



# Palmetto Press

August 2005

## August Events

### Tuesday, August 2

**Potty Training Seminar** 5 - 6:15 pm  
Could you use some tips to help graduate your toddler out of diapers? Come learn how to hasten success and avoid failure! Dr. Lisa Castellani will present this seminar. Sign up at the front desk.

### Wednesday, August 3

**Arbonne Int'l Open House** 4 - 6 pm  
Join us in Palmetto Prep's gymnasium and check out the all natural baby products, skin care line, vitamins and much more.

### Tuesday, August 9

**Palmetto Prep Night at Pizza Inn**  
Palmetto Prep students receive a FREE buffet (drink not included). Be sure your child has a Palmetto Prep sticker.

### Saturday, August 20

**Parents' Night Out** 7 - 11 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.

### Thursday, August 18

**Bed Wetting Seminar** 5:00 - 6:15 pm  
Having a child who struggles with bed wetting can put a major strain on the whole family. Understanding the underlying causes, treatment and prognosis can bring peace of mind and change the life of the affected child. Dr. Lisa Castellani will present this info. Sign up at the front desk.

### Saturday, August 27 7:05 p.m.

**Palmetto Prep Night at the Greenville Bombers Game**  
Tickets are \$2.00 each; children 5 and under get in free. Pick up tickets at the front desk; we will bill your account. Parking is \$2.00 at the stadium. Seating is general admission; look for other Palmetto Prep families in Section P. "Fireworks Spectacular" will be held immediately following the game.

### Tuesday, August 30

**"Beyond Babbling: Language Development from 1 to 3"** 5:00 - 6:15 pm  
Presented by Dr. Mark Clayton. Sign up at the front desk.

## International Market to Reflect an Asian Theme

Our International Market will soon take on an Asian theme! The children will learn how to work with chopsticks, use sign language to count to 10 in Chinese, learn how to say colors in Chinese, be exposed to cultural information and more!

We plan to change the theme of the market every three to four months and are very excited about the possibilities that the market presents for our children. However, we need your help!

We would greatly appreciate any donations of cultural items (that you won't need back, since the items in the market get used a lot). Also, if you travel to foreign countries, we would love for you to bring some "native" items back to us.

Some examples of items that would be fun for the children to use in the market are:

- Money (bills and coins)
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Menus
- Travel Brochures
- Food containers (empty)
- Used envelopes (for the post office)
- Anything specific to the culture that children could play with (hats, chopsticks, fans)

Thank you for your help with our International Market. We plan to build on our themes each year and create a wonderful, multicultural learning environment for our children. If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way, please contact Kathy Jones at [kjones@palmettoprep.com](mailto:kjones@palmettoprep.com).

## Your Child's Progress at Palmetto Prep

In August, each Palmetto Prep parent will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to review their child's developmental progress and discuss the milestones and goals typically achieved by children in each age group.

After researching and reviewing the assessment tools used by other early childhood education professionals and consulting with a local pediatric behavioral specialist, we decided to design our own assessment tool specifically for Palmetto Prep students.

The format we designed allows you to see the milestones for each age group -- not just your child's class -- so you can see the "big picture" that outlines typical achievements for each age. Teachers will review your child's progress with you periodically, