



Palmetto Press

January 2007

January Calendar

Hair Cuts at Palmetto Prep

Wed. Jan. 10

Tues. Jan. 16

Wed. Jan. 24

Tues. Jan. 30

Please note the price increase: full hair cuts cost \$18 and bang trims are \$9. Please sign up at the front desk.

Monday, January 1

All Palmetto Prep programs are closed.

Tuesday, January 2

Palmetto Prep Primary School closed

Holiday Camp is available. Please sign up in advance!

Friday, January 5

Place Market Day orders on-line at www.MarketDay.com. Orders will be ready for pick up between 4:30 - 5:30 on Jan. 15

Tuesday, January 9

Kindergarten Preview Night

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Parents of current Pre-K students are encouraged to come preview our kindergarten program.

Thursday, January 11

Primary School Preview Night

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Parents of current Kindergarten, First and Second grade students are encouraged to come learn about next year's grade level.

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, Jan. 13

5 pm - 9 pm

Pizza and drinks will be provided for dinner. The cost is \$35.00 per child and \$15.00 per sibling. You must sign up in advance. Please note price increase.

Monday, January 15

Palmetto Prep Primary School closed/
Parent Teacher Conferences

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade will be closed.

Holiday Camp is available. Please sign up in advance!

Market Day Pick Up

4:30 - 5:30 pm in the Pre-School gym



During the month of January, there will be several opportunities for currently enrolled and potential families to learn more about Palmetto Prep. Please plan to join us (and invite your friends and neighbors, too!) for any and all of the events listed on this page.

Of special note are the Preview Nights for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades. If you have children entering any of these grades, you will definitely want to come meet the teachers and learn first hand how a Palmetto Prep Primary School education will benefit your child. Typical daily schedules, curriculum information, syllabuses and more will be available for your review.

Please remember that all children entering kindergarten need to complete

Tuesday, January 16

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.

Holiday Camp available for public school students.

Please sign up in advance!

Wednesday, January 17

Primary School report cards issued.

Friday, January 19

Primary School Registration Ends (for currently enrolled Primary School students) and Enrollment Fees (for students entering kindergarten in August 2007) and Placement Fees (for rising kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students) are due.

Saturday, January 20

School Wide Open House

10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

Beginning today, Primary School spaces will be available to the public.

Special Events in January

the S.T.A.R. readiness testing to ensure their readiness for our program. Also, families with children entering kindergarten and/or other primary school grades need to officially enroll for these programs and pay the corresponding enrollment or placement fees.

Currently enrolled families have until Friday, January 19th to reserve spaces for the 2007-08 school year. On Saturday, January 20th, any remaining spaces will be open to the general public.

Please note that parents of children in the Pre-School (Infants through Pre-K) do not need to complete any additional paperwork or pay any additional fees to continue on in the Pre-School.

Please let us know if you have questions!

Saturday, January 27

St. Francis Hospital's Great Expectations Event at Fluor Daniel

10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Palmetto Prep is sponsoring a booth at this event designed for expectant parents.

Sunday, January 28

Upstate Parent's Camp & Education Fair at McAllister Square

1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Palmetto Prep is sponsoring a booth at this event featuring information about private school and summer camp programs.

Tuesday, January 30

School Wide Open House

9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The general public is invited to visit our school and see our classrooms in action!

Parents, please remember that we give tuition credit to families who refer new families to us! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us at any and all of these events!

Classroom Highlights

Infants

The babies in Infant 1 have been busy making snowflakes and snow angel ornaments for their parents using their precious hand prints. We played with different textures using rice pudding and whipped cream. The babies sat in highchairs and smoothed it all around their trays. We also decorated our classroom with snowmen and winter themes.



The month of December was full of excitement for the children in Infant 2. We demonstrated our fine motor skills by fingerpainting snow storms and Christmas trees. We enjoyed sensory activities using glitter and marshmallows. Our gross motor skills were expanded as we practiced crawling through our classroom playhouse and bouncing in our new ball pit. As always, our room was full of crawling, scooting, pulling up, army crawling and even some walking!

Winter's here, it's time to cheer! Infant 3 began the month by learning about and decorating winter trees, creating our very own snowstorm pictures, and exploring winter clothing. The children enjoyed expressing their musical talents by playing the bells, banging on the big drum, and having shaker fun. We also took in some of the unusually warm winter weather by strolling outside on the buggy. While outside, we looked for signs of winter. Lastly, we enjoyed many fun winter stories with snow and fuzzy animal friends.



