



Palmetto Press

November 2005

November Events

Thursday, November 3 3 - 6 pm
Friday, November 4 7:30 - 10 am
Discovery Toys Show

Sara Gayle McConnell, an educational consultant with Discovery Toys, will be in Palmetto Prep's gymnasium with sample toys that can be ordered in time for the holidays! A catalog is also available for preview at the front desk.

Tuesday, November 8

Palmetto Prep Night at Stevi B's
(located in the Staples shopping center on Woodruff Road, behind Chick-Fil-A)
Palmetto Prep students receive a FREE pizza buffet. Be sure your child has a Stevi B's sticker.

Wednesday, November 9

Free Parent Seminar 5:00 - 6:15 pm
"Five Steps to Improving Your Child's Speech, Language and Listening Skills."

Presented by Amy Reynolds, MS, LLL-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist
See article on this page for more information. Sign up at the front desk.

Saturday, November 12

Parents' Night Out 5:00 - 9:00 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.

Wednesday, November 23

Primary School is closed for Professional Development (Kindergarten and First Grade only). Holiday Camp available for Kindergarten, First Grade and After School students. Sign up at the front desk.

Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25

Palmetto Prep (all programs) will be closed for Thanksgiving.

Five Steps to Improving Your Child's Speech, Language and Listening Skills

On Wednesday, November 9th, Speech-Language Pathologist Amy Reynolds will present a seminar on how to improve your child's speech, language and listening skills. This seminar will be held from 5:00 - 6:15 p.m. and will be designed for parents of children from birth to age six.

Ms. Reynolds will cover topics including the importance of asking and answering questions, how to model correct speech production, understanding how to "scaffold" your child's language, the importance of sequencing, and how to use everyday activities to develop story telling and social language.

She will also present ten possible "red flags" for speech/language difficulties and will offer a question and answer session.

This seminar is free and open to the public, so feel free to invite any interested friends or co-workers. A sign up sheet will be available at the front desk. The exact location of the seminar will be determined once we know how many plan to attend.

The Public is Invited to "Experience the Palmetto Prep Difference"

Palmetto Prep will host a very special "open house" on Saturday, November 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Parents who may be considering Palmetto Prep are invited to bring their children to Palmetto Prep to experience a "typical" day at our school. Teachers will be conducting activities in the classrooms and enrichment areas so parents can observe their children participating in a wide variety of settings.

Parents will be able to watch as infants and toddlers are exposed to Baby Sign Language to help them develop pre-communication skills. They can observe their children learning through play as they explore the wide variety of opportunities in the pre-school classrooms. Parents will be invited to accompany their children to the Art Studio, Music Hall, Foreign Language Lab, Technology Center, Theatre and Gymnasium to see what discoveries can be made there. They can also get a glimpse of our Primary School program as their children visit the learning centers in the Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms.

If you know someone who might like to attend this event, please feel free to invite them or give their name, address and phone number to Cindy Weathers. Also, if you -- as the parent of a currently enrolled student -- would like to attend to help promote the benefits of a Palmetto Prep education, you are more than welcome to do so! Please see Cindy Weathers for more information.

What are you planning to do with your child's Halloween costume? Last year Palmetto Prep was thrilled to receive many donated costumes to use for dress up in the theatre! If you'd like to donate yours, just drop them off at the front desk.

Classroom Highlights

Infants

The babies in Infant 1 have been learning about "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." They loved looking at the pictures, hearing the song, and learning about all the adventures of the itsy bitsy spider. Ms. Nockels also brought in a rain stick for sensory development. The children enjoyed looking at the colorful balls and hearing the "rain" as the balls went from one end of the stick to the other.



After attending a training session on Infant/Toddler Sign Language, our Infant and Toddlers teachers decided to expand our current sign language program. Infant 2 will be having a "Sign of the Week." A sign will be posted on the door each week to let you know what sign they're working on. More news (including information about parent seminars) will be available soon.

The signs of Fall have been "harvested" in Infant 3. We have been busy exploring fall leaves, sponge painting friendly squirrels, coloring acorns and maple leaves, and taking relaxing fall strolls outside on the buggy.

