

Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 2

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November 2009

Letter from the Director

Dear WCA Parents,

As we approach another holiday season I already find myself starting to make my "to do lists." What I should probably do is write, "Don't sweat the small stuff!" at the top of each list! It's so easy to fall into the stress of thinking about the economy and finances, a multitude of never-ending household visitors and obligations – not to mention finding enough time to get things done. My current remedy? Taking a breath and looking into the eyes of all the wonderful children here at Windmill Creek Academy! Isn't it amazing how children have the purest of hearts and enjoy the "here and now!" I think we all could learn a thing or two from them!

Speaking of the upcoming holidays . . . I love hearing about traditions and how families share the holidays together. One of our traditions here at WCA (and at my mother's school in the suburbs of Washington DC) is to have a "Thanksgiving Feast" with the children. We set a buffet table with a pretty tablecloth and adorn the table with child-made centerpieces. Twinkling candles (battery-operated, of course!) set the mood and we serve the "Feast" on attractive platters. Soft music creates a special ambiance. Some may ask why we go to the bother. I believe it's never too soon to share the best of our traditions which model love, respect and honor. We are showing even the youngest of our students that the values of love and respect as well as certain moments in history should be honored and are bigger than all of us.

I'll close by saying, "Thank you!" Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of each and every one of our students' lives. I know the teachers and staff join me in wishing all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Warmest regards,
Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy

Character Training

November's Character Training Values

Thankfulness - Appreciation & Gratitude
Responsibility - Trustworthiness & Dependability



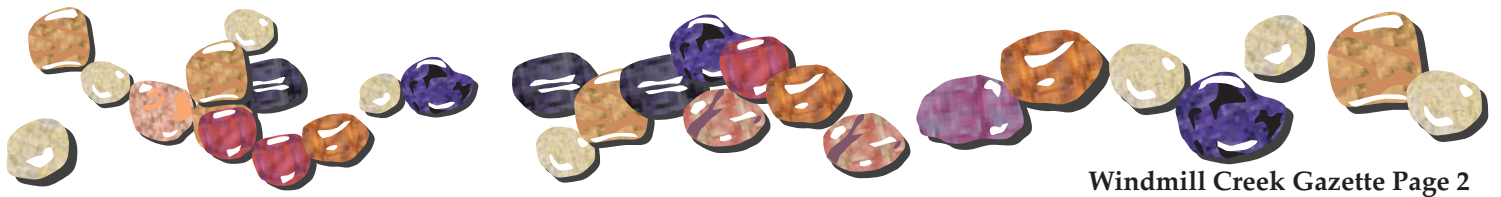
The Giraffes' Carved Pumpkins



Audrey samples her Halloween candy



Thanksgiving Feast



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

We would like to welcome our newest baby bunny – Levi Pash! He was born on April Fool's Day – which explains all the mischievous smiles he gives us! Brennan, Conor, and Nicholas are growing bigger and stronger every day. Colleen is the little princess of the baby room! She has big bright eyes. C.J. is rolling over and eating food – he loves to entertain us with his smiles and grins. Joseph is the oldest . . . going on 8 months old. He is getting teeth and sitting on his own. We are getting ready for the Bunnies' first Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for all the babies!

Ms. Andy, Ms. Diane and Ms. Elia

Cubs

October went by so fast . . . Evelyn has become the Queen of Cub's Corner . . . she makes sure everyone knows she's around as she scurries about the classroom. Dawson has moved up to the Bear's Den and we miss him already. Camden is getting so big and just loves to give out hugs. Caleb, Jack and Evan are doing great with their sign language. Arianna is babbling and beginning to chatter in her own special way; she is full of smiles! We would like to welcome Maison and Christopher – they are transitioning very well and we look forward to documenting their new discoveries next month! Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Courtney & Ms. Missy

Bears

We've had a wonderful month in the Bear's Den! We would like to welcome Ms. Laurie to our classroom – we love her gentle and caring spirit! In October we enjoyed learning about Fall, Shapes, Christopher Columbus and Native Americans. We've been enjoying music time – shaking maracas, twirling the rhythm ribbons and singing songs like, “Do-Re-Mi!” We had fun making pumpkin hand prints and ghost footprints. We were very excited about our Halloween party and dressing up! We would like to welcome Garrett and Vito to our classroom. We had a great time celebrating Reagan's 2nd Birthday!

