

Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 5

January 2017

Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday and are now settling into 2017!

Last month the children especially enjoyed learning about all the different ways people celebrate the holidays. Our very own Giraffe students did an outstanding job in their "Holidays Around the World" pageant! They sang and danced in 11 musical numbers! Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who made the evening such a great success! Another thank you to all the parents that purchased "Giving Tree" gifts for the children's classrooms! In January the students will be learning all about Winter, Ice, and Martin Luther King, Jr. ... and we'll have a crazy and fun "School Spirit" week as well! In order to experience the "cold," our Giraffe students will be going on a field trip Germain Arena as they go ice skating!

Just a few important reminders:

Giraffe's Field Trip

On Tuesday, January 24th the Giraffes students (Pre-K4/VPK students) are going on an ice skating field trip to Germain Arena. If you would like to be a chaperone for this fun event please see Ms. Kristen, Ms Krystal, Ms. Nini or Ms. Jennifer or me to sign up.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

We will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

Spirit Week

January 17-20th will be "Spirit Week!" at Windmill Creek Academy. (Monday we are closed for the MLK holiday), Tuesday is our "Read-a-thon/Pajama Day" so the students can come to school in their pajamas! Wednesday is "Class Color Day," (Bunnies-Yellow; Cubs-Red; Bears-Orange; Frogs-Green and Giraffes-Blue.) Thursday is "Sports Jersey Day" and Friday is "Super Hero Day."

Pizza Fridays

Just a reminder that Fridays are "Pizza Fridays!" We order pizzas from Little Caesar's and also provide milk, a vegetable and fruit. If you would like your child to participate, please provide \$4.00 in cash (exact change, please) to your child's teacher if you are interested in buying lunch for your child on "Pizza Friday."

Wednesday, February 22 - Free Vision & Hearing Screening

Looking ahead to February, the Early Learning Coalition will be visiting the school to provide a free Vision and Hearing Screening

for all 3-5 Year Olds. Stay tuned for information, permission slips, etc.

Finally, the teachers join me in thanking you for sharing your children with us! We are glad you are a part of the Windmill Creek Academy family – Happy 2017!

Janine

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy

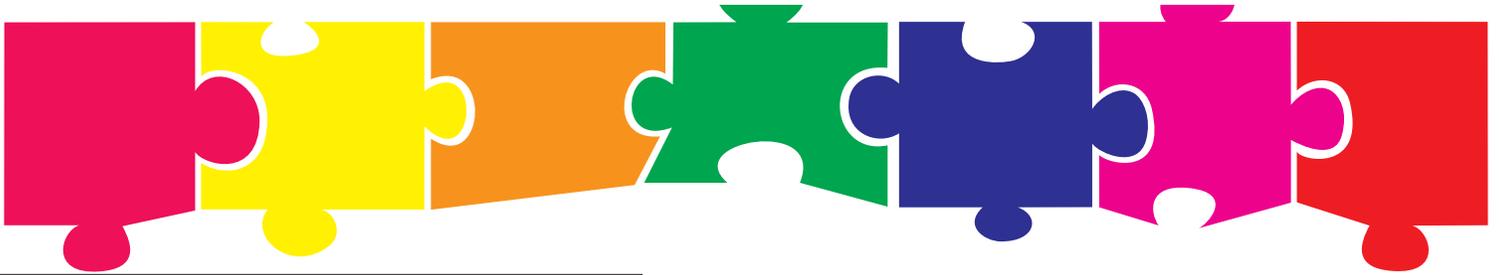


Jack shares his Christmas list with Santa

Character Training

January's Character Training Values

Caring . . . Sympathy and Compassion
Patience . . . Persistence and Diligence



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

This month our little Bunnies had their first Christmas! Santa visited them for the first time and the Bunnies had mixed emotions! The Bunny teachers would like to thank all the parents who brought gifts for our classroom! It was a great holiday season! Adele is starting to walk! Drew has started standing up. Frances is always smiling and loves to play. Grant has started crawling and is standing up. Jaxson is so alert and curious – he’s moving up to the Cubs soon! Ruth loves to wave “good bye” to her teachers! Sarah is all smiles and loves to observe everything going on around her. Jayce has moved up to the Cubs ... we will miss him! We would like to congratulate our teacher, Ms. Lindsey, on the birth of her son, Corbin! We look forward to “Spirit Week” where the Bunnies can wear their favorite sports jerseys (January 19) and even be a super hero (January 20). The Bunnies’ class color is “Yellow” (January 18)!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Iris, Ms. Lesley and Ms. Kaira

