



Palmetto Press

September 2006

September Events

Monday, September 4

Palmetto Prep Closed for Labor Day
All programs (Infants through After School) are closed.

Saturday, September 16

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. Please note that if you sign up but don't show up, you will be billed for 1/2 of the amount due.

Tuesday, September 19

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.

Tuition Credit Available!

Because your word-of-mouth testimonials are so valuable to us, we offer Tuition Referral Credit to families who recruit new students to our school. Your account will be credited with the following amounts after a student you refer to us has been enrolled for three months:

- \$750.00 for each 5-day student
- \$500.00 for each 3-day student
- \$300.00 for each 2-day student

In order for you to receive this credit, the newly enrolled family must complete a form (available in the directors' office) identifying you as the referring family.

If you'd like us to send a packet of information to any of your friends or neighbors, please just let us know.



Palmetto Prep is pleased to be partnering with Word Play to provide on-site speech and occupational therapy services. Word Play is a company of licensed and certified speech and language pathologists and occupational therapists. They provide services at Palmetto Prep during school hours or immediately after school.

Research indicates that speech and language development and occupational therapy-related skills strongly correlate with academic success. Therefore, the earlier deficits are identified and addressed, the more likely a child will reach their full academic potential. To identify these deficits as soon as possible, Word Play offers FREE on-site screenings at Palmetto Prep. Screenings can be beneficial to children as young as 16 months if there are concerns about the child's development. Screenings will be completed using a formal screening test as well as informal assessments. The purpose of a screening is to identify children who may need further evaluation. A screening does not diagnose a delay.

Screenings will be conducted at Palmetto Prep during school hours. Your child may receive a speech/language screening, occupational therapy screening, or both. All screenings are free of charge and are voluntary. To have your child screened, please request a consent form and screening questionnaire at Palmetto Prep and return it to the front desk at Palmetto Prep.

Word Play must have the consent form and questionnaire in order to screen your child. Following the screening, if further evaluation is recommended, you will be contacted via phone. If further assessment is not recommended, you will receive a written form stating your child's abilities are within normal limits. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Word Play at 313-1219.

Helping Children Read, Write and Make Connections

Parents can support their child's abilities to speak and eventually read by making sure they are hearing and seeing speech sounds, words and print every day. Here are some activities to help your child thrive:

- Talk and sing to your child from birth
- Point out things in the environment
- Use simple, short sentences with toddlers
- Use music to encourage singing
- Read to your child everyday
- Be expressive with your voice and face
- Use books with colorful pictures and rhyming
- Write your child's name and let him or her see it in several locations
- Talk about everyday activities as you are doing them (what you're doing, why)
- Go to new and different places and talk about what makes them different
- Read predictable books and ask your child what will happen next in a story
- Play rhyming games in the car

Classroom Highlights



Infants

The Infant 1 class recently moved into the former Infant 3 classroom and we have really decked it out with decorations! "Old MacDonald Had A Farm" and "Fall" are our current classroom themes. The children really love the visual stimulation provided by the decorations on the wall.

Infant 2 has been very busy with all of their art projects this month. We painted tropical birds to join our panda bear in

our little jungle theme. We also enjoyed using our sensory skills to explore and taste whipped cream.

Infant 3 has had lots of fun exploring new spaces since moving into our new room. We have enjoyed wrapping up the unit on the beach. We loved dancing to beach music, creating jiggy jellyfish, and playing in the water table.

Toddlers

The Toddlers in Group 1 have been learning about "Me". We painted self portraits and used our hands, feet and sponge wands to paint. By the end of August we all were used to the waterpark and the children enjoyed running through the fountains. We will really miss our days at the waterpark! It was fun to watch our toddlers create some of their snacks this month. They made pizza, gingerbread men, and colorful bread people. They took a lot of pride in their work and had a great time eating it.

The Toddlers in Group 2 have also completed a unit called "All About Me." We started off painting self portraits, tracing our bodies and making family puppets. Next the children enjoyed activities such as wand painting to soft classical music and foot painting. We even painted a picture of our very own Palmetto Prep school. What a blast! Last but not least we introduced cooking to our new toddler chefs. They prepared their very own personal pizzas!



Pre-Preppers

The Pre-Preppers in the front have been learning about the beach, farm animals, dinosaurs, colors, apples, and creative art. Some of their favorite activities included playing with sand and animals in the sensory table, making a farm house, making sand castles, hand printing fish, making a huge classroom dinosaur, painting with salt, making pictures with puff paint, having an apple taste test, and making a giant Elmo. The



Pre-Preppers also enjoyed having a huge pizza/beach party at the end of beach week with pizza and ice-cream!

The Pre-Preppers in the back have been enjoying listening to stories of classic nursery rhymes such as "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Jack Be Nimble." They also illustrated these rhymes with beautiful artwork. We focused on watermelons, as well! During Watermelon Week, we used our sensory skills to feel, taste, touch and smell our watermelon slices. The best part was tasting them! We also



painted with watermelon rinds and painted plates to look like watermelons. Throughout the month we have been focusing on colors. We made an arch using each color and eventually we had a whole rainbow.

Preppers

The Preppers in the front have been learning all about our new friends. We've discussed our favorite foods, colors, animals and things to do at school. We even made a book titled All About Me!

We were also introduced to new friends called "The Letter People." This month "Miss A" came to visit our classroom. She makes the same sound as "Achoo!" We were very happy to have her and are excited to meet "Mr. Beautiful Buttons" soon.

