

Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 1

September 2016

Letter from the Director

Dear WCA Parents,

It's been an incredible summer! It seems just yesterday that we held our VPK Graduation Ceremony in May! This summer was a whirlwind of activities -- the 8 week intensive "Summer VPK" class -- Water Days -- and some of our favorite Summer Fun schedule activities -- Carnival Week -- Around the World Week -- Once Upon a Time, and -- Western Round-up Week proved to be highlights!

September will certainly be an exciting month. Our themes include: "All About Me," "Fall," and "Our Senses." The *All About Me Posters* are such fun to create and the children love showing off their posters to friends and teachers. We love seeing you and your child's creativity as you show off pictures of family, friends, shared activities and family pets! We will start off the new school year with a theme entitled, "Community Helpers." In the Giraffes' class we are inviting Giraffe students' parents to visit the classroom and share about their jobs.

Just a couple of future dates and special information to make a note of:

Career Day - Friday, September 2

Parents of Giraffes students are invited to sign up on the Career Day roster to share about their jobs.

Labor Day - September 5

Windmill Creek Academy will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

Morning Drop-Off

New to school? Morning Drop off can occasionally be a challenging time -- especially after a weekend, or a holiday break. Having assisted thousands of families over the years, we've discovered a good rule of thumb is to hug your child, reassure them and then wave good bye with good eye contact and a smile. A prolonged good-bye only makes matters worse. If it was a difficult drop-off, feel free to give us a call and we can give you an update.

Full Color Gazette Available on Our Website

Remember to share our full-color, Windmill Creek Academy Gazette with family and friends each month. It is available to view on our website: www.windmillcreekacademy.com. Click on "Information" and then scroll to the month of the Gazette you are interested in viewing.

Taking Care in the Parking Lot

Dear parents, please take a moment to slow down just a wee bit as we pull in and out of the parking lot. Also, please be sure car doors are not slammed into adjacent doors. By taking just an extra moment, we can ensure the safety of our WCA families and respect one another's automobiles. Thank you in advance!

Halloween Party - Friday, October 28th

This year we will host our annual Halloween Parade & Party on Friday, October 28th. More information will be forthcoming.

Teacher-of-the-Month!

Starting in October, we will resume our "Teacher of the Month" recognition program. All of our teachers are so special! It requires a special heart for service and love of children to work with pre-school aged students. If you would like to recognize one of your children's teachers ... please find a nomination form at the front desk and pop it in the black lock box. Thank you for recognizing our special WCA teachers!

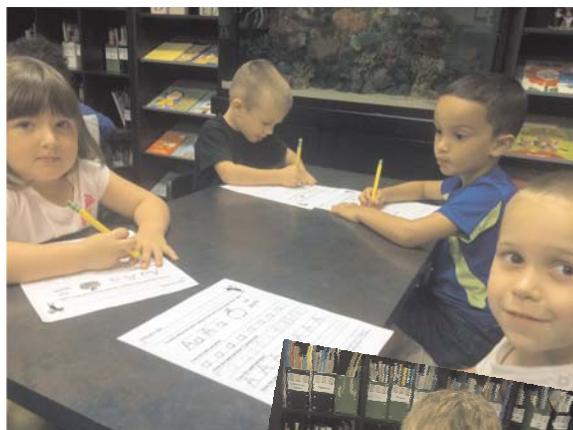
Thursday, November 10 - LifeTouch Picture Day

LifeTouch photographers will be visiting to take individual pictures of the children. Please have your children here no later than 9:00 a.m. if you wish your child to participate.

