



Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 10

Summer 2016

Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

Here comes Summer! It's time for a more relaxed atmosphere and our "Summer Fun 2016" schedule! This summer we'll enjoy some fun and creative weekly themes – Once Upon a Time, Western Round-Up, Around the World Week and our Annual Windmill Creek Carnival! Depending on the weekly theme, the teachers may request various household supplies (i.e., toilet paper rolls, water bottles, etc.) for art projects, or our "dress up" festivities, so please stay tuned to your child's "Daily Sheet," when picking up your student at the end of each day. As usual, Wednesdays are "Water Day," so please be sure to bring your child's bathing suit and a towel so that they can join in the water time fun (our first Water Day will be Wednesday, June 15th).

This past month we had a wonderful Graduation Ceremony for our VPK Students. It was a bittersweet moment to say "Congratulations," but also to say, "Good-bye" to many of our graduates. We are delighted that many of our graduates are spending the summer with us before heading off to Kindergarten. We wish all our graduates well as they embark on new educational journeys! Please know you have a standing invitation to come back and visit any time!

Following are some important dates, announcements and reminders:

Wipes and Ziplock Bags

Please be sure to bring one box of gallon-sized Ziplock Bags and two packages of Wipes *each month* for your child's classroom. Thank you!

2016 CHOICE Awards – Voting ends June 5th

We would be delighted – *and honored* – to receive your vote for this year's awards. Please go to: www.swflchoiceawards.com to place your vote. We are under the "Services" category and the "Child Care" sub-category. Could we win for the EIGHTH year in a row – we hope so!

Doughnuts with Dad - Friday June 17

Calling all Dads! We will be honoring all of our Dads on Friday, June 17 with our annual "Doughnuts with Dad" on the morning of Friday, June 17. Come in a little early and/or stay a little late and enjoy a doughnut hole and some juice with your student! :)

Closed Monday, July 4th

We will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

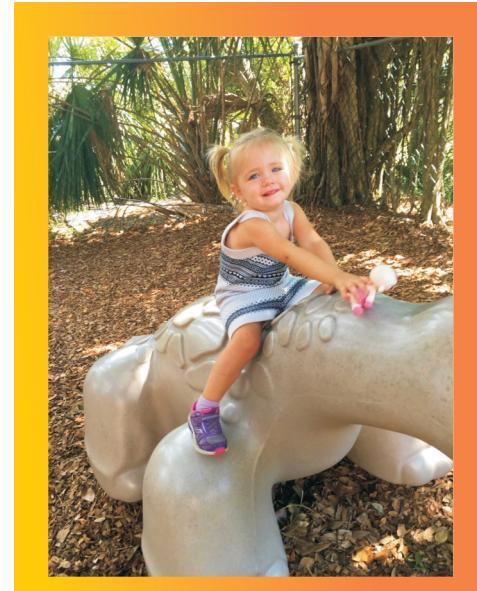
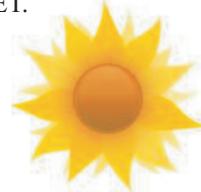
Bug Spray and Sunblock

During the summer months, we ask that you bring one bottle of Bug Spray and spray Sunblock for your child's classroom. We "pool" these resources and spray the children each day to help ward off mosquitoes and the sun's harmful rays. Bug Spray should contain a minimum of 25% DEET.

Here's to a wonderful summer!