The Preppers in the back spent lots of time studying their families. We learned how each person in our family is related to us by making family trees.



The children really enjoyed talking about grandparents. One highlight was having Peyton's grandmother come to read to us! The children also liked learning about themselves. We discussed all of our favorite things, made molds of ourselves with clay, and drew self-portraits while looking in mirrors.

Pre-K

The children in Pre-K front have been focusing on what makes us special and different from our classmates. We made "Me Books" and graphed how many boys and girls we have in our classroom this year. We even measured our height by using blocks from our block corner. The children are currently working on reading their first book titled Sit Lil. We can't wait for them to be able to read them to their classmates. Stop by and see our "friend creation" art work in the hallway. They are beautiful!

The Pre-K students in the back have had a lot of fun learning about their new classroom. We came up with classroom rules, counted how many boys and girls are in the class, and how to properly play in the centers. The children have been working on an "All About Me" unit where they have drawn pictures of themselves, their family, and their houses. The children are also becoming familiar with our behavior chart. We reward good behavior with positive reinforcement. If we see a child doing something good, we let that child add an arch to their rainbow. The students are very excited about their rainbows and they work really hard to get to purple every day. We also introduced our math and phonics programs which we will begin working with on a regular basis.



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The Pre-K students were very excited to start our new music curriculum! The new curriculum is called "Making Music" and it is published by Silver Burdett.



Music

The Pre-Preppers and Preppers have been having a lot of fun doing our "self" unit. We discussed our different body parts, such as our nose, toes, cheeks, and elbows! We had a great time pointing these parts out during the "Touch Your Toes to Your Nose" song. We also discussed our physical appearance. We talked about our hair color, eye color, and we looked at pictures of families to see their similarities or differences.

We used the information that we learned to sing the silly song, "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" Finally, we discussed moods or feelings, such as happy, sad, or surprised. Everyone did a great job using facial expressions to convey these moods or feelings. Our favorite mood was definitely "happy," and we loved to show that through the song, "If Your Happy and You Know It."

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During the first unit we studied the difference between our speaking voice and our singing voice. Everyone did a great job recognizing the differences. We had a great time experimenting with the high, low, and soft sounds of our voices. Of course, the students' favorite thing to do with their voices was to make them LOUD!

The primary students have also been busy getting back into the "swing" of things. These students will also be using the new music curriculum. We have had fun exploring our new books. The first unit for all grade levels deals with dynamics, the louds and softs of music.

Art

This past month in art, the Prepreppers have made apple collages with red and green construction paper, and paper plate collages. The children also enjoyed tracing their hands on white paper and then painting over the design with watercolor paint.



The Preppers built houses this past month. They used squares, rectangles, and triangles to create house shapes and then used crayons to add details. The children also painted apples and watermelons and made ice cream cone and pineapple collages.

The Pre-K students made plaster hand-print plaques. After the plaster dried, the students painted them. These turned out really nice.

The Primary school children began the new school year by making self portraits. We used oil pastels, watercolor and tempera paint to do this.

Foreign Language

Our focus in Spanish class has been on classroom objects. We learned words like libro, silla, mesa, puerta, and ventana. We had a scavenger hunt for certain objects, and we played a game similar to Simon Says. We also worked on learning the calendar, the months, and the days of the week. As always, we are constantly reviewing our colors, numbers, shapes and weather. For our culture this month, we have been focusing on Mexico and the ancient Aztec civilization. We made awesome Aztec masks (check them out in the Spanish room!).

French is back in full swing for the Primary and After Schoolers! This fall the focus is on Canada. During the first few weeks of school, the students started working on the national anthem "O, Canada." Ms. Robinson even brought back some Canadian money for our friends to enjoy. We have been reviewing the alphabet, numbers, colors, calendar, and greetings. The children have had a great time practicing greetings with their friends. They are even beginning to greet with the traditional French "bise". We are also working on our ABC rap song and practicing spelling our names in French and sign.



Second Grade

The second grade students are beginning a year-long study of weather by exploring the three main elements of weather: temperature, wind and precipitation. Students are using thermometers, rain gauges, and wind vanes to observe weather in all four seasons throughout the school year. Students will record their observations in journals for comparison at the conclusion of their study in May.

Kindergarten



Our full class of Kindergartners were very excited to start the new school year in Primary School! To help them adjust we took a tour of the school and read books about the first day of school. We also talked about the different feelings one might have being somewhere new. We started with an "All About Me" theme to get to know each other. We brought in "All About Me" bags, shared pictures of our families, interviewed each other, and created "All About Me" books. We also incorporated our theme into our

academics by writing about ourselves in our journals and graphing how many boys and girls we have in the class.

First Grade

Mrs. Waters' class is off to a super start this school year! The First Graders had a great time sharing about themselves in our "All About Me" week. The students created All About Me Mystery webs on the computer so we could learn more about each other. Currently, First Grade is studying maps and globes so we can identify our city, state, and country. Come by and check out the Venn diagrams, mini map offices, map symbols, legends and edible maps we've created!



After School

Welcome back, After Schoolers! August marked the end of a very exciting summer! We really had a wonderful time together



in the hot sun, but now it's time for school again! All of our friends are arriving with new pencils and homework folders! We are currently working on "getting back in the groove" in our After School classrooms and have begun a new discipline system which focuses on teamwork. Parents, please make sure that you are coming to the classroom to pick up your child. We are unable to let them leave without a parent present. Also, snacks are provided daily...please remind your child to leave extra food in their bags, or at home. Thank you so much for your constant dedication to our school!