Ms. Laurie & Ms. Sofie

Frogs

The month of October brought us many interesting themes and activities. The Frogs enjoyed going on a leaf hunt during “Fall” week and loved making a telescope like the one Christopher Columbus used on his sailing ships! During fairytale week we read a lot of beautiful books. Our favorite art project during this week was “The Little Red Hen” hand-print. Of course, Halloween was the most exciting week in October. We made spooky ghosts, paper jack-o-lanterns, black cats and spiders. We have established our morning routine and the “froggies” are learning to be good, active listeners. We'd like to welcome Bryan and Audrey to our class!

Ms. Alex & Ms. Melody

Giraffes/Pre-K4

We are very proud of our class -- our students are doing an excellent job learning the alphabet, numbers and writing their full names! Last month was very exciting -- we learned about Fall and why leaves change colors. We loved learning about Christopher Columbus and Native Americans. Our Halloween party was a great success -- we loved dressing up and seeing all of our friends' costumes. We want to thank all of our parents for their help during this week. We would also like to inform all of our parents that we have a bulletin board called the “Parents Corner,” where you can find information about the class, communicate with the teachers and also find the monthly newsletter. We would also like to welcome Raina to our class!

Ms. Carolina, Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Stefanie



Mariann, Lila, Mia & Anya enjoying our Halloween Party!

November Happenings!

Thanksgiving Pageant - Giraffes/Pre-K4 Students
On Tuesday, November 24th, the Pre-K4/VPK Students will be presenting our traditional Thanksgiving Pageant on Windmill Creek Academy's stage. The pageant will begin at 7:00 p.m.
Please limit the number of guests to two (2).

National Holiday - School Closing
We will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Free Swine Flu Shot
The Collier County Health Department will be providing free Swine Flu shots at the school on Monday, November 16th at 3:00 p.m. If you would like your child vaccinated you MUST be present and sign a permission slip. A follow-up shot will be scheduled 21-28 days later.



Meet the Cubs' Teacher Courtney Adkins

"Hi - I'm Courtney Adkins! I'm a twenty-five year old FSU graduate. I hold a Bachelor's degree in sociology and am in the process of finishing my education courses to earn my upper level teaching certificate. I was born and raised in Naples along with my identical twin sister. I am engaged to a wonderful man who is a sous chef and we plan on having a beautiful Naples beach wedding. I love children and experiencing the thrill of discovery with them. I have always enjoyed working with young children and previously worked with them in a preschool in Tallahassee. I absolutely adore the little ones here in the "Cub's Corner" at Windmill Creek Academy."

November Birthdays!

- Robert H - November 3
- Kyra S - November 7
- Miss Laurie - November 7
- Arianna C - November 10
- Savanna A - November 12
- Ryan W - November 14
- Makenna T - November 16
- Vito D - November 21
- Jack M - November 24
- Aiden M - November 28
- Karina J - November 29

Avoid Preschool Power Struggles

One of your preschooler's developmental "jobs" is to seek more control and independence. In the process, he or she will resist your requests – they will test rules. Your child will talk back. Your job is to avoid power struggles while getting your child to cooperate. Here's how:

- Give your child some power** by giving him a choice whenever possible. "Do you want to turn off the TV or should I?" "Should Taylor get the first turn with the blocks or with the cars?"
- Acknowledge your child's feelings.** "I know it's frustrating to wait."
- Make it a game.** Try to "beat the clock" to get something done.
- Make it fun.** When it's time to get dressed, let him pretend to be a superhero changing clothes.
- State rules positively.** "Ask for what you want" (vs. "Don't grab").
- Say, "Take turns"** instead of asking your child to share. Sharing, to a young child, can mean "giving it up."
- Enforce rules consistently.** Otherwise, you teach your child to ignore what you say.
- Avoid situations.** If your child refuses to go to bed when the television is on, make a rule that there's no television after dinner.

Source: Elizabeth Crary, 365 Wacky, Wonderful Ways to Get Your Children To Do What You Want, ISBN: 0-943990-79-3 (Parenting Press, www.parentingpress.com).



"Groovin"
at
Music
Time!

Devon, Carlos
& John
carving
jack-o-
lanterns



Levi's having a
swinging-good
time!