



Palmetto Press

June 2006

June Events

Monday, June 5

Primary School 1/2 Day and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Primary students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. Students enrolled in Palmetto Prep's After School program may stay at Palmetto Prep from 1:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 6

Primary School 1/2 Day and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Primary students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. Students enrolled in Palmetto Prep's After School program may stay at Palmetto Prep from 1:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7

Last 1/2 Day of Primary School and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Primary students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. Students enrolled in Palmetto Prep's After School program may stay at Palmetto Prep from 1:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, June 6 & 7

Holiday Camp available

Students in kindergarten through 5th grade who plan to attend Holiday Camp on these days must sign up in advance at the front desk.

Monday, June 12

Palmetto Prep Summer Adventures begins!

Limited space is still available in our summer camp program for students who have completed kindergarten through the 5th grade. Call 675-1002 for info.

Tuesday, June 20

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, June 24

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.

Special Memorial Day presentation at Palmetto Prep

Commandant Bob Briggs, a retired Marine and member of the Marine Corp. Legion, visited the Kindergarten and First Grade classes on Tuesday, May 30 and spoke to the students about the importance of Memorial Day and the American Flag.

He gave a very inspirational message about what Memorial Day means to him. Members of the Marine Corps also came and presented Palmetto Prep with a new American Flag. Our students really enjoyed this special presentation!



Sunscreen Policy

During the spring and summer months, Palmetto Prep teachers will put sunscreen on all children before their afternoon outdoor time. We strongly encourage parents to apply sunscreen at home prior to bringing your child to school in the morning. Please be sure to sign a sunscreen permission form to allow us to apply Coppertone Water Babies Sunscreen SPF 45 to your child. If your child needs to wear a different brand of sunscreen, please provide a labeled bottle of the appropriate sunscreen for your child. Thank you!

Raising Bilingual Children

The following information was reported in the Center for Applied Linguistics Digest in an article called "Raising Bilingual Children: Common Parental Concerns and Current Research."

In responding to parents' questions and concerns about raising bilingual children, current research shows that:

- ◆ Monolingual and bilingual children meet major language developmental milestones at similar times; bilingualism does not result in language delay.
- ◆ The use of two languages in the same conversation does not represent language confusion, but rather mastery of both languages.
- ◆ Human interaction (reading and talking to a child) is the best method for fostering language learning; television and other recorded sounds simply serve as a positive and entertaining source of support for language learning.
- ◆ Bilingualism may contribute to the strengthening of some specific cognitive skills for some children, but it should not be viewed as an overall indicator of greater intelligence or as a predictor of high academic performance.

Additional sources of information on this topic include *The Bilingual Family Newsletter* (www.bilingualfamilynewsletter.com) and the "Why, How and When Should My Child Learn a Second Language?" brochure (www.cal.org/resources/bropchures/whyhowwhen_brochure.pdf).

Classroom

Infants

The babies in Infant 1 have been working on developing their fine motor skills with ball play in their new ball pool. In May they made Mother's Day cards that included a poem, the children's footprints and a rose. They have also been exploring different textures and shapes.



The gym is always fun for our Infant 2 friends, but this month was even more special because most of our friends have learned how to walk! They now enjoy running after the balls in the gym. They have also learned how to throw a ball and now get very excited about playing ball with their friends! As a special craft for Mother's Day, our class enjoyed making special "I love you, Mommy!" onesies for our moms.

The children in Infant 3 had the best time learning about Spring! We painted pretty purple flowers and cute yellow ducks. We went on numerous outside explorations looking at the various signs of spring. Many of us enjoyed seeing the bunnies and birds that call our playground home. We even enjoyed "early waterplay" on one of the many hot days.

Toddlers

Toddler 1 has been exploring the theme of transportation! We spent time making traffic lights, painting boats, flying paper airplanes and having a car wash in our sensory pool! We even colored a box and took turns riding in our "car!" Our Toddlers have really been "on the go" exploring and discovering vehicles by land, by sea, and by air!



The month of May was adventurous for Toddler 2. The children thoroughly enjoyed the transportation unit. We discussed and discovered air transportation. They completed a variety of sensory arts projects, however, their favorite was the group effort of decorating a large airplane! Next, we traveled by water using our sailboats, barges and ships in the sensory table. We also explored land transportation. The children

had a terrific time rolling their vehicles through paint and discovering they had made tire tracks. To help them further relate to this way of traveling, they brought in riding toys from home. The children had so much fun riding them through the hallways of the school. Our last mode of transportation was by rail. They listened to books and flannel board stories about trains, then had a blast pretending to be little engines. Choo-choo!

