



Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 2

October 2016

Letter from the Director

The beginning of the new 2016-17 school year has kept Windmill Creek Academy buzzing with activity, laughter and learning! September was an exciting month! The students learned about "Fall," "Emotions," "Inventors and Inventions," and "Community Helpers." A tremendous thank you goes to our Giraffe student parents that participated in our "Career Day" presentation! The students were so excited to hear about your careers and how you provide for your families and the community. We even enjoyed a visit from the "Truly Nolen Limousine!"

October brings us new subjects to explore: all about "Christopher Columbus," "Fire Safety," "Animals on the Map," "Our Senses" and, of course, "Halloween!" The children (and teachers!) love to take any opportunity to dress up and assume another character – this year will be no exception! Stay tuned for more information about our Halloween Party and Parade from your child(ren)'s teachers.

Just a couple of future dates and reminders to make note of:

October 10, 2016

We will be OPEN on Monday, October 10 (Columbus Day).

Teacher of the Month

Won't you take a moment to recognize one of our special teachers by nominating her for "Teacher of the Month?" Our teachers work diligently to make each day special for the children. Nomination forms are located at the front lobby. Thank you! :)

Friday, October 28th - Halloween Party & Parade

Our Annual Halloween Party and Parade will be Friday, October 28th. More information to follow. Please, no scary costumes!

November 10 - Picture Day

LifeTouch Studios will be here on Thursday, November 10 to capture the smiles of your children. Please be sure your children are here by 9:00 am if you would like them to participate. Stay tuned for background choices, etc.

Looking forward to the Holidays

We will be closed on November 24 & 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. We will be closed on December 23 & 26 and December 30 & January 2 in observance of Christmas/New Year's.

"Fall Backward" on Sunday, November 6

On Sunday, November 6th, turn your clocks back one hour for the end of daylight saving's time.

Thank you for a great start to the new school year! Before you know it, we'll be hanging up holiday decorations!

All the best,

Janine

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy

Abigail and Sadie's parents share about their careers with construction "hard hats" for all the children to wear!



The Giraffe students are paid a visit by the "Truly Nolen" Mouse and Limousine during our "Career Day" event



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

September has arrived ... bringing the beautiful colors of the Fall season! The room is filled with lots of color, leaves, corn, pumpkins and scare crows! The Bunnies are getting ready for their first Halloween! We can't wait to see them in their costumes. Our big Bunnies are very busy ... Grant is sitting up and reaching for toys. He loves to share his beautiful smile with us each and every day! Barrett is taking steps and drinking from a sippy cup. He loves to babble and talk to his classmates! Jaxson is sitting up and loves to do the "Army crawl!" He is eating pick-up food. Valerie is drinking from a sippy cup and eating pick up food. She is becoming quite mobile and loves to "chat!" Ruth is sitting up and loves to reach for toys. She's very curious and is also starting to babble! Adele is crawling all over the classroom. She is eating pick up food and sitting up. She is becoming a conversationalist. Lastly, our newest Bunny, Frances, has joined our classroom. She is our youngest Bunny and is so sweet and alert. We look forward to seeing her grow and explore the Bunny Patch with her classmates!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Iris & Ms. Lindsey

Cubs

Fall is off to a great start in the Cubs room! The beautiful colors of fall are finally here! We got to experience those colors through many sensory games and items. We played with textured paint of the colors, orange, yellow, red and brown. We imagined we were in a wonderland by looking through a jar that looked like an autumn forest. We played a fun game of catching autumn leaves and made fall-colored scarecrows. We practiced our fine motor skills by picking up small squares and placing them on owls. We all enjoyed as we watched our own classroom turn into an autumn colored forest of multi-colored leaves. Stepping aside from this beautiful season, we experienced and learned about our emotions. We looked in a mirror and practiced looking at different emotions and expressions. Our Cubs are becoming inventors and created a bunch of different inventions – we are creating "light" in Thomas Edison's light bulbs and painted with toy gears. We are learning that imagination and curiosity are important to exploration and discovery. In October we look forward to dressing up for Halloween, learning about Animals on the Map and at the end of the month, "Our Senses." We'd like to welcome our newest cub, Brady! It's great to be a Cub!

Ms. Donna, Ms. Haven & Ms. Jenny



Bears

In September the Bears' class had a great response with the "All About Me" posters. Our students enjoyed looking at their posters and pointing out their friends, family and pets to their classmates. We also enjoyed the start of welcoming in the Fall seasons. We celebrated by creating hand print Fall trees, leaves and acorns. Our classroom is bursting with Fall colors. The Bears continue to work in groups and love to "grow their vocabularies!" During the day the Bears enjoy working with Play-Doh, play with dolls, truck and cars, animals and puzzles.

