



Palmetto Press

July 2006

July Events

Tuesday, July 4

Palmetto Prep Closed in celebration of Independence Day.

Tuesday, July 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.

Saturday, July 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.

New Foreign Language Assessment

We are excited to announce that Palmetto Prep is participating in a pilot program designed to track students' foreign language learning and cultural experiences. This new assessment format called **LinguaFolio, Jr.** is a collection of information about early language learning that will help teachers evaluate where students should be placed when they enter various stages of their education. This program will also connect US standards and performance guidelines to the internationally accepted "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages."

Each Palmetto Prep student will be evaluated at the end of their Pre-K year. The **Lingua Folio Jr.** will track which languages the children are learning, how they use their languages, what cultural experiences they've had, and will allow the students to reflect on how they want to continue their language experience. Since Palmetto Prep provides the unique opportunity for students to begin learning both French and Spanish starting at age two, we feel confident our students will show tremendous success by the end of Pre-K! Parents of students in Palmetto Prep's Primary School will have an annual conference with the foreign language teachers to discuss their children's progress.



Music lessons: \$95 per month



Art lessons: \$80 per month



Foreign Language class:
\$90 per month



Breakfast, lunch and snacks
provided daily: \$100 per month

Knowing that professional educators
are providing your child with all
this and much more* in a safe,
secure environment: Priceless



* Palmetto Prep students also benefit from spacious classrooms and playgrounds, foreign language classes, a computer lab, theatre, gymnasium, International Market, water park, diapers, wipes, bibs and linens included in tuition, cleaning staff and chefs who allow teachers to concentrate on teaching, high quality toys and furnishings, the availability of on-site haircuts, extracurricular activities like dance and theatre classes, monthly Parents' Night Out events and free parent seminars.

Palmetto Prep Primary Students Achieve Excellent Test Results!

Our first graders recently completed the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the results are outstanding! Palmetto Prep students exceeded the national average in all test areas! These results reflect Palmetto Prep's innovative approach to educating children. Our faculty members enjoy the freedom of creating challenging lesson plans that are specifically designed to successfully meet all learning abilities in the classroom. Students benefit from the multiple approaches and variety of teaching techniques as teachers supplement and enrich the curriculum with the learning opportunities their students need most.

Please see our website (www.palmettoprep.com) for all of the specific test results. We are most proud of the fact that Palmetto Prep scored higher than 99% of all other schools nationwide in the category of "Language" which encompasses word analysis, listening, spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Special thanks to our faculty members for preparing our students to achieve these remarkable results!

Our Mission: To provide excellent learning programs that nurture the development of the whole child in a safe and secure environment.

Classroom Highlights

Infants

Our babies in Infant 1 have been going on lots of buggy rides, relaxing in the shade outside, and swinging in the infant swings. We also had "Donuts with Dad" and made homemade photo frames featuring a picture of each dad's sweet child as their Father's Day gift.

Infant 2 babies enjoyed many "splash in the sun" water fun days. Our class went to the water park once a week and played in our island baby pool twice a week. We also made tropical flavored paint (out of jello and corn syrup) for our babies to taste. After tasting our yummy paint, we painted tropical fish to put in our "fish tank."

Sun, rain, sleet and snow! Infant 3 has had a blast discovering different types of weather this month. Our friends finger painted rain drops, made their own rainbows out of tissue paper, and "made" thunder with a big drum.



We also spent time talking about the beach and vacation. We were able to explore different types of sand, shells, and animals that live in the ocean. Our class also made red crabs using paper plates and red paint.

Our friends in Pre-Prepper 2 have been focusing on the letters R, S, T, and U. We had several fine motor skill activities to help enhance our learning. For the letter R, we made a ribbon collage, rainbow paintings and worked with dough. To learn the letter S we made big blue sharks, stained glass suns out of tissue paper (which you can see on the back windows of our room) and paper plate snakes. We loved the letter T! The children made turtles out of bowls using tissue paper and glue. Then we talked about teams and how a team is a group of friends that help each other like we do at school. For the letter U, we looked at pictures of words that start with that letter....umbrellas, unicorns, uncles, and under. We made up a game where the children had to show us what under meant. We went under a table, placed blocks under chairs, and taught the



Toddlers

The water park has been a big highlight for the children in Toddler 1. We have also been learning about shapes and colors. The children enjoyed catching minnows in our sensory table, making s'mores, painting camping binoculars, sponge painting ocean animals, and playing musical instruments (tambourines, bells, drums and a shaker) while on our buggy ride.

Last month the children in Toddler 2 put their cooking skills to the test as they created dishes such as pigs in the blanket, s'mores, pies, and much much more. After cooking we decided to explore "under the sea" with art activities that allowed the children to be creative with animals

pertaining to the ocean. We also had a fabulous camping adventure. The children enjoyed activities such as fishing, painting with worms and enjoying story time in a tent. The children also enjoyed putting on camping gear and singing camping songs in theatre.



Pre-Preppers

Pre-Prepper 1 has been studying the numbers 1 - 5. We practiced number recognition and counting. Reinforcing the lesson on numbers, we participated in a special "2 Foot Dance," used paint and sponges for "Number Printing," read "Goldilocks & the Three Bears", made number collages, counted backward from 5, painted with our hands and fingers, and used our number cards.

children how to go under a limbo pole! The Pre-Preppers in the back have been studying the differences in dinosaurs' body shapes and colors. The children had a great time helping hatch a dinosaur from the ice age. We continued the month moving from land to sea. We discussed what animals live in the ocean, how they move, and how they feel. To wrap up the study of the ocean, we made our very own ocean scene

including fish, dolphins and starfish. Showing our appreciation for what fathers do for us was our next topic. The children worked very hard making special gifts for their fathers. The t-shirt titled "I can't keep my hands off Dad!" was a big hit at "Donuts for Dads." We are currently studying colors and are picking one color to study each week. Our students are enjoying identifying everyday objects that represent the color of the week.

