



# Palmetto Press

March 2006

## March Events

### Tuesday, March 21

#### 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.

### Saturday, March 25

#### Parents' Night Out 7:00 - 11:00 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. Because we staff these events based on the number of children who are signed up, if your children are signed up, then do not show up, you will be billed for 1/2 of the amount due.

### COMING SOON....

#### Palmetto Prep's 2nd Birthday Party!

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Friday, April 21st from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.! All family members are invited to join us for food and fun! More details will be available soon!

## Special Thanks to Crockett Pediatric Dentistry

We'd like to thank Dr. Mary Crockett of Crockett Pediatric Dentistry for spending time at Palmetto Prep educating our students about good dental hygiene. Dr. Crockett and her staff helped our children understand what a dentist does, why good nutrition is important for our teeth and how to take proper care of our teeth. They read the book Why Do I Brush My Teeth and showed a video called "Dr. Rabbit." The students especially enjoyed practicing brushing and flossing puppets' teeth. Each student also received a goody bag containing a toothbrush, key chain and information reminding them about how to take care of their teeth. Thanks again, Dr. Crockett!

## Palmetto Prep Summer Adventures

It's time to sign up for Palmetto Prep Summer Adventures! This weekly day camp is available for students who have completed kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Each week has a new "adventure" or topic of interest that the students focus on for one or two hours each day. This summer's adventures include Karate, Cooking, International Week, History Week, Science Week, Wild, Wild West Week, Animal Camp, Physical Fitness, and Sports Camp.

In addition to their weekly adventure, the students take a daily field trip to places like Hollywild Animal Park, Discovery Island, Pump It Up, Roper Mountain Science Center, Kids Planet, and more.



Parents can sign their children up for individual weeks or the entire summer! There is a one-time registration fee of \$50.00 (regardless of how many weeks you sign up for) and the weekly tuition of \$225.00 covers all field trips, activities, snacks and lunch.

For more information and to sign up, please pick up a copy of the Summer Adventures brochure at the front desk or call 675-1002.

## Policy Change regarding Tuition Payments

We wanted to let you know about a major policy change that will take effect as of August 1, 2006. As you know, tuition is due on the first of each month and can be paid by cash or check. Each month, a significant amount of time is spent posting late checks, assessing late fees, and making follow-up calls on delinquent accounts.

We would like to get out of the "banking business" and have more time to devote to our true mission. Therefore, we are going to require that every family participate in the Tuition Express program that automatically drafts your tuition payment from your checking account. The draft will be made on the first day of each month.

In order for the first draft to occur on August 1, 2006 we need you to complete and submit a Tuition Express application by July 1, 2006. Applications are available at the front desk.

We appreciate your understanding and hope that we have given you sufficient time to adapt to this change. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you again for giving us the incredible privilege of being involved in the care and education of your child.

# Classroom Highlights

## Infants

In Infant 1 we made Valentine's cards for our parents using the children's hand prints and photos. We have also done a lot of mirror play and signing. The signs we work on regularly are for the words "eat", "more", and "milk." Some of our children have started to enjoy table foods and are very mobile. They enjoy crawling and pulling up on everything!

Our friends in Infant 2 have had a wonderful time with paint this month. We have been exploring different colors of paint and we will be enjoying many days of painting with our fingers as well as with our bodies.

A "rainbow" of colors has been shining in Infant 3. We have explored the colors yellow, green, red, and blue. The children enjoyed coloring dinosaurs, decorating red hearts, and decorating white paper with yellow squares. We also enjoyed many colorful books, such as Scruffy Teddy's Book of Colors.



themselves. They also loved painting hearts and making Valentine's Day cards with their fingerprints. We have worked hard on counting to 15 and recognizing shapes and colors. The children love taking turns with the shape and color flashcards.