Fondly,
Janine

Janine Connell
Founder & Director



Harbour enjoys a ride in the shade

Character Training

This Summer's Character Training Values

Citizenship = Patriotism & Honor
Cooperation = Teamwork

Windmill Creek Academy

Classroom Updates

Bunnies

The Bunnies had their first Mother's Day! They experienced plenty of read-aloud books, stories ... and new vocabulary will keep our Bunnies listening, cooing and learning! Mary celebrated her first birthday and now we bid her farewell as she joins the Cubs classroom. We will miss you, Mary! Camila is growing so quickly – she's become quite social and is now eating table food and scooting all over the room. She loves to wave to visitors. Jackson loves to "sing" and coo in his handsome voice. He is eating baby food and crawling all over! Valerie is also eating baby food and turning around. She is very social, loves to smile ... and she's almost crawling. Jaxson is eating baby food and loves to observe all around him – with an intense gaze and curiosity! Adele is such a sweet baby girl – smiling and observant. Grant is such a happy baby and loves to smile and watch what is going on around him. Maverick is our newest Bunny! He is so very sweet and happy – smiling and just taking in all the activity around him! The Bunnies look forward to a wonderful summer of music, rhymes, read-aloud stories, and exploring their surroundings and classmates!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Iris & Ms. Lindsey

Cubs

The month of May was such a whirlwind of a month. We started off the month celebrating our Mothers and giving our love to them. We decorated our own kitchen oven mitts to give them as gifts. We also enjoyed our "Muffins with Mom" event. We learned more about flowers this month and, as a group, created a sunflower board with our hands. We had a great time exploring a sensory bin and created a fun painting craft making snakes with bubble-wrap. We pretended to be T-T-Rexes and "roared" like a dinosaur and pretended to fly like a Pterodactyl. We also made a "volcano" and learned about our earth long ago. We look forward to the summer months as we soon will enjoy "Water Day" and time outside catching bubbles. It's great to be a Cub!

Ms. Donna, Ms. Haven & Ms. Raeanna

Bears

We had a great May and Mother's Day – we loved creating gifts for our mothers and our "Muffins with Mom" event. This past month the Bears explored different flowers, dinosaurs, reptiles and amphibians through books, songs, pictures and art projects. The Bears continue to learn about different things at circle time as we read books, learn about shapes and colors and even count from 1-10. We look forward to the summer and are excited for "Water Day" where we will splash and splash in our water "garden." We love the new astro-turf on our playground! This summer we will dress up as Kings and Queens during "Once Upon a Time" week and explore being a cowboy or cowgirl during "Western Round-up" week. With so many different themes to explore, we will be learning new vocabulary and music to go along with the themes. We also can't wait to honor our Daddy's on Father's Day as we make a fun gift and enjoy "Doughnuts with Dad." We would like to welcome Samuel and Noah to our classroom! It is great to be a Bear!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Kaycee, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Massiel & Ms. Sofie

Frogs

In May the Frogs class started the month celebrating Mothers as they made their Mother's Day cards using their painted hand prints and tracing their hand to create curled flowers for the front of the card. We had fun taking turns using our felt board portraying the characters from the book, "Is your Mama

a Llama." The students understood the rhyming parts of the story and stood up when they heard their animal name to be applied to our felt board. The following week we learned about flowers. We painted our flower petals and added labels for the different parts – the stem, leaves, flower and roots. We also used our scissor skills to make cuttings of grass to finish our beautiful flower project. We continued our month learning about reptiles and amphibians. We made our own snakes using foam paper and triangle shapes for their markings. The students were very proud of their creations – and wanted to take them home that day – but we decided to proudly display them first in our classroom for all to enjoy! Finally, we explored one of the Frogs' students favorite subjects – Dinosaurs! Using water colored paints we painted a T-Rex. They came out so unique and are proudly displayed in our gallery. We ended the month talking about dinosaur bones and creating a mosaic using colored square tiles. The Frogs look forward to our summer program and we will truly miss our grown up frogs that will soon become Giraffes! Much love, hugs and kisses to Ethan T, Olivia, Lucas, Logan and Peyton as they move up. We are glad that we can see all of you still on the playground and during Water Day. We would like to welcome Kaiser and Joshua to our class. It will be a great summer for all of our students!

Ms. Carina, Ms. Lena, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Massiel, Ms. Pat & Ms. Victoria

Giraffes

The Graduation Ceremony for our VPK students was a great success! The VPK Standards testing showed tremendous progress for all of our students – congratulations!!! The students (and teachers!) did a great job! It is a bittersweet time for our many of our graduates as they will soon be moving on to Kindergarten. We are delighted that so many of our students will be staying with us through the summer. In May we enjoyed our "Muffins with Mom" event and loved learning about flowers and the plant cycle as well as dinosaurs!. As we head into the summer months, we look forward to the lighter themes of summer – "Once a Upon a Time" week, "Western Round-Up," and especially the Windmill Creek Academy "Carnival!" On Wednesdays we will enjoy "Water Day" on our gigantic, inflatable water slide. Each Friday we will have Summer Fun Fridays where we can dress up and celebrate our weekly themes!

Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Krystal and Ms. Ali

Summer VPK

We will be welcoming our Summer VPK students starting June 13th! The eight weeks of Summer VPK will surely fly by as the students discover many learning adventures, new friendships, summer fun water activities, and join in some of WCA's summer traditions. Here's to a summer full of learning, exploring & discovery!

Ms. Kristen



Happy Birthday, Brantlee!



The Frogs love birthday celebrations!

Connecting Kids to Places Far, Far Away

by Eliza Clark



The other day my daughter was on the phone with a friend who was about to sit down for lunch. "What are you having?" my daughter asked. Pause. "Oh," I heard her say next, "I can smell it!"

When she hung up I asked her what they were having. "Pasta," she said. And I smiled because that's what I was cooking too.

It took her a few minutes, but then she got it: "Mom, I don't think I was smelling their pasta, I was smelling the pasta you were cooking!" Then she mused: "I wish there were a phone where you could not just hear people but also smell what they're smelling. Like Skype, but you could smell and touch too."

I was nodding and thinking that in the age of video chat and Google Earth and instant texting access to friends worldwide, when it seems that distance has collapsed and that no place is as faraway as it once was, that still, still, nothing compares to in-person presence in all its 3D, five-sensory glory.

Distance, like time, is an abstract, malleable concept for children. Across town is far away, and so is Southeast Asia. When one of her best friends moved to Singapore, my six-year-old kept wondering when we could visit. Given the airfares, it's not likely to be soon, but how do you explain the costs of distance to a young child? Speaking with her friend via a fuzzy video connection makes her feel closer and yet long for her friend all the more.

In contrast to the frustrations of long-distance friendship, stories that take place in a land far, far away are riveting and nourishing to young minds. Oz, Narnia, Wonderland, and Neverland: these are countries where anything can happen, where all the rules are topsy-turvy and children can play a starring and heroic part in a land full of mad wonders. The rules of ordinary life—logic and

physical limitations, not to mention hassles with airlines—are suspended in these distant places.

Fantasy stories prime many kids to take an interest in travel. Maps are intriguing but mysterious. Scale is a difficult concept. (Walking down our New York City street the other day my daughter told me that she used to think "one block" meant one square of concrete on the sidewalk. No wonder she was always asking "are we there yet?") Kindergartners labor to make maps their own classrooms, but do maps of whole cities, countries and continents make any sense to them?

To get them started on their armchair journeys, start with the excellent *Me On the Map* book, and they'll begin to get the idea. *On the Go* will give kids a sense of the many ways of getting from point A to B, while *Time For Kids' Big Book of Where* and the amusing *From Kalamazoo to Timbuktu* will give them plenty of ideas for their "bucket list" of places to see. Or you could just peruse *The New York Times'* tantalizing 52 Places to Visit in 2014 and dream of traveling to faraway places together.



Samuel takes the tricycle for a spin



Adele sitting pretty

Summer Birthdays!

June

Zachary S - June 5
Abigail S - June 5
Ethan D - June 19
Brantlee J - June 23
Kelsie W - June 27

July

Ms. Victoria - July 6
Mikaela L - July 10
Ms. Kayla - July 13
Camila G - July 8
Noah R - July 14
Olivia G - July 20
Ms. Jennifer - July 21
Ms. Donna - July 22
Lucas H - July 23
Joshua T - July 27
Ms. Astrid - July 28

August

Ms. Noreen - August 5
Adrian C - August 10
Audrey H - August 14
Olivia T - August 15
Ms. Kristen - August 18
Patrick M - August 22
Ms. Lesley - August 27
Emma W - August 29