The students love "Circle and Story" time. They also love to play outside and collect leaves and take turns on the slide, ride bikes and chase bubbles! All of these activities encourage social interaction and develop gross motor skills. This month we will be learning about Christopher Columbus, Fire Safety and about different animals in different places in the world. At the end of the month we look forward to Halloween and we cannot wait to see all of the Bears dressed up as their favorite characters. We have enjoyed the assistance of Ms. Kellie and Ms. Jenny in our classroom as Ms. Astrid was away in Spain visiting her childhood friend. It's great to be a Bear!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Jenny, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kellie, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Sofie & Ms. Rachel

Frogs

In the month of September we started off with learning about emotions. We discussed all sorts of our different emotions ... happy, sad, angry, frightened, joyful, embarrassed and shy. We learned that all of these emotions are okay to have and that everyone has different emotions at different times – it's how we deal with our feelings that help us to better ourselves through communication. The Frogs made a project out of paper plates – glueing different facial expression onto the plate. Next we enjoyed creating our Fall bulletin board. We painted yellow, red and green apples and made a bushel full of apples. Our corn stalks came out great - with the students using their thumb prints for the corn kernels with fall colors. We continued learning about the season of Fall (which isn't easy to do living in Florida!). We discussed the different seasons we have in our country and how leaves change colors in the Fall. The Frogs enjoyed water coloring their own leaves ... they came out so beautiful! We made Fall trees by painting hand prints for the tree limbs, attaching brown paper for the trunk and glued fall colored puzzle pieces for the leaves. They were each unique and beautiful! We ended our month learning about Inventors and Inventions. The children loved making our puffed painted light bulbs and hearing about Thomas Edison and all of his "bright ideas!" We look forward to next month exploring about Christopher Columbus, learning about different animals and their habitats, Fire Safety and let's not forget Halloween! We can hardly wait to see our Frogs dressed up for this fun holiday!

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

Giraffes

The Giraffes' students have had a great September and a tremendous start to the 2016-17 school year! Thank you to all the parents that participated in our "Career Day!" It was a great success and you held the attention of all our students. Well done! We have fallen into our weekly routine with letters of the week. Each week focuses on one letter. We identify the sounds and find words and pictures beginning with each letter. The class LOVES doing homework and bringing in their "Letter Bags." Several students filled up the chart and got a prize from Ms. Kristen's Treasure Box. We have also started studying a number a week for math. In Social Studies/Social Science we have been learning about "Emotions," "Fall" and "Inventor's and Inventions." In October we will learn about "Christopher Columbus," "Animals on the Map," "Fire Safety" and, of course, Halloween. We will also talk about sharing and self-control. In Art, the Giraffe students had fun making scare crows. They loved stamping apples to make pumpkin prints! In the month of October we look forward to creating and exploring the October themes and creating some fun, silly and "scary" Halloween projects. The students will make bats out of egg cartons, spooky ghosts and even a craft with candy corn. While using fine motor skills, creativity and self-expression, the students' personalities shine through the various artistic media we employ. Happy Fall!

Ms. Ally, Ms. Kaira, Ms. Kellie, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Krystal & Ms. Nini





WHY teach music?

music is a science

It is exact, specific; it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

music is mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

music is a foreign language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language. Also, many songs we study are from other cultures.

music is physical education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

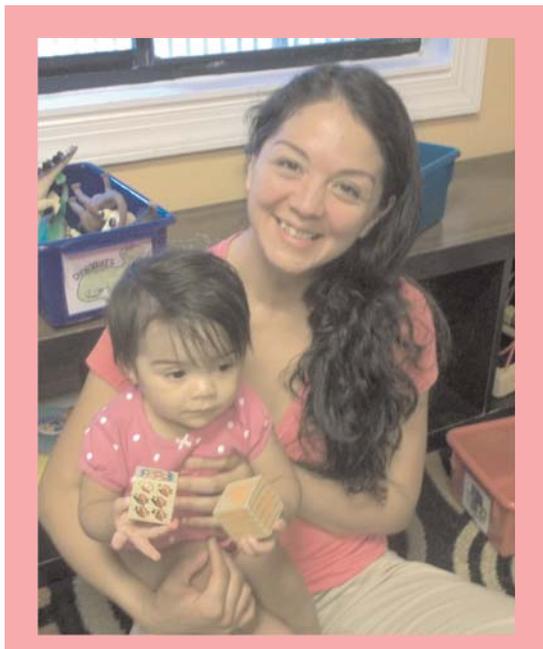
most of all, music is art.

It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion.



October Birthdays!

- Jordan G - October 5
- Jaaziel M - October 10
- Abigail & Sadie W - October 10
- Ms. Alexi - October 12
- Ms. Janine - October 12
- Valerie C - October 14
- Barrett S - October 29
- Ms. Jenny - October 30



Ms. Jenny - Windmill Creek's Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Jenny! October's "Teacher of the Month!"

Ms. Jenny is a teacher to so many of our students here at Windmill Creek Academy! Ms. Jenny started off as a "Floater" at the school – assisting with all the students and teachers while also helping to maintain our library, playground environment, kitchen, etc. She has since branched out to assist the Frog students in the morning and the Cubs in the afternoons. Being such a tremendous "Team Player" takes a special skill – learning to identify each classroom's needs and self-starter skills to "jump in" when and where necessary!

Ms. Jenny was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has lived in New York and since the age of 10, was raised in Naples. She has four beautiful children – all girls! Her mother is our very own "Ms. Iris" in the Bunnies Room. Thank you, Ms. Jenny, for being such a dedicated, energetic and caring member of our teaching staff!

