



Palmetto Press

April 2006

April Events

Tuesday, April 18

Palmetto Prep Night at Stevi B's

Palmetto Prep students receive a FREE pizza buffet. Be sure your child has a Stevi B's sticker.

Friday, April 21

Palmetto Prep's 2nd Birthday Party!

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Please RSVP by Monday, April 17th to let us know how many adults and how many children will be joining us for dinner!

Saturday, April 22

Parents' Night Out

6:00 - 10:00 pm

\$25 for one child; \$10 per sibling.

Please pay with cash when you drop off your child(ren). Sign up at the front desk.

Saturday, April 22

10 am - 6 pm

Sunday, April 23

Noon - 5 pm

Southern Kids Fest at Palmetto Expo

This event features fun, hands-on activities and entertainment for kids and a wealth of information for parents about programs, events and items for children. Admission is \$5 per person; children under three and grandparents are admitted free!

April 27, 28, 29

Safe Kids Upstate Fest at Haywood Mall

This event is designed to educate parents and children on safety and injury prevention. There will be 20 fun, interactive exhibits for children and families to enjoy. Dora the Explorer, Buddy the Bear and other mascots will also be there. Palmetto Prep is the corporate sponsor of the Stranger Danger presentations.

Saturday, April 29

Palmetto Prep Day at Barnes & Noble at the Shops at Greenridge

There will be a special storytime at 3:00 p.m. and art activities at 4:00 p.m. Palmetto Prep students will have art and creative writing samples on display. All purchases made with a special Palmetto Prep voucher will benefit our school library! See the Barnes & Noble flyer at the front desk!

Palmetto Prep to Celebrate 2nd Birthday!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Friday, April 21, 2006 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.** to celebrate Palmetto Prep's 2nd birthday! We'll have dinner (chicken, BBQ pork, hotdogs, beans, slaw, chips, banana pudding, cookies and drinks from Bucky's BBQ), inflatable jumpers on the playground, and a special presentation in the theatre. The dinner is being provided courtesy of Palmetto Prep, so all families need to R.S.V.P. so we'll have an accurate count. You'll receive an e-mail invitation that you can reply to or simply call 675-1002 or tell us at the front desk. We're looking forward to sharing our second year accomplishments with you as we celebrate together!

Foreign Language's Added Benefit

In his book, Healthy Aging, Dr. Andrew Weil shares some exciting information about a newly found benefit to learning foreign languages. He believes that we can reduce the risks of getting some of the most common age-related symptoms and diseases such as memory loss and Alzheimer's.

"You don't have to master [a foreign language]," he says. "Just the attempt to learn a language is like running different software through the brain. You're exercising more communication channels in the brain." Without even realizing it, Palmetto Prep has been helping parents avoid Alzheimers! Just another one of the many benefits we provide!

Palmetto Prep's foreign language teachers, Kathy Jones (French) and Melanie Masten (Spanish) are providing monthly language guides that will enable you to learn along with your child. These charts list the main words that are learned each month along with a pronunciation guide to help you say the words correctly. A brief overview of what the students are studying each month is also included. The monthly language guides are available at the front desk in each building. Please pick one up and help yourself and your child receive the benefits of learning a foreign language.



Palmetto Prep Students Learn From Each Other

Research has shown that students benefit greatly when they get to take on the role of teacher and when they have an opportunity to learn from other children. At Palmetto Prep, our Pre-School and Primary

school students are benefitting from such experiences. Our older students are practicing their reading skills and developing a sense of pride as they read to our Pre-Schoolers. They are also developing early public speaking and presentation skills by using inflection as they read. The Pre-Schoolers are being encouraged by seeing students not much older than themselves successfully using a skill that they are beginning to learn about in their own classroom. We are proud to be teaching our students how to serve as mentors for their schoolmates!

Classroom Highlights



Infants

The babies in Infant 1 have been enjoying bubble play outdoors on nice warm days! The scenery inside their room recently changed as the teachers re-decorated for spring using windsocks, posters, window stickers and collages of the children.

Infant 2 has been having fun in the theater and enjoyed jumping to music in the gym. We also made footprint flowers to brighten up our room for Spring.

The children in Infant 3 have been learning about bears, St. Patrick's Day, dinosaurs, and frogs. We had a super time coloring, painting, dancing and having special treats. We also had a blast riding toys, swinging and sliding outside in the warm weather.

Toddlers

The children in Toddler 1 have been exploring and experiencing different types of weather by making windsocks, attempting to fly a kite outside, feeling ice cubes in the sensory pool, and painting rainbows and butterflies with their feet! Our group also created wind and a tornado with different types of paint and collage items. We learned that weather is cold, windy, and busy! Our Toddlers continued explorations on St. Patrick's Day by hunting for green things all day on the 17th as well as eating a "green" snack of pudding and jello!