Cubs

In December the Cubs learned about “Christmas Around the World.” We made gingerbread men and menorahs. We had lots of fun singing Jingle Bells and shaking the bells! Our visit from Santa brought many smiles and a few tears but we had a tremendous Holiday party! In January we look forward to learning about ice and how it melts ... the sensations of cold ice and cool water will be explored. What can we make with snow? How does it feel? What animals live in the Arctic? We will also have lots of fun during “Spirit Week” and read lots of books during Tuesday’s Pajama “Read-a-thon!” Our “Class Color” (January 18) is “Red.” We would like to welcome Jayce to the Cubs!

Ms. Donna, Ms. Haven and Ms. Jenny

Bears

The Bears enjoyed the Christmas party and were so excited

for Santa! We would like to thank all the parents who brought gifts and books for our classroom! We are ready to start the new year with exciting themes throughout the month of January. We will be exploring ice by incorporating our five senses and observing what makes ice melt, how it feels and how it changes from a solid to a liquid. We are going to learn about African American history – such as George Washington Carver and Jackie Robinson. During Martin Luther King, Jr. Week, we will be reading books about being united and caring for one another and others around the world. Finally we will have fun during spirit week, where the students can dress up each day to different themes (our class color is “Orange”). Our Character Training of the month is all about having sympathy, patience and caring for others. The Bears are ready to learn and explore so many exciting themes this coming year. Happy 2017!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Kayla and Ms. Kellie, Ms. Rachel & Ms. Sofie

Frogs

The Frogs’ students enjoyed the themes in December which included “Holidays Around the World.” We started off making poinsettia flowers which represent Mexico. We learned about Hanukkah and made our own Dreidels that we hung from our ceiling along with our snowflakes that were all unique. We proudly displayed our Christmas Wreaths in the school’s gallery. One of our favorite crafts was creating a baby Jesus nativity ornament which the children water colored and decorated with jewels and sequins. The Frogs loved swapping their wrapped books during the Christmas Party with Santa. Thanks to all the parents that contributed so generously to our “Giving Tree” toy donations! Our Christmas party was a great hit – with delicious snacks and the special visit from Santa! We look forward to starting off the new New Year and all our new learning experiences as we discover all about snow and ice, Martin Luther King Jr. and “School Spirit Week” (our class color is “Green”). Much fun and exploration to be had for the new year!

Ms. Carina, Ms. Emily, Ms. Jenny, Ms. Lena, Ms. Lesley & Ms. Pat

Giraffes

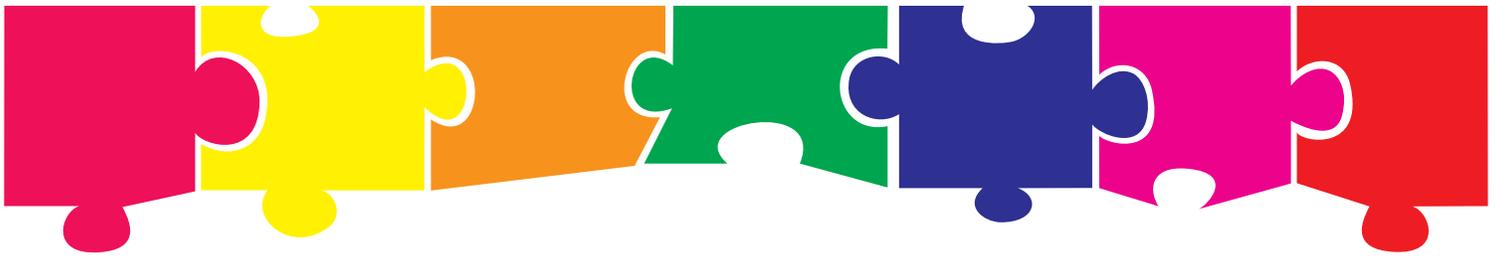
We are excited to get back into the swing of things after an exciting and eventful December! We will continue our letter of the week, learn about syllables, practice 1-1 correspondence and simple addition. We will be conducting state mandated mid-year assessments later this month to get a picture of how much progress each VPK student has made so far this year. In Art the month of December was full of color and holiday traditions! The students had so much fun making stockings, elves with our faces, and menorahs with our hand prints. The students even made their parents a special Santa hat. During the month of January we will make “snow” and puffy paint ice cream and even make a Martin Luther King, Jr. project. We will continue learning the letter of the week and turning the letter into a piece of art. In Social Studies and Social Science we will use our senses as we explore ice and snow. We will discuss how ice is a solid becomes a liquid once it melts. We will discover what “snow” is and how it feels and what we can make with snow and what sports are played during the winter months. We will also learn about African American History and learn about Jackie Robinson, George Washington Carver as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. During “Spirit Week” we will discuss our favorite sports’ teams and the students will have an opportunity to wear their favorite Jerseys. Our class color (January 18) will be “Blue.” Later in the month we will be going Ice Skating to Germain Arena – which will be an exciting adventure! We look forward to a tremendous 2017!