Toddlers

The children in Toddler One have been celebrating the winter season. We experienced how cold ice is in the sensory art table and made some fuzzy snowmen. We also made various holiday-centered art projects including sparkly bells, green Christmas trees, snowflakes, Christmas ornaments and reindeer. We are learning many of our colors through these art projects. The toddlers continue to practice balancing on the balance beam, throwing balls in the gym, and having fun with their imaginations during dress up time.

The children in Toddler Two have had lots of fun making glitter bells, Christmas wreaths and painting a Christmas tree with their hands. We made snowmen out of cotton balls and decorated our "most favorite reindeer of all." We painted with red and green and baked sugar cookies filled with cream. We also enjoyed learning Christmas songs and decorating our room with snowflakes that hang from the ceiling.

Pre-Preppers

The Pre-Preppers in the front had an exciting time learning about Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and winter. Some of their favorite activities included making reindeer using paint and their bare feet, making snowmen with shaving cream, making elves, pretending to ice skate by taping wax paper to their feet, and painting with colored ice cubes. We also built dreidels with playdough, built a chimney with blocks, and made Star of David and



Christmas tree ornaments for our class tree. The children made a Menorah using glitter and paint, read books about all the holidays in December, made a Kwanzaa unity chain with red and green links, and a mosaic Christmas tree. Our Pre-Prepper chefs also enjoyed making holiday cookies!

The Pre-Preppers in the back spent December "shaping up" for the holidays!

During our week of circles, we made snowmen out of clay. We decorated them with eyes, mouths and clothes. We made wreaths out of Life Savers and used them to review our numbers and colors. We also made wreaths out of shredded wheat. The children loved the rough texture and enjoyed making a big, green mess! While studying squares, we made Santa faces and used stretched out cotton balls to make his beard. We also made collages out of squares which gave us the opportunity to discuss the concept of small, smaller and smallest. We wrapped up our holiday shapes with triangles. We made and decorated triangle Christmas trees and enjoyed making special presents for our parents!



Preppers

The Preppers in the front traveled to the arctic this month. We learned about penguins, igloos and polar bears. We talked about the arctic being covered in snow and ice and dressed in hats, gloves and scarves to keep us warm.

We even went sledding in our room. We painted a blizzard and made our very own snow globes to take



home! We learned to make ice cream with ice, salt and milk. It was delicious! Visiting the arctic was cold, but fun!



The Preppers in the back have been learning about buildings. We learned the different

materials used to build and studied the different types of buildings. We focused on schools, gas stations, homes, and grocery stores. To enhance our study, we took a field trip to our neighborhood Publix. They gave us a "behind the scenes" tour where we saw the deli, cake decorating and produce sections. The children loved walking through the big cooler!

Pre-K

Our little elves in Pre-K front have been working hard in their classroom. The children recently completed a unit on weather which led into many fun science experiments. We studied different climates around the world and graphed their similarities and differences. We will further this unit by discussing winter weather and animals that hibernate. In phonics we have been focusing on words that end in "at." We also added new words to our Word Wall. We are currently reviewing our phone numbers and addresses.



The students in Pre-K back have been focusing on patterns and lines of symmetry in their math lessons. We made patterns with different items in the classroom including blocks, animals, and even boys and girls! In science, we conducted a sink/float experiment. The children had to decide as a class if each item would sink or float when we put it in water. In phonics, the children are learning many new words. Our Word Wall keeps growing and growing! Each week we read a book that goes along with some of the words we are learning, and the children take the book home on

Fridays to read to their families. We all had a great time at our holiday party! The children had a gift exchange and had a blast opening gifts and decorating cookies.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten class recently conducted a science investigation using the new goldfish and guppies in our classroom. We began by looking at their body parts in a small group setting. We discussed how fishes' body parts are different from ours and what it means to be "cold blooded." We then learned what goldfish need to survive. We took turns filling the tanks with clean water, putting plants in the tanks and giving the the fish a pinch of fish food. After making sure we understood what fish need to survive, we decided to give our new friends something fun to play with. We put a tunnel in their tank and watched them swim in and out. This gave us the opportunity to discuss how their tails and body parts move when they're swimming and playing. Throughout our investigation the students wrote in their science journals about what they learned. They drew and labeled body parts on a goldfish, wrote definitions for the new words they learned, and wrote sentences on what fish need to survive. After learning everything about goldfish, we made paper aquariums, tunnels, fish, and plants so that we could reenact everything we learned through our investigation.