Toddlers

During October the Toddlers thoroughly enjoyed activities surrounding the theme of "Fall." They carved pumpkins and sampled the seeds and meat of the pumpkin. In Art, they enjoyed decorating leaves and making leaf rubbings, acorn stencils and silly pumpkin faces. The Toddlers have also been working really hard on sign language skills, ABC's, colors, shapes and numbers 1-5.



Pre-Preppers

The Pre-Preppers in the front have enjoyed learning about autumn. We began by learning about red, yellow, and green apples. The children especially enjoyed cutting, tasting and cooking with them. We learned about dried apples, baked apples, apple sauce, apple pie, and raw apples. We discussed the core, seeds, meat and skin and even measured ourselves with apples! We also learned about pumpkins. The children helped carve our class pumpkin, and we talked about why people get pumpkins on Halloween. We placed pumpkin seeds in our sensory table which made an awesome sensory/fine motor experience. After baking our pumpkin seeds, the children enjoyed a taste test.



The Pre-Preppers in the back have been making whipped cream clouds and umbrella raindrops to help them learn about the different types of weather. For our unit on autumn, we made fall trees using our handprints and used our fists to make pumpkins and vines. Our favorite topic of the month was cookies!! We made crazy cookies and used cookie cutters to paint. We ended the week by making our own cookies and eating them for a special treat!

Preppers

Apples, pumpkins, leaves, and acorns! The Preppers in the front have been investigating why leaves change color and fall from trees, and they compared the many different sizes of leaves. Opening apples and pumpkins was exciting and yucky at the same time. We planted our apple seeds and baked our pumpkin seeds. We boarded the buses and headed out to Nivens apple orchard for a morning of apple and pumpkin picking. Everyone picked just the right size pumpkin to carry back to the bus. We will finish our fall unit by taking a trip to the nature trail at Simpsonville park. There we will gather leaves and make crayon rubbings of the tree trunks.



The Preppers in the back have been studying food and nutrition. We discussed healthy foods and took a trip to Publix to learn about the different departments of the grocery store. As the weather turned cold, our theme changed to apples and pumpkins. We took an exciting trip to Nivens Apple Farm. The Preppers filled their bags with delicious apples and a few of our friends ate some along the walk. We also got to pick a pumpkin at Nivens. We had a picnic lunch and enjoyed all the barnyard animals. Back at school we carved a pumpkin and took the seeds out to cook and taste.

Pre-K



The Pre-K students in the front have been enjoying an exploration of bedtime! We made patterns with quilt pieces and wrote our own bedtime rhymes. While focusing on the letter Q, the students had fun talking about Q words like “queen” and “quilt” and enjoyed looking at quilts that parents brought into our classroom. The students also had the opportunity to learn about fire safety when we took a field trip to a fire station.



The Pre-K in the back has been focusing on the changing season. We made a fall mural, decorated fall leaves, and made leaf rubbings. In reading we've been learning to identify characters, setting, title, and the main idea in stories and we've read poems with rhyming words. Each student also wrote and illustrated a sentence about Fall and Halloween. In math and science we decorated Fall bags for collecting items, made black cats with shapes, learned the parts of a tree, patterned with Fall colors, and worked on number recognition. Our favorite Science activity this month was a “Feast for the Senses” (see the poster on the Pre-K hall).

Kindergarten

The kindergartners have been integrating the theme of “apples” into many math, science, reading, writing, and art activities. The students enjoyed writing cinquain poems about apples, tasting and graphing different types of apples, and reading the legend of Johnny Appleseed. The students also learned about the changes in an apple tree that occur throughout the four seasons. Their favorite apple activity was experimenting with different apple recipes such as caramel apples and apple muffins.