Pre-Preppers

The Pre-Prepper children in the front have been talking about numbers, transportation, and the letters N, O and P. Some of their favorite activities included making newspaper hats, cooking an ocean with pudding and gummie fish, having a pajama-pizza party, counting cookies, playing a game of row your boat, cutting and pasting airplanes, having finger plays, pretending, and playing in the bean table. The children also enjoyed ending each week with show and tell!



Highlights

The children in the Pre-Prepper class in the back enjoyed a week long celebration of our mothers. The children loved painting flower pots for their moms and planting sunflowers in them. We talked about why our moms are special and why we love them. The responses the children gave were funny, but honest.

We ended the week with Muffins for Mom. We also studied farm animals.

We painted muddy pigs, played in the sensory table with different types of corn, and even made our own butter. The last week we studied gardening. We made vegetable leaf prints, painted flowers with our feet, and played in the sensory table with soil, pots, and artificial flowers.



Preppers

The Prepper class in the front has been flying with the birds! We studied pelicans, robins, blue jays, ducks, penguins, and many others. The children's



favorite was definitely the pink flamingo! We compared birds that fly and birds that do not. Our friend Paris brought a real bird's nest complete with two eggs for us to study. We know that birds will use any soft material found on the ground to build a nest and we were able to see many soft items in our nest. We built bird feeders and hung them in the tree outside our classroom window. It is a very exciting event when a bird comes by for a meal! We painted with real bird feathers and even designed our own bird during art class. During group time we learned lots of new bird songs and even

how to spell bird. To complete our units on insects, bugs, and birds, the Prepper class took a trip to the Roper Mountain Science Center. We walked the nature trail and heard many baby birds calling for their mother to bring food. We saw several birds flying by and found a bird house hanging in a tree.

The Preppers in the back have been very busy learning about dinosaurs. We painted dinosaur bones, made dinosaur eggs, used noodles to make a dinosaur skeleton and dug up dinosaurs in ice. One of our favorite activities was using a piece of string to measure a T-rex. We found out that a T-rex would be as tall as the Prepper classroom is long! The children pretended to be paleontologists as they dug the chocolate chips out of cookies as if they were digging up dinosaur bones from the dirt. We read many books on dinosaurs and the Preppers brought dinosaurs in from home to share with the class.



Pre-K

The Pre-K students in the front recently completed a farm theme. We explored farm animals, learned about baby animals, and sorted farm animals and zoo animals! In math we made geometric barns and barn animals. We wrote our own farm story, and our favorite farm activity was eating pigs in a blanket and drinking purple cows! Mother's Day was also an important part of this month. We drew pictures of our

mothers, made placemats, and discussed why our mothers were special! The children really enjoyed our "Muffins with Moms," as well! Mother Goose was another topic we covered last month. We enjoyed reading rhymes, illustrating our own endings, and even made Humpty Dumpty! Lastly, we explored the zoo and zoo animals and even took a trip to the Greenville Zoo! PreK 3 and 4 are doing very well at writing our own sentences. Please stop by to see our work in the hallway!

Pre-K in the back loved going on a bug safari! Throughout our insect and bug study, we participated in many engaging activities such as going on a bug hunt, graphing insect body parts, studying the life cycles of various insects, learning insect vocabulary, and creating our own insects with different art supplies. The children especially enjoyed learning about butterflies and ladybugs. They focused on rhyming by studying the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss. Some activities included making "Cat in the Hat" hats, speaking in rhymes, and listening to several Dr. Seuss stories both during story time and in the theater. The students are very excited about getting to see different animals and their habitats while on a field trip to the zoo. Our literacy focus has been on rhyming words, sight words, and the new SRA listening activities. The math focus has been on number recognition review, addition, and sequencing.



Kindergarten

The kindergarteners have been studying weather. They focused on the four major elements of weather -- wind, temperature, precipitation, and clouds. They created booklets that illustrated activities appropriate for different temperatures as well as diagrams that described the three types of clouds.

Recently, the students began a unit on "Pebbles, Sand, and Silt." Hands-on activities from a Foss Science Kit were used to supplement this unit. Some activities included sorting and separating rock mixtures using filter screens and observing the properties of clay.

In kindergarten, field trips are an important extension of the curriculum. At the end of May, the students had the opportunity to pick strawberries at Hunter Farms in Pickens, S.C. They quickly learned how to search for the ripe strawberries, and many children enjoyed eating them, too!

First Grade

The first graders had a great time learning about frogs and pond life. We created a fabulous pond outside our classroom that includes animals and plants. We also completed a listening activity that helped us to understand the life cycle of a pond.