First Grade

The First Graders recently began their first earth science unit. The "Pebbles, Sand and Silt" unit included investigations that heightened students' awareness of rocks as earth materials and natural resources. They learned to know some rocks by name. Specifically, we investigated river rocks. The students used screens to separate and group river rocks by particle size. They investigated properties of pebbles, gravel, sand, silt and clay particles, and separated sand and silt using water. They also explored the properties of dry and wet clay. First Graders never knew being a geologist could so fun and fascinating!



Second Grade

The second graders have been busy learning about their bodies and body systems. We are learning functions of all the major organs of the body including, but not limited to, the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, skeleton, and muscles. Students are using life-sized outlines of their bodies to place each organ in the appropriate position. We are learning about the complex ways that our body systems work together!

The Primary School students have recently adopted a pet corn snake named Karl. They enjoy handling him and observing his daily behavior. He has already molted once and lives on a diet of "pinkies" -- bald baby mice.

Music

The Pre-Preppers and Preppers learned about "repeating form" in music this month. We had fun using "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song to learn about this form. Everyone did a great job remembering all of the days in order and how many presents were given on each day. Our favorite part was when we got to add instruments to the song. Each day was represented by a different instrument, and we took turns playing them when our day repeated. When we added all twelve instruments, the song sounded fantastic! These students also enjoyed learning about Hanukkah. We looked at pictures of a menorah and a dreidel. We finished learning about Hanukkah by singing the upbeat "Dreidel Song"!



The Pre-K and Primary School students had a wonderful and exciting month. "Paint the Town December," our holiday musical, came together beautifully! The students worked so hard on this show, and all of their work payed off with their exceptional performance. After the show was over, we spent time doing some other fun activities, such as making Santa Claus faces to go along with the song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." We also sang the song "Jingle Bells" and added our hand bells to the song. Finally, we learned about several of the other holidays that occur in December, such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa!

Art

The art students at Palmetto Prep have done some very seasonal projects! We began the month by doing cool color paintings and collages. The cool colors are blues, purples, and greens -- colors that make you think of cold things. We added snowflakes cut by the older children to some of the paintings. The students also enjoyed painting snowmen. We put lots of glitter snowflakes in the background. These are very cute and are on display outside of the art room.



The Pre-K students did a drawing/painting of themselves dressed in cold weather clothing -- hats, scarves, gloves, etc. The Primary school students worked on some snowflake designs and did snowman paintings. Kindergarten students also used popsicle sticks to paint a Christmas tree. First and Second graders used a torn paper technique to create a seasonal collage of their choice.

Foreign Language

Our last month in Spanish (for the Pre-Prepper through Pre-K students) has been another busy one! We started off learning body parts. We quickly caught on to "Cabeza, brazos, piernas, pies", and everyone had fun singing it slow, slow, and then really fast! We enjoyed making Paper Plate Cabezas one day, and tracing our bodies on butcher paper to color. As an end of the year treat, we got to watch Dora's World Adventure. In celebration of the holiday season, we learned about "La Flor de Noche Buena" (the Poinsettia) and the Mexican legend that goes along with it. We even spent time making one to bring home.

Food was the topic of choice for the last month of French in the Primary School. We talked about the different foods that we eat during the holidays. The children did a great job deciding which foods went with specific meals. When we reversed the roles and talked about when the French eat certain foods, they were shocked to find that they can have CHOCOLATE for breakfast! Our Second Graders were very proud when they finished their final book, entitled "Diner de Noel," which was about Christmas dinner.

We all spent a good deal of time this month getting to know our new friend "Bonhomme Carnaval." He is the mascot for the Carnaval festival in Canada each year. We learned all about him and his adventures with the children of Canada! December wound down as the 1st and 2nd graders completed their yearly assessments. If you would like more information on your child's progress, please feel free to contact Kathy Jones at kjones@palmettoprep.com.

After School

In After School 1 & 2, we learned how to wrap Christmas presents! We also made Santa puppets and a Christmas tree using our traced handprints. We decorated ornaments for our tree, made Christmas lists, and wrote letters to Santa. In our journals we have been focusing on what the holidays mean to us.

In Afterschool 3 & 4, we have changed the way the children answer the question of the day. On Monday, we give them a paper that has five questions on it. The children turn it in on Friday and get points for each question they get right. We have also been writing in our journals about what the holidays mean to us. We had lots of fun at Stevie B's during Holiday Camp. We made holiday brownies and the blue and red teams won for the month of December! Those teams got an ice cream party for all their hard work!