## Preppers

Since we have so many friends welcoming new siblings in their homes, the Preppers in the front have been studying about babies! We invited some babies from the infant rooms come play with us and help us with some comparative experiments. We also played with



## Toddlers

In February the Toddler room enjoyed both Valentine's Day celebrations and activities involving the circus! To enhance our fine motor skills, we used crayons to color scented hearts and used Q-tips to paint red hearts! We also created ice cream clowns using cones and m&m's. They were fun to make AND fun to eat! We reviewed our shapes by creating clown faces using triangles, circles, and squares.

## Pre-Preppers

The Pre-Preppers in the front have been learning about colors and letters. Their favorite activity was carving boats out of soap bars. After they were finished, the children took them home and sailed them in their tubs. It was a great hands on activity! Other fun activities involved lots of paint, shaving cream, dirt, diggers, and dino hunts.



The children used their hands to paint huge colorful pictures. They also used shaving cream to draw letters on the table. The Pre-Preppers enjoyed playing with dirt and dinos in the water table. Our friends also enjoyed an exciting dinosaur hunt!

The Pre-Preppers in the back had a blast learning about babies. We thought it the perfect time to study babies since two of our friends became siblings. The children enjoyed taste testing baby food, painting with baby bottles, and looking at baby pictures of

baby toys and tasted baby food. Most of us really liked the baby food but were confused about actually being allowed to eat with our fingers! We practiced changing diapers on our dolls and read lots of books about human and animal babies. We are so happy to welcome Tyler and Shivam's new siblings and are waiting anxiously for Nicholas' baby to arrive!!

Over the last few weeks the Preppers in the back have been working very hard on the letters of the alphabet. So far we have learned about the letters (A-H). We have been working with all the letters during handwriting and we have used hands-on sensory activities to reinforce the letter sounds. For example, we glued cotton balls on the



letter C and glitter on the letter G. The Preppers have also really enjoyed the new classroom room arrangement. We are getting very excited about the Spring weather and enjoying the outdoors! Please remember to read with your child each night!



bears body stays warm by using ice and lard in a bag. Please take the time to check out our hallway to see examples of the fun learning activities your child has been working on.

Dental Health and Keeping Our Bodies Healthy have been ongoing themes in Pre-K 3 and 4! Throughout the month we have learned about the food pyramid, had a dentist come visit us and created a smile collage! We played pin the tail on the Zebra as we explored the letter Z, and we decorated hats while we talked about "h" words! Our favorite activities have been writing our "h" words on toothbrushes and painting with toothbrushes! Our math lessons have been filled with coin matching games, thermometer exploration and sorting big and small objects!

## Kindergarten

The kindergarten students have been investigating different types of animals including winter animals, zoo animals, and domesticated animals. Most recently, we have been studying pets. We learned about different types of pets, the needs of pets, and supplies needed by a pet owner. The students were very eager to learn about pets and to share information about their pets with the class! They wrote about them in their writing journals. Students learned how to classify animals as wild or tame. We created a language experience chart about the kinds of pets the students would choose if they could select any animal to have as a pet. We made pictographs to display information about the students' pets. We measured different parts of our bodies using "dog bone" rulers and recorded our findings in graph form. We also discussed estimation and practiced our estimating skills using dog bones. We concluded our study of animals with a trip to Holly Tree Animal Hospital. The students were given a tour of the facility and we able to learn about the equipment used to treat animals and services that a veterinarian provides.



## First Grade

First grade has started using a new vocabulary program that is very exciting! We are learning at least six new vocabulary words each week. We are also reading a new book each week that includes these vocabulary words. All of the students are also very excited to be participating in a handwriting contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser

## Pre-K

In Pre-K 1 and 2, Antarctica and Africa have collided. We have been studying about Arctic and African animals. We have done a lot of comparing and contrasting, illustrating and dictating facts, reading informative books, singing about zebras and penguins, and learning how to web our information. One of the students' favorite experiences was to feel how a polar

handwriting. Palmetto Prep's first graders will be writing an excerpt in their best handwriting to compete with other first graders in South Carolina and in the United States. The winning student will receive a \$500 US savings bond!

