



# Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 12

Issue 10

Summer 2019

## Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

Here comes Summer! It's time for a more relaxed atmosphere and our "Summer Fun 2019" 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 (weather permitting, our first Water Day will be Wednesday, June 5th).

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 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!

### **Doughnuts with Dad - Friday June 14**

Calling all Dads! We will be honoring all of our Dads on Friday, June 14 with our annual "Doughnuts with Dad." Come in a little early and/or stay a little late and enjoy a doughnut and some juice with your student! :)

### **Closed Thursday, July 4th**

We will be closed on Thursday, 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 sun block* for your child's classroom. We "pool" these resources and spray the children each day to help ward of mosquitoes and the sun's harmful rays. Bug Spray *should* contain a minimum of 25% DEET. We contact the Collier County Mosquito Control to request early

morning fly-overs. You can download the Mosquito Control App to request and observe the mosquito control schedule.

### **Summer VPK 2019**

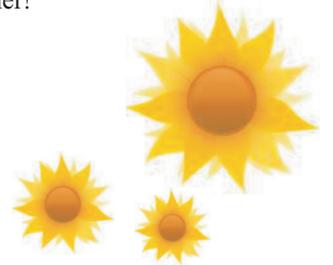
Please join me in welcoming our Summer VPK students! This intensive 8 week program is for students who had not enrolled in VPK but will be entering Kindergarten in August 2019. We would like to welcome Ms. Kate Durden as she joins Ms. Kristen Barson as a Summer VPK teacher!

Here's to a wonderful summer!

Fondly,

*Janine*

Janine Connell  
Founder & Director  
Windmill Creek Academy



Our 2019 VPK Graduates hamming it up for the camera!

## Character Training

**This Summer's Character Training Values**

Citizenship = Patriotism & Honor

Cooperation = Teamwork

# Windmill Creek Academy

## Classroom Updates

### Bunnies

In the month of May the Bunnies got to celebrate Mother's Day with their Moms – a series of firsts in their busy little lives! The Bunnies are preparing for summer time fun! Caden is holding his head up and loves to wiggle in the walker. Hunter loves to smile and bounce in the jumper. Gwen is sitting up and trying to crawl. Mia loves to play with toys and dance in the jumper. Aiden is crawling, trying to stand and loves to eat table food. Ryker is now eating table food; his favorites are graham crackers, avocado and bananas. Molly is crawling and standing in the crib. We are looking forward to this summer and creating a special project for Father's Day!

*Ms. Ileana, Ms. Iris & Ms. Sami*

### Cubs

In the month of May the Cubs' room has been blooming like flowers! Joey began to walk all on his own while holding his own balance. Luca is taking 3-4 steps on his own with teachers' assistance. Lennox is becoming a book worm! He loves to read and point to the pictures on each page. Jason began to practice standing up on his own and is building those leg muscles to start walking. Elliott began to repeat words such as, "please," and "bottle!" Rocco has mastered walking and is approaching the speed of light as he darts around the room. He likes to go to friends to comfort them when they get a bump. Vera has been practicing how to say words such as "Hi!" and "Bye!" Caleb loves saying his colors and is identifying numbers. Now we are trying to say "up!" and "down!" The Cubs class' enjoyed having Muffins with Mom! We love all of our moms – as we created Mother's Day artwork that included hand prints and footprints – complete with dot paints as we develop our fine motor skills. It's great to be a Cub!

*Ms. Ana, Ms. Sofie & Ms. Kelsey*

### Bears

During the month of May, the Bears had fun learning about and reading fairy tales such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "Little Red Riding Hood," among others! We celebrated all of our wonderful moms by decorating framed pictures of us as a Mother's Day Gift. We gave our gifts to our moms during our special "Muffins with Mom" party. We also colored pretty "#1 Mom" pictures. Toward the end of the month we talked about different reptiles. Alligators were a favorite! We also enjoyed painting turtles and observing real lizards in action while playing outside. During our dinosaur themed week we had fun playing with our toy dinosaurs. Oh the Bears do love to "Roar!" We summed up our month by introducing the "Summer Fun" themes. We made super fun popsicle projects that are featured in the entrance Gallery of the school. In June we look forward to the start of "Water Wednesdays" Yeah!! We look forward to many of the Summer Fun themes especially Ocean Beach, Once Upon a Time, Star Wars & Super Heroes and ... Western Round up!

*Ms. Kayla, Ms. Lesley, Ms. Rachel and Ms. Kelsey*

### Frogs

The Mother's Day, "Muffins with Mom" was a great success! The children loved making their Moms a refrigerator magnet photo frame which included each child's photo. The Frogs loved making turtles with paper plates

and dot paint markers in art during reptiles week. During dinosaur week we read about dinosaurs, loved to practice "roaring!" and reading lots of fun dinosaur books like, "How Does a Dino go to School." We learned the great big names of lots of different dinosaurs and it was fun to see there are so many different types of dinosaurs of varying sizes. In June we will welcome Summer and Water Day Wednesdays! We look forward to all the various themes. We will talk about, read and explore each topic through play, songs and stories – along with great art projects like seashell art, decorating crowns with jewels, making super hero masks and sheriff badges and cowboy boots! Welcome to Summer 2019!  
*Ms. Ana, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Lena & Ms. Raquel*

### Giraffes

The Giraffes had a busy month in Math! We finished the alphabet and reviewed our colors. We made candles for Mother's Day and a special card all about Mom! We made beautiful Mother's Day flower pots and we so enjoyed giving our mothers their presents. During reptile week we made bearded dragons, spiral snakes, snake masks and tie dye turtle with coffee filters. The giraffes also enjoyed a nature walk observing reptiles. The students spotted a lizard and named him, "Franky!" During dinosaur week the Giraffes made amazing dinosaurs that were displayed at the front lobby Gallery. Using paper plates and fresh leaves the artwork came to life! We also made hand print dinosaurs and enjoyed playing with dinosaurs. Finally, the Giraffes had fun making play-dough fossils! Roar! The Giraffes look forward to the Summer Fun program – especially the summery themes and Water Days! It's great to be a Giraffe!