Preppers

The Preppers in the front spent the month of June studying the solar system. We discovered that we have nine planets in our solar system and even learned a really cool song called "There Are Nine Planets" to help us remember them. We know that Pluto is the coldest planet and the farthest from the sun. Mars is red and Saturn has rings. We loved building a rocket ship to fly into outer space and we each picked our favorite planet to land on!



Another favorite activity was making ocean snacks with bagels, blue cream cheese and fish -- yum, yum!

Pre-K

The students in the Pre-K class in the front have been studying water and its different forms. We did an experiment with ice, graphed different materials that can absorb water and then measured the amount of water that was absorbed by each material, and did a taste test with water. We also discussed what temperature makes water freeze and become ice. We talked about what evaporation meant and compared the difference of water evaporating inside versus outside. We discovered that water evaporates faster outside. The children also had fun



making "Water Word" books that told some of their favorite stories about playing in water.

We had field day with the other Pre-K class and the children had such a great time participating in all of the games. We bobbed for apples, had a water balloon toss, a relay race, a sack race, balanced an egg on a spoon and ended the day with an outside picnic. Each child made their own field day shirt to represent what team they were on and each child was granted an award for their participation. Father's Day was also an important part of last month's activities. We drew pictures of our dads and made magnetic ties.

The students in the Pre-K class in the back have been focusing on two themes -- sports and water. Our students had a lot of fun comparing and contrasting different sports, measuring how far they could kick and throw a ball, and graphing our favorite sports. At the end of the unit



we had Field Day. The students had loads of fun having a basketball contest, water balloon toss as well as bobbing for apples.

Since the water park has opened, we thought we would do a unit on water. We discussed the uses of water, had a melting ice experiment, discussed the water cycle and performed a sink or float experiment. We have also been having a blast at the water park! The students' favorite thing to do in the water park is to stand under the buckets of water and wait for them to pour over their heads.

Primary School

Palmetto Prep's Primary Program has several new and exciting things happening. We will be teaming up with Performance QSA (<http://www.performanceqsa.com/>), a unique sports performance institute focused on speed and movement training enhancing all areas of athletic performance. This organization will be designing and implementing our physical education program for our kindergartners, first and second graders. Performance QSA will focus on both physical fitness and nutrition during this time.

Our teachers will begin implementing the Project-Approach thanks to the help of Furman University. Project-Approach provides activities that engage and challenge students to use and apply the skills they have learned in meaningful, real life contexts. They are encouraged to research questions, investigate and solve problems inside and outside the classroom. We will use this approach to actively involve the children with their lessons in science and social studies. To learn more about Project-Approach, please visit <http://www.project-approach.com/>.

We are also excited to announce our dress code and character education program which will help us grow into an elite education program. Educational Outfitters is in the process of setting up an on-line store for our families to purchase uniforms for their kindergarten, first, and second graders. We will also be focusing on character education and becoming more active in our community through a variety of volunteer projects.



Music

The Pre-Preppers and Preppers have been reviewing many of the music concepts that we learned this year. We had fun practicing our steady beat both with body percussion and with instruments. We also enjoyed "feeling" the beat with our marching feet. The students did a fantastic job of remembering

how to find the melody in a song! Our favorite part of June was discussing the coming of summer and learning some songs that go along with summer time activities. "Ways to travel" and "taking vacations" were two of our summer topics. We even got to pretend that we were airplanes, flying to different destinations during the "Airplane" song.

The Pre-K classes had fun tapping out the steady beat and different rhythmic patterns on a variety of instruments and using body percussion. The students are doing a wonderful job remembering all of the note values that we have learned; ta, ti and ta-a. The Pre-K students also enjoyed discussing summer activities. We played a musical picnic game where we had to pretend that we were going on a picnic. Everyone had to think of something to eat on the picnic that started each letter of the alphabet. We had a great time singing the song and taking turns on the letters. The game made everyone hungry for lunch!

Art

Our students have once again filled our hallways with wonderful artwork! We just completed monarch butterflies. These were made by simply placing white, yellow, orange and black paint on black paper, folding it in half and then rubbing. The children were so excited to open their paper and see the butterfly they had created. We also made 3D fish. We took two pieces of fish-shaped paper, stuffed them with newsprint, stapled them up, painted them, of course, and viola! Cute artwork that the students could actually hold and play with. The younger students also painted their own

flowers this month. It is amazing what even the youngest artist can create!

In Pre-K, we made our own self-hardening clay and built tiny flower sculptures. After they dried, we painted them. We also made origami butterflies. Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding, and the Pre-K students caught on right away. I was very proud of all of my art students this month!

Summer Adventures

Summer Adventures is in full swing and our campers are having a blast!

During our first week of summer camp, we especially enjoyed our tour of Publix and our trip to play at Pump It Up. Additionally, we traveled to Upstate Karate daily for our adventure in karate.

The theme of our second week was cooking, and Chef Wardlaw helped us prepare a tasty dinner for our parents at the end of the week! We learned kitchen safety and food preparation skills and enjoyed dining at Kanpai Japanese Steakhouse and Stevi B's.



Another special trip was our visit to the Greer Children's Theatre to see one of our own summer campers, Josiah Tennant, perform in the play "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!"

Our third week brought exciting adventures such as our trips to Roller Sports, Discovery Island Water Park, a Greenville Drive game and Greenville Gymnastics. To celebrate International Week, Courtney Weber and her mother taught us about Guatemala, and we learned interesting facts about other countries such as Egypt.