The children in Toddler 2 also enjoyed learning about the weather. We explored and discussed sunny, rainy, windy and cloudy days. We even learned a few new songs and fingerplays. Their favorite song was "The Wind Is Blowing" (sung to the tune of Mary Had A Little Lamb). The children completed several weather related art projects. To demonstrate the effects of the wind, the children used blow dryers to blow their paintings dry. They also had fun making clouds with their feet and creating rainbows with their hands. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the toddlers made a green collage with things from home and a yummy green treat for snack. To conclude the month on a high note, the toddlers had a blast flying kites outside with Mrs. Nikki.



letter H. During "Show and Tell" week, each child brought in a favorite toy that began with the letter of the week and told their friends about it. The Pre-Preppers also thoroughly enjoyed water painting umbrellas, painting with red apples, and feeding the farm animals.

Pre-Preppers

The children in the front Pre-Prepper room have been studying about letters, colors, farm animals, weather, and racing. During Race Week, the children made play dough cars and airplanes out of boxes. The following week, the children talked about letters. They made congealed green salad for the letter G, glued mosaic egg pictures for the letter E, painted with colored ice for the letter I, and made hamburgers just the way they like them for the

The Pre-Preppers in the back have been studying transportation, flowers and the jungle! We drove trucks through paint and raced boats in the water table. We made flowers with tissue paper and planted sunflowers in the dirt. Our favorite unit was the jungle. We marbled zebras, made safari vests and decorated binoculars. We loved searching for lions and elephants in our own jungle jeep!

Preppers

Things sure have been stormy in the Prepper class! We have been learning about lightning, thunder, rain, floods, tornados, wind, clouds, and rainbows. Our activities included a wind storm, a weather chart, making a kite, and counting raindrops. In science we experimented with a variety of different ways to mix primary colors into secondary colors. Everyone loved making rainbow butterflies, rainbow flowers and painting with rainbow ice! The highlight of the study was making and eating a special snack. We sorted colored cereal to make a rainbow in the clouds on crackers.



The Preppers in the back have been learning all about Spring. We planted marigolds and wildflowers so we can take care of them and watch them grow. We wrapped lima beans and watermelon seeds in wet paper towels and put them in baggies. We hung them in the windows so they will get direct sunlight and the Preppers can watch them sprout. We made butterflies and each Prepper drew a picture of what their very own garden would look like. We have been working on writing and illustrating a story each week. The students have really enjoyed reading books that they wrote themselves.

Pre-K

The Pre-K class in the front has enjoyed studying the ocean, our country, and transportation. Our projects have included an edible ocean, American flags, and car track paintings! In math we discussed symmetry and created symmetrical paintings. We also explored patterns, addition and subtraction with candy, and played the "shapes by feel" game! Phonics has taken us into the houses of the "at" family and the "am" family. Our friends are really getting to know the rhyming families and sound symbol relationships between several letters.

The Pre-K class in the back is anxiously awaiting the arrival of their baby chickens! They've placed a variety of different eggs in an incubator and they should hatch sometime around the end of April. In observance of this wonderful event, the students have been studying all about eggs through literature (stories and writing) and mathematics (graphing and classifying). They especially enjoyed reading Green Eggs and Ham and cooking their own "green eggs." Math activities have included addition activities, non-standard units of measure, and graphing. In reading the children have done very well with the new SRA reading program, including the sight words: the, a, is, and in.



Kindergarten

The kindergarten students have been learning about their bodies and the nutrition they need to stay healthy. We learned about the major organs of the body and discussed the importance and function of each one. An outline of each student's body was traced on chart paper and the students drew the organs in the appropriate places and labeled them. Students also participated in an activity to explore each of the five senses. These activities included being blindfolded, having a "tasting party," taking a "listening walk," guessing mystery items by smell, and feeling items that have different textures.

Following our investigation of the human body and senses, the kindergartners learned about the proper nutrition needed to keep their bodies healthy and strong. Students were introduced to the Food Guide Pyramid and the food groups that it contains. We created a food pyramid using pictures from magazines and created a healthy lunch (using food items made from construction paper) that included food from each food group. We concluded our study of nutrition with a field trip to Publix. Students were given a tour of the store where they were able to make the connection between the food groups found on the Food Guide Pyramid and the departments of the grocery store.



First Grade

The first graders have been scientists this month! We explored colors and made great color books describing colors. The covers of the books were made using tie dyed paper towels that we made ourselves! We also learned how rainbows are made and used bubbles to see rainbows.

