is time to leave your child at the classroom door, reassure him that you will be back soon to pick him up and remind him how much fun he is going to have at school. If your child sees that you are apprehensive about leaving, this will only increase his stress and anxiety. Hugs, kisses and reassurance will help make this transition smoother for you and your child. We look forward to an exciting year ahead with lots of fun-filled days and activities planned for your children. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious possession. Our staff is eager, excited and ready to have a wonderful year with you and your children!



## Susan and Lexie



### *General Mills Box Tops For Education*

We will be collecting box top logos from General Mills products again this year. Together with the parents from the Child Enrichment Program, we are able to use the proceeds from the box top logos to help refurbish our playground and purchase new equipment for the children. There will be a box located on the table below the hallway bulletin board adjacent to the office where these logos can be deposited. The logos can be found on General Mills items as well as Ziploc, Kleenex, Yoplait Yogurt, Pillsbury and Betty Crocker products. In addition, you can go to the website at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) and print out valuable coupons to use on these products to save money. Get your friends, family members and neighbors to clip and save the box top logos and join us in helping to reach our goal of **\$500.00 or more!**

We would like to thank Mrs. Cordiner, (Andrew's mom), for being our Box Tops Coordinator last year as well as taking on this responsibility again this year. She will again be providing the children with coloring sheets where they can paste on the box tops they collect. What a fun way to have the children par-



### *BOOKWORM BOOK FAIR COMING THIS MONTH*

We are happy to announce that the Bookworm Book Fair will be returning to Accotink again this year. We will have it the week of September 26th-30th. during school hours. The selection will include toys, games and books for different age groups so you will be able to shop for younger and older siblings as well. We will need several parent volunteers to help with the Book Fair, so if you are interested and have some free time to help out, please drop by the office and let us know. We will be sending out a flyer and additional information about this event soon.

This year, we will be opening our own library corner for our classes to use. Any profits from the book fair will go towards the purchase of new books for our own library cart.

**\*\*\*\*\*Attention Parents\*\*\*\*\***

***For your child's safety, after dismissal, no children are allowed to be in the building unless accompanied by a parent or an adult. Your cooperation is appreciated.***

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Reminder to Parents

Please be sure to update your Registration Cards in our office whenever you have a change in information. This includes changes to an address, home and cell phone numbers, emergency contacts and carpoolers. It is very important that we keep these records current.



## Medications for Children

Due to state regulations, Accotink Academy is only able to administer prescription medication which is necessary for a life-threatening situation or a severe allergic reaction. Children who have medical conditions or severe allergies which require medication, must let the office know immediately. Signed permission forms are kept with the child's medication in our office. Trained staff members are always available to administer these medications if necessary. **No other medications (including over the counter) should be sent into the school.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



## Back To School Night



All parents are invited to attend Accotink Academy's Back to School Night on **Tuesday, September 27th**. Teachers will be available to discuss the curriculum and their goals for the school year. **We recommend that children and siblings not attend this meeting.** We will have a special function later in the school year that the children and their families can attend together.

We will be holding two sessions on this evening. The first session will be held at 6:30PM in the classrooms. The second session will be held at 7:30PM also in the classrooms. **At 7:00PM all teachers and parents will go to the church sanctuary upstairs for a brief meeting.** A flyer with the schedule and times will be sent home with the children in their book bags so you will know which session you will be attending. ***Please check your child's book bag and mark your calendars for this very important and informative event!***



## Parking Lot Entry and Exit

In order to comply with the church's request, we ask that parents enter the school from Rolling Road and exit the parking lot at Roxbury Avenue. This will help to ease the flow of traffic during arrival and dismissal times and insure the safety of our parents and children.

We also ask that you drive slowly and use extreme caution as you enter and exit the parking lot. We realize it may be difficult to find a parking space, but we ask that you be considerate and courteous to other drivers and pedestrians. Parents are also reminded not to leave siblings unattended in vehicles when arriving at school. Please take all valuables, purses, etc. with you and remember to hold you child's hand when crossing the parking lot. The safety of our children is of the



## Shoe Drive a Big Success

We would like to thank all of the parents and children who donated shoes for our shoe drive which was held this past May at the end of our school year. We would also like to thank Ms. Sidar, (Paolo Aguero's mom), for coordinating this effort. Each year a group of physicians and staff members at Fairfax Hospital organize this shoe drive and make a trip to Honduras to provide the needy with shoes and other services. Your generosity and donations were greatly appreciated.



## Lunch Bunch Program



Since our Lunch Bunch program has been such a success for the past several years, we will again be offering this program to those parents who are interested in having their child (ren) stay for lunch. We will start the program **beginning Monday, September 26th**. Parents will need to provide a lunch for their child and the cost will be **\$9.00** per day. The Lunch Bunch program will be held daily from 11:45 until 1:00 pm. **All children will need to be picked up promptly at 1:00 p.m.** **Your child's lunch bag or box must be clearly labeled with a name and a date.** The Lunch Bunch program is staffed by Accotink teachers and we will be able to accommodate a maximum of 16 children on a daily basis.

Parents may register children with the Hall Monitor and it will be on a first come, first serve basis. You may register for more than one day at a time, however, all fees are due at the time you register.

## ENRICHMENT CLASSES BEGIN IN OCTOBER

We are pleased to announce that again this year, a number of enrichment activities will be offered for your children. Space will be limited and on a first come first serve basis, These enrichment classes will begin the week of October 3rd. Each class will run from 11:45am-1:00pm. **All children must be picked up promptly at 1:00 PM.** Parents will need to send a small "**healthy snack**" for their child. ***Please remember to clearly label the snack container with your child's name and date.*** Afternoon students should come to school at 11:50 PM, having already had their lunch. Children will spend about 1 hour in the enrichment activity followed by snack time. At snack time, afternoon students will be ready to proceed to class.

The Fall Enrichment classes will run for 8 weeks and the cost is \$88.00 per 8 week session. Parents will need to sign up in advance and all fees are due at the time children are enrolled. Watch for the registration flyer in your child's book bag which will be coming home soon. Classes fill quickly and keep in mind that we can only accommodate a maximum of 16 children per enrichment class. **Registration for the fall session enrichment classes will be held on Wednesday, September 21st.** More information will be coming home soon in your child's book bag.



## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Beginning with the first day of school, (September 12th), the double glass doors and the center brown doors will open at 8:40 AM daily. The center hall brown doors will be locked at 9:10 AM. The glass doors will remain open during the school day. **Please be aware that only our bus students will have access to the back parking lot door.** This door will remain locked at all times. As always, the safety and well-being of our students is our first priority and concern. Also, all visitors and parent volunteers will need to check in first with our Hall Monitor, Mrs. Brendmoen or Mrs. Tavares, to receive a name tag prior to visiting the classroom. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.