One of the best ways to learn is to research and present information. We all learned so much from each other this month as the students presented two projects. One featured African American heroes, and the other featured an American president.



On February 8th we celebrated the 100th day of school! We made a 100 item snack mix and shared our collections of 100 things. We also graphed using a X and Y axis to make a "100". During our study of Valentine's Day we studied the human heart. The first graders may become healthy eaters after all, as we discussed the elements of a healthy heart, including healthy eating and exercise. Some students were very concerned about eating french fries and playing Game Boy!

## Music

During the month of February, the Pre-Prepper and Prepper students learned about phrases in music. They understand that music "says sentences," meaning that music has sections that begin and end and then new music happens. Phrases are just like having a conversation with your friends. This concept helped the students get ready for learning about musical form. We used different movements to show when the melody changed in a song or piece of music.

The Pre-K and Primary students have been learning about listening maps. They now know that listening maps help you get from the beginning of a song or piece of music to the end, and the maps show the students different elements to listen for in the music. The students particularly enjoyed listening to and following the map for the piece "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa. We also followed the map for "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Aaron Copeland. This piece was great to do in the month of February because it is often played at the Olympics. The students had fun getting to talk about some of the winter Olympic sports that they saw on television.

All of the students really enjoyed making maracas out of plastic bottles and popcorn kernels. They all turned out beautifully after they were finished and decorated. The children love using them to dance along with upbeat songs. Thank you to everyone who brought in bottles for our project!

## Art

During February we used Valentine's Day as a focus for our creativity! The children created heart mosaics and paintings. We fingerpainted hearts, mixed red and white to make pink, and got red glitter on everything! The Preppers and Pre-K students enjoyed drawing hearts and practicing cutting them out. We also made some cute butterflies using hearts for the wings. The students also spent time learning about a couple of famous artists and



their work. The Preppers and Pre-K students learned about Picasso. We looked at several of his paintings of people and then made our own Picasso-inspired face collages. The Primary students loved studying Van Gogh's painting "Starry Night". We then used chalk pastel to create our own starry nights!

Most of the children also helped contribute to our large group quilt that is hanging just outside of the computer lab. Each student created their own square and the project turned out great. Check it out!

## Foreign Language Highlights

The Eiffel Tower was the favorite topic this month! The children were wowed by the pictures and had a great time drawing their own Eiffel Tower. Ask them to sing the Eiffel Tower song for you; it's interactive and fun for all! The Pre-Preppers have been working on their numbers and are determined to learn how to count on their fingers "the French way." The Preppers love finding their body parts and have learned how to hug! The Pre-K friends have also been doing lots of hugging along with learning the names of body parts and family members. All of our friends are working on books that they will bring home in the next few weeks so that mom and dad can see all of their work.



In Spanish, the Kindergarten and First Graders have been working on how to describe themselves and others. We have learned a number of adjectives like alto, bajo, bonita, guapo, contento, and triste (tall, short, pretty, handsome, happy and sad). We made some collages from magazines and made a self-portrait describing ourselves in Spanish! We'll now begin learning the Spanish words for "la ropa" (the clothing).

The After Schoolers have focused on animals this month, including both farm animals and wild animals. They not only learned the words in Spanish for a plethora of different animals, but have also learned brief descriptions of the animals, as well as how to say where the different animals live. This has entailed a number of games and activities, including a new version of "Jeopardia!" (Jeopardy! in Spanish).

## After School à la carte

The students in After School groups 1 & 2 are continuing to focus on honesty. They will discuss why they should not steal, why it is important for them to be honest with themselves, the value of telling the truth, and the importance of not making excuses or blaming others for what they do. We will continue to have "take home" activities on Wednesdays. One of the questions your children will ask themselves (and their parents) this month is "is it better to do something wrong, admit it and learn from it, or to do something wrong and get away with it."

The After Schoolers in groups 3 & 4 are finishing the book The Mystery in the Old Attic. It is a book about the Boxcar Children. We will also be looking at the history of St. Patrick's Day. Keep asking you child about the question of the day!