Ms. Ally, Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Krystal, Ms. Nini and Ms. Kellie

January 2017 Birthdays

Jack M - January 2
Braydon T - January 5
Madison K - January 6
Mason W - January 7
Laney L - January 10
Liam V - January 12
Ruth R - January 13
Mackenzie P - January 14
Adele F - January 24
Samuel J - January 28





Ms. Rachel January's Teacher of the Month

Please join us in
congratulating Ms.
Rachel as January's,
"Teacher of the Month!"

Ms. Rachel is one of our Bears' teachers. She was a teacher of the Bears' students several years ago but moved to the Ocala area. Upon returning to Naples, we jumped at the opportunity to have Ms. Rachel teach our Bears' students again. "Kind, gentle, loving and patient" are all words that aptly describe Ms. Rachel's spirit. Ms. Rachel is a great team player as coordinating diaper changes, organizing lunches, addressing personal care routines, and working in small groups are some of the many challenges in working with the Bears. Thank you, Ms. Rachel for being such a valued member of the Windmill Creek Academy teaching team!

Reading Tips From and For Young Children

Here are a few tried-and-true guidelines from "Reading Is Fundamental" on how to motivate kids to read, with comments and suggestions from kids themselves.

Let kids pick out their own books

Book choice is a strong motivation for readers young and old. Let kids pick out books at the library or bookstore. It's almost a sure thing they'll want to read them. If you pick them out, they won't. "Let your children pick out whatever interests them. When I was little, I always picked dinosaur books. My dad would read them to me. I got to pick out any book, and he would read it, no matter how hard it was," says Brian.

Set goals and reward reading

Reward reading with more reading, we've always said. Stop by the library or bookstore for the next book in your child's favorite series, or let your child shop for it online. Most kids agree, but they don't also see a problem with more... well, extrinsic rewards. "Go around your town and find out about contests – you know, like the ones at the library where if you read so many books, you get a reward. Or make up your

own," says Vincent. "If your kid likes ice cream, then every time he finishes, say, two chapter books at least over a hundred pages, then take him out for a little treat."

Let your kids see you read

Read the newspaper over your morning coffee, take a magazine from the rack in a doctor's office while you wait, and stuff a paperback into your purse, pocket, or briefcase. Your kids will catch on to the fact that reading is something you like to do in your spare time. "If parents don't read a lot in front of kids, and instead watch lots of electronics – like TV and the computer – then the kids will think that's what they're supposed to do and they might not read as much," says Cameron.

Make reading together fun and memorable

Parents can convey important positive impressions about reading by making reading an experience their children will remember and cherish. Emily says, "My mom really likes to read to me and she makes the books sound funny by using different voices." It's not what you read to your child that counts; it's how. Make a story come alive by changing your voice and pace, or using sound effects and motions. "For me, it was not just books – it was how my mom read the book that got my attention," says Brittany.

Create loving associations with books and reading

Reading together is a time for closeness and cuddling – another way to show your love as a parent, grandparent, or caring adult. "My mom would write magical notes from Santa, from the tooth fairy, and 'discover' and read them with me in the morning. It was the sweetest reward knowing she'd taken the time," says Brittany. Luis says, "My grandma is coming, and I want her to read to me." For children lucky enough to have parents who read to them, the memory is lasting and their love for books and reading lifelong. "Most of all, do it the old-fashioned way. Hold your child while you read together. One of my fondest memories is having my mom read to me in bed at night and falling asleep in her arms. I slept perfectly those nights," says Taurean.