*Ms. Ali, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Daisy & Ms. Krystal*

### Lions

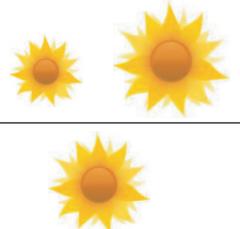
May was a busy month! We started with Mother's Day gifts. We then focused on end-of-the-year activities, Graduation rehearsal and year-end assessments. It is always exciting to see the growth and development in each and everyone of our Lions. Graduation was a wonderful celebration (with just a few tears). It is bitter-sweet to see our students grown and ready to fluff their wings and ready to fly ... but so difficult to say good bye as the students launch on their next milestone – Kindergarten! It is a comforting feeling knowing just how ready the students are! We even had our teacher-moms tell us that their children are very advanced compared to students from other programs! Heart warming!

*Ms. Ali, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Sammy*

### Summer VPK

We would like to welcome our Summer VPK Students for their intensive 8 week program – or as we fondly think of it as "Kindergarten Boot Camp!" We would also like to welcome our second Summer VPK teacher, Ms. Kate Durden. Ms. Kate has a Master's Degree in Education and many years of teaching students of varying ages. We look forward to Ms. Kristen and Ms. Kate being our Summer VPK teachers and know this "Dynamic Duo" will bring amazing teaching experience to our students. The summer class learns in 8 weeks what we teach in an entire nine month school year. It is a rigorous experience for the students but the students leave here in August ready to conquer Kindergarten! No doubt the weeks will 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. Kate & Ms. Kristen*



# 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.

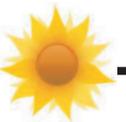
In contrast to the frustrations of long-distance friendship, stories that take place in a land far, far away are riveting and nourishing to young minds. Oz, Narnia, Wonderland, and Neverland: these are countries where anything can happen, where all the rules are topsy-turvy and children can play a starring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

## Summer Fun 2019 Key Dates

- Friday, June 7 Beach Dress Up
- Friday, June 14 Donuts with Dad
- Friday, June 14 Fairy Tale/Movie Dress Up
- Friday, June 21 Super Hero/Star Wars Dress Up
- Friday, June 28 Cowboy/Cowgirl Dress Up
- Friday, July 4 School is Closed
- Friday, July 5 Red, White & Blue Day
- Friday, July 12 Bug Explorer/Camo Day
- Friday, July 19 WCA Annual Carnival Day
- Thursday, July 25 "Around the World Lunch" \$5
- Friday, July 26 Colors of your class' Country
- Friday, August 2 Decades Day (70's, 80's)



Bryce & Karson enjoy some "Muffins with Mom!"



Vera and her Mom enjoy some mother-daughter time!

## Summer Birthdays!

### June

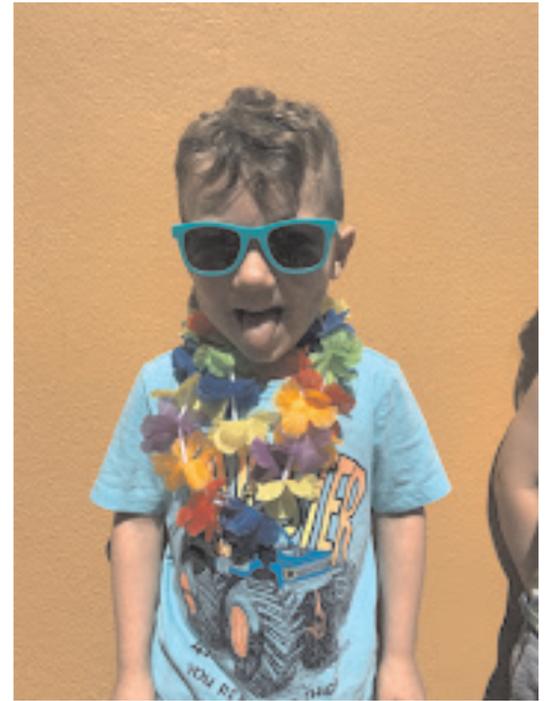
- Caroline R - June 3
- Rocco C - June 4
- Lucas N - June 10
- Jason T - June 21
- Molly M - June 25

### July

- Frances A - July 2
- Sophia S - July 4
- Camila G - July 8
- Ms. Kayla E - July 13
- Bryce & Karson J - July 17
- Vivienne I - July 14
- Ms. Jennifer - July 21
- Triston M - July 26
- Lily I - July 26
- Sophia L - July 30

### August

- Connor J - August 4
- Ms. Noreen - August 5
- Ryke L - August 7
- Ethan C - August 10
- John G - August 11
- Aiden B - August 16
- Presian P - August 17
- Ms. Kristen - August 18
- Areo "Silas" J - August 23
- Ms. Lesley - August 27



Good Times at WCA