The kindergartners have also been learning all about pumpkins. After a field trip to Niven’s Apple and Pumpkin Farm, the children were eager to learn about how pumpkins grow. They created individual books to show and illustrate each step of this process. The students enjoyed our pumpkin math activities where they experimented with estimation. The students estimated the number of seeds inside a pumpkin as well as the pumpkin’s weight and circumference. The kindergartners have enjoyed the recent field trips away from the classroom. They took a field trip to Roper Mountain Science Center at the end of October to attend two science classes on dental health and the five senses. On Halloween, the students dressed up in costumes and visited the residents at Magnolia Place, a nearby assisted living facility.



First Grade

The First Graders have been learning how and why leaves change colors. We thought it was very interesting to know that leaves make their own food! We also studied Christopher Columbus and learned about his travels to the New World. We charted his travels and discussed what we would take on a voyage like his.

The First Graders began spelling tests this month and are studying so hard to become the very best spellers! In math, we are reading thermometers, which is very interesting now that it is getting cooler. We are also learning to measure using inches and feet. While studying popcorn, we discussed where popcorn comes from and what makes it pop. We experimented to see if temperature conditions affect the popping ability of corn.

Our field trip this month was to Nivens Apple Farm. We had a great time picking apples and pumpkins! Our favorite part of the trip was tasting apple cider and going on a hay ride! After our trip we discussed pumpkins and tasted pumpkin seeds. We even counted all of the seeds in our pumpkins. Cleaning out the mush was so much fun!



Music

The music students have been learning about steady beats, body percussion and tempo. Body percussion is using parts of the body to make music, like clapping hands and slapping knees. The Pre-Preppers and Preppers have especially enjoyed these lessons! These students have also been learning about loud and soft instruments, like scarves and rhythm sticks.

To help practice keeping a steady beat, the Pre-K students made bear puppets to use while performing the "Bear Hunt." The Primary students learned a hand game called "Pass the Beat."

All pre-school students also learned special songs for the school's Fall Festival. Each class worked really hard to prepare for their performance.

Art

Palmetto Prep students have been doing Fall leaf rubbings, painting orange pumpkins and making black cats for Halloween. The Pre-Preppers enjoyed making orange playdough using flour and water and paint. They loved making miniature sculptures with the dough using popsicle sticks and pipe cleaners. Several of the students made spiders with the dough! The Preppers have enjoyed using



stencils and rubbing plates to make patterned designs. They also liked squeezing their paint from old glue bottles and painting.

The Pre-K students made some really cute Fall trees, and the Kindergartners made 3D pumpkins using styrofoam bowls. The First Grade made contact paper collages and imaginary creatures using pictures cut from magazines.

Foreign Language Highlights

October has brought a wide range of activities for the Spanish students. We wrapped up our food unit by helping Dora bake while singing "Bate, Bate, Chocolate". The students actually got to stir, roll, bake, and even eat the chocolate treats, which amazingly resembled Dunkin' Donuts' Munchkins!

Students observed Columbus Day by discovering Spain on the map. They enjoyed the story and actually got to play with three boats, dramatizing the voyage of Columbus.

Students learned about the Mexican flag and were fascinated by the eagle eating a snake in the center of the Mexican flag. Everyone also had fun making a dog puppet, "el perro".

The students in French class have been exploring each others' families. They loved seeing pictures of each others' families...thank you so much for sending those photos in! The students also learned how to name their body parts in French.

The After school children have spent the month packing for their "trip" to Canada. We even wrote to the US Ambassador to Canada. We should be hearing back sometime very soon!



The students recently had a trivia challenge about France and learned that breakdancing in France is called "le smurf;" the carnival is held in Nice; the castle we studied was in Versailles; and the streets coming out of Paris form a star shape.

After School à la carte

After School 1 and 2 have already completed two chapter books this month and are about to begin Katie Kazoo Switcheroo- A Whirlwind Vacation. We have specifically been focusing on cooperative learning this month. The children have been divided into "tribes" and together they are practicing teamwork. Next month we will be studying fall and fairness.

Question of the day...what is echolocation? After School 3 and 4 have really enjoyed studying fall and all of its attributes. We covered topics including bat facts and phases of the moon and made decoupage pumpkins and "witch's brew." We have definitely had a howling good time!

November will be a month of celebrating all that has been given to us and discussing how we can share that love with others.