We also learned about cardinal directions as we studied the wind and kites. We tested the direction of the wind using weather vanes and discovered that the wind changes direction several times throughout the day.

During our study of plants, we planted seeds, bulbs, and plant cuttings to see which would grow fastest and tallest. We are making close observations each day to find results. We also had a great time preparing planters with herbs and flowers.

In math, we have been playing games that help us review the skills we have learned thus far in the school year. We are making our own comparison problems using grocery store ads, playing a matching game with clocks, using money to make \$100, and using Lucky Charms to increase our understanding of fractions.



Congratulations to Jonathan Kessinger for completing ALL of the SRA power builders! This is a huge accomplishment! Jonathan read 120 short stories and answered comprehension questions about each story. He also completed a series of vocabulary building activities to go along with each story. As a reward, Jonathan earned a lunch at McDonald's with Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Peterman!

Music

The month of March, which is recognized nationwide as "Music in our Schools" month, was full of many exciting events. Each year, a children's concert called the "World's Largest Concert" is televised on PBS. Schools from all over the United States try to win the opportunity to appear on TV during the concert. In order to enter, schools must send in a video of their students performing all of the songs selected for the concert and a panel of judges decides who will appear on TV during the concert. Although Palmetto Prep students are not quite old enough to

participate in the contest, we still learned the songs and had a wonderful time singing along as we watched the concert on TV. I was so proud of how quickly the students learned the songs! As a result of our hard work, we will receive a certificate from the World's Largest Concert sponsors to display in the music room.

The Pre-Preppers and Preppers also had fun learning about St. Patrick's Day! They learned several finger play songs; one of their favorites was about looking for a leprechaun! The students also enjoyed playing an Irish coin passing game.



In the Pre-K and Primary classes, the students learned about New Orleans style music. The students especially enjoyed learning how to dance the "2nd Line." This is an upbeat piece of music where the students parade around the room waving handkerchiefs about their heads.

Art

Art has been all about color this month! The Pre-Preppers learned about mixing colors and discovered how to use primary colors to make new colors such as green, purple and orange. Having all these new colors gave us many opportunities to practice painting techniques and procedures.



The Prepper and Pre-K classes learned about primary colors as well, using the artist Piet Mondrian as a guide. Mondrian is known for his simple designs and use of red, yellow and blue. The children made Mondrian-inspired collages. The Pre-K classes also helped paint giant Spring flowers to kick off the season by mixing their own pastel paint and using their handprints to make sunflowers.

The Primary students have been working with colored pencils. The Kindergartners made castles for the upcoming German market, and the First Graders created some incredible still life drawings. We worked on a vase of flowers design and hope to display these in the community soon. We also drew pictures of our classmates. Be sure to take a look at all of our work displayed throughout the school!

Foreign Language

Fromage is cheese...yum, yum, yum! We learned all about food this month in French class. The children had fun passing food to their friends and learning that French people eat with their hands on the table. We drew our favorite foods and even charted them so that we could count what our friends liked. The older children also learned about place settings and worked on using manners at the table.



The Arc de Triomphe was our cultural study this month. We practiced drawing rectangles and created a giant Arc that hangs outside of the French room. The children had a great time looking at pictures of the Arc de Triomphe on the computer and loved acting like the Arc in our "Arc de Triomphe" song!

La clase de español era muy divertida! The Kindergarten, First Grade and younger After School classes worked on a variety of topics this month. We started off learning words to describe items (plastico, metalico, papel). An exciting scavenger hunt helped us grasp the meanings of our vocabulary. Next, we focused on places in "La Escuela" like la clase de arte and el gimnasio. We went on a tour of the school and each student directed us to a specific place. We finished up learning words for certain things we do, like cantar (to sing) and pintar (to paint). A fun game, "Memoria" (similar to Memory or Concentration), helped us learn these words.

The 2nd - 5th grade After Schoolers focused on people this month. We learned the members of the family, made a family portrait, and everyone enjoyed working on "El Arbol de la Familia" (their family trees). We followed up by learning descriptive words. The students were enthralled with a more complicated version of "memoria de las opuestas" where they had to match opposite descriptions.



After School a la carte

After School 1 & 2 is currently reading the book Junie B. Jones Cheater Pants. We are also focusing on being honest. What does it mean? How can we show it? Our friends have been earning a lot of "Prep Money" to spend in our school store!

In After School 3 & 4 we will finish up our book about the Boxcar Children and the mystery in the attic. This month, our questions of the day will be based on World War 2. Be sure to say hello to our new classroom pet, Ginger!

Don't forget to sign up for Holiday Camp during the week of spring break! We will be having a lot of fun! We will play miniature golf, go to the park and to Pump It Up, as well! Be sure to sign up in advance at the front desk!