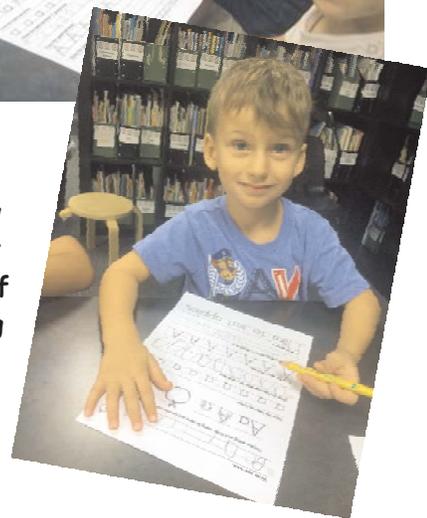
Thank you for a great kick-off to the school year! We honor and appreciate the opportunity to create a happy, safe, and warm learning environment for your children. We look forward to a wonderful 2016 - 2017!

Best,

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy



Olivia, Lucas,
Jeremiah, Andrew
and Braydon start
the school year off
right by practicing
their penmanship



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

The new school year has begun ... finding a new adventure in every Bunny! All of our Bunnies are growing and exploring so much! Adele is sitting up, is doing the “army crawl” and loves to eat fruits and veggies! Grant is our little athlete and loves to roll and move about! He is eating fruits and veggies. He loves to sing Old MacDonald – especially when we get to the part when the Cow “Mooooos!” Ruth is our world traveler – having just returned from a visit overseas. She is rolling, loves to eat and is so attentive and alert! Jaxson is eating table food, crawling everywhere and sitting up! He is happy and strong! Valerie is crawling, sitting up and exploring everywhere! She is babbling and loves to eat and play with her friends. Barrett, one of our newest Bunnies, is crawling and already standing up! He is eating pick-up food and is very sweet. He loves to babble and is such happy, handsome boy! It’s great to be a Bunny!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Iris & Ms. Lindsey

Cubs

August went by so fast – you wouldn’t believe all the art and crafts projects and activities our Cubs have participated in! We finished up our Summer Fun program having our own “Olympics” in our class. We were all winners and got fancy medals that we made ourselves. During Eco-friendly week we made flowers out of recycled water bottles – painting over the textures of the bottle was intriguing. Friendship week came along and we got super excited for our new friends – Jackson, Ava, Kinley and Reid! They already seem like “old friends” We made a puzzle out of a picture of all our Cub friends. We practiced sharing and holding hands. During Community Helpers week, we learned about our everyday heroes like fire fighters, policemen/women and doctors. Maybe one day we will grow up to be like them! We dressed up like our heroes as well. During “All About Me” we learned about our bodies and sang and danced to “Head & Shoulders, Knees & Toes!” and also painted our reflections in a mirror. We all loved that one! We practiced putting shoes on – everyone was helping each other learning how to stand and we learned about our senses by smelling some unique smells like vanilla and flowers. We tasted some yummy foods while we tested our senses and tried different textured items. August was such a learning experience that we can hardly wait for September’s new learning opportunities!

Ms. Donna, Ms. Haven & Ms. Jenny

Bears

August was an awesome month for the Bears! We welcomed many new fellow Bears classmates to our room including Laney, Ethan, Fara, Liam, Nico, Freya, Penny, Olivia B and Grayson! We bid farewell to several of our Bear friends as they moved up to the Frogs! This month we had tons of “Summer Fun! – we continued to love our Water Days as we splashed and laughed under the summer sun. We also learned about friends – old friends and new friends. Friendship is important and we are learning what it means to be a good friend – sharing, and caring hands and arms for hugs. We also have been learning a lot about all sorts of things at Circle Time. We like to explore numbers and

language – we love singing and learning new vocabulary. We sang “Head & Shoulders, Knees & Toes” We sing it slowly and then we like to be silly and sing it quickly all the while pointing to our body parts. We love all of our Circle Time Sings and dancing and “Shaking Our Sillies Out!” We would also like to welcome back our Bears’ Teacher, Ms. Rachel – she is so happy to be back in Naples (having moved from Ocala) and being back with the Windmill Creek Academy family! We have recently been learning “All About me!” We read books about family and friends. We made fun projects about ourselves in school and at home. We love the “All About Me Posters!” Thank you, parents, for helping your little one create them! It is fun for our school friends to learn about our families, extended families and pets! We look forward to all the new activities and art projects September will bring!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Rachel and Ms. Sofie