This year marks the inaugural year for standardized testing at Palmetto Prep. Our first graders took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). This test assesses the skills learned by first and second graders all over the country. We are anxiously awaiting the results and will be sure to share them with you!

We had fun preparing gifts for our moms for Mother's Day. Our moms helped us complete an interview about what their childhood was like with their mom, and the students shared their mom's answers with the class. What fun to learn about family traditions!

Our field trip to Hunter Farms to pick strawberries was so much fun! We enjoyed seeing how the strawberries grow on the plants and tasting freshly picked berries!

A big congratulations to Kaelyn Williams for completing all of the SRAs! Kaelyn finished over 70 SRA's since she started at Palmetto Prep in January and achieved

perfect scores on more than 50 of the tests! This is an excellent achievement that should make Kaelyn and her family very proud!

Kaelyn got to go to lunch at McDonald's with Mr. Peterman and Mrs. Watkins to celebrate this special achievement!



Music

The Pre-Preppers and Preppers have been having a great time learning about musical form. We really enjoyed listening to "Ev'rybody Wants to be a Cat," from the Disney movie, *The Aristocats*. We used a listening map to help us follow the parts of the song. There were pictures of cats on the map and they were doing different activities that went along with the music. We also learned how to find the verse in a song or piece of music. We now know that the verse always happens more than one time!

The Pre-K students have also been learning about musical form. We listened to the song, "Splish, Splash," which was a big hit. We found all sorts of different parts in this song. The parts included: A, B, verse, and the coda. Our favorite parts were the verse, because "it got two turns" in the song, and the coda because it told us to get ready for the big ending! We had a wonderful time adding different instruments to the song, and each section had its own instrument.

The Primary students had a great month. Everyone did a fantastic job on our big production of "The Tortoise and the Hare!" The show was a huge success and was given rave reviews by everyone. I want to again thank everyone that was involved in making it wonderful. I especially send my thanks to all of the parents. Without you, the students would not have been ready for the big day. We all look forward to the next special performance!



Art

This past month in art we made birds and flamingos! The Pre-Preppers and Prepper classes used paper plates and feathers to make birds. We then used shredded brown paper to make nests for the birds to perch in. The children loved using lots of pink to make their flamingos. We painted, cut and glued them and they turned out great! Both of these projects are on display in the hallways.

The Pre-K students enjoyed making stained glass with tissue paper. They also loved our project on abstract art. We made abstract name paintings by painting our names in black and then filling the spaces between the letters with different colors of paint. The result was very nice.

The Kindergarten and First Grade classes spent the month getting ready for their production of "The Tortoise and the Hare." We made T-shirts for the costumes, and spent lots of time practicing our parts.

Foreign Language

"Our Neighbor to the North" was the hit song with the children this month. They loved learning even more about Canada and the Beaver. The Pre-Preppers did wonderful farm animal imitations as we galloped and rolled all over the floor. They also had the most creative animal sounds! The Preppers enjoyed adding zoo animal words to the farm animals that they learned about last year. They also began working on Color by Numbers. Each child loved that they were able to choose their own colors and place them by whatever number they wanted. The students followed all the directions in French...it was amazing! The Pre-K friends have finally finished their farm animal books. They worked on them for about two weeks and were very

excited when they finally were able to take them home to mom and dad!

Since the primary schoolers are almost finished with school for the year, we are wrapping things up in Spanish, too. We have been reviewing all the vocabulary and phrases that we've learned this year, from basic greetings and conversations to family, descriptions, animals, and clothes. The students love playing "Memoria," "Pictionary," and other fun games. All groups have been working diligently on their books, "Todo Sobre Yo" (All About Me), and will be finishing them up in the next few weeks to take home and share with their families. We had a "Cinco de Mayo" celebration, and learned the history of the holiday while we made Mexican Flags and ate Sombrero cookies! The students are also reviewing Spain and the Latin American countries and cultures we've studied thus far.

After School a la carte

In addition to listening to Ms. Wingard and Ms. Norris read aloud, the students in After School 1 & 2 have enjoyed listening to their peers, as well. Each day a new friend has read at least one book aloud to their classmates. We also read *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown, and wrote and drew a picture to show what we would look like and what we would do if we were flat. The students have had a blast playing with our new toys! We will be getting even more new playground toys soon!

In After School 3 & 4 we have been reading the book *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. When you come upstairs to visit our room, be sure to check out the butterflies we made around the room.

Summer Adventures

There are just a few spaces still available in Palmetto Prep's Summer Adventures day camp program for children who have completed kindergarten through the 5th grade. Call 675-1002 to register!