

Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

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March 2009

Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

February was a fun, friendship-filled month! The children loved the Valentine's Exchange -- a big thank you for participating and for all the goodies that were shared! The children also loved learning about "Healthy Teeth" (see the accompanying pictures in the Gazette), what it means to be a "Friend," "Presidents," and "Black History Week."

March will have its share of excitement as well. The children will be studying about "Spring," "Fire Safety," "St. Patrick's Day/Irish Week," and the "Growing Cycle." We'll even be caring for and observing the metamorphosis of real butterflies as we learn about their growing cycle. On Tuesday, March 10th we will welcome a visit from the Naples Fire Department. We'll be introduced to some firefighters and get a tour of a Fire Truck!

Thank you to so many parents for recommending Windmill Creek to your friends and families. We've welcomed a few new students this month as well as future arrivals (when they are born!) Remember, if you recommend a student to the school and they enroll, you will receive one week's free tuition after the new student has attended 3 months!

An update on the renovations . . . the infant and toddler playground will be completed the first week of March . . . with freshly installed "astro-turf" and landscaping. This surface will create a somewhat gentler surface for our littlest students and will certainly be more aesthetically pleasing. Come the summer months and "water days," the surface will provide a safe and clean area to splish and splash in the sprinklers! The exterior of the building received its "make-over" the last weekend in February with a fresh coat of paint and new exterior lighting fixtures! Next up: the reception/office areas!

A quick word about language development and "pointing!" I recently read an interesting article regarding toddlers and the use of gestures. In the article, Lauran Neergaard says, "Don't just talk to your toddler - gesture, too. Pointing, waving, bye-bye and other natural gestures

seem to boost a budding vocabulary. Scientists found those tots who could convey more meaning with gestures at age 14 months went on to have a richer vocabulary as they prepared to start kindergarten." To read the entire article, consult:

[\(http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2009/02/12/w hen_toddlers_point_a_lot_more_words_will_follow/.](http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2009/02/12/w hen_toddlers_point_a_lot_more_words_will_follow/)

In addition to using every day gestures, our own Cruisers' teachers, Ms. Missy and Ms. Alicia actively use American Sign Language in their day-to-day work with the one-year-olds to establish enhanced communication skills. If you would like to learn more about American Sign Language, please see Ms. Missy or Ms. Alicia for a booklet with more information.

Warmly,

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy



Character Training

March's Character Training Values

Kindness = Tenderheartedness & Consideration
Forgiveness = Understanding and Pardoning