Frogs

The Frogs started out their year learning about being friends and the importance of sharing and being kind and thoughtful to our classmates. “We are all friends” is one of our mottos. Our Frog class has been working on recognizing the letters Aa and Bb and their sounds, numbers 1 and 2, shapes (circle and square) and the colors red and orange during our Circle Time. “Story Time, Song Time and Calendar Time” are also included in our morning activities as well as learning the Pledge of Allegiance. The children really enjoy singing our favorite songs along with our “Song Leader of the Week.” The Frogs love our “Job Chart” and feel important and responsible in doing their specials tasks. Thank you to all of our parents and families for sharing our “All About Me” week – we all enjoyed looking at all our family pictures and favorite things to do. It was a great sharing experience by both parents and children. We look forward to next month as we learn about Emotions, Fall and Inventors & Inventions.

Ms. Carina, Ms. Kellie, Ms. Jenny, Ms. Lena, Ms. Lexi, & Ms. Pat

Giraffes

We are jumping right into the swing of things in Reading, Writing & Math Readiness. To begin the year we will learn how to write our names. There are plenty of opportunities to practice since we have to put our names on everything! We started our letters of the week with writing letters and finding them in words and sharing “Letter Bags” from home. We have been learning shapes and will begin with numbers soon. The beginning of the year VPK Standards Assessments will be starting soon. This is a great time to discover your child’s strengths and weaknesses going into the year. More information will be going home about the assessments in the coming weeks. In Art the Giraffe students made lots of fun and creative projects. We made a “Busy “A” book and made self-portraits. In September we look forward to Career Day and doing lots of Community Helper crafts. We also look forward to getting ready for Fall and all the wonderful colors, shapes and textures this season will bring to our art projects. In Social Studies and Science we will be talking about respect, courtesy and awareness. We will make a poster board pledging with our hand prints to listen and be thoughtful. We are working on a family tree so we can share our families with our friends. We will be talking about Fall and doing some fun experiments. Please send your family pictures if you have not sent them yet -- as we love to share about all those that love us! Looking forward to a great year in the Giraffes class!

Ms. Ally, Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Krystal, & Ms. Nini

September Birthdays

Ethan T - September 3
Ms. Sophie - September 8
Nicholas M - September 10
Owen Z - September 16
Michael W - September 24
Ms. Lena - September 24
Nora N - September 25



Jazzy and Madison enjoy the joys of "architecture" and creating all sorts of wonders with magna-tiles, nuts, bolts and gears!
We encourage our budding engineers!



Children Learn What They Live

by Dorothy Law Nolte

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.



What's So Funny Anyway?

Humor is what makes something funny; a sense of humor is the ability to recognize it. Someone with a well-developed sense of humor has the ability to recognize what's funny in others and can amuse them as well. A good sense of humor is a tool that kids can rely on throughout life to help them:

- see things from many perspectives other than the most obvious
- be spontaneous
- grasp unconventional ideas or ways of thinking
- see beyond the surface of things
- enjoy and participate in the playful aspects of life
- not take themselves too seriously

Kids with a well-developed sense of humor are happier and more optimistic, have higher self-esteem, and can handle differences (their own and others') well. Kids who can appreciate and share humor are better liked by their peers and more able to handle the adversities of childhood — from moving to a new town, to teasing, to torment by playground bullies.

And a good sense of humor doesn't just help kids emotionally or socially. Research has shown that people who laugh more are healthier — they're less likely to be depressed and may even have an increased resistance to illness or physical problems. They experience less stress; have lower heart rates, pulses, and blood pressure; and have better digestion. Laughter may even help humans better endure pain, and studies have shown that it improves our immune function. But most of all, a sense of humor is what makes life fun. Few pleasures rival yukking it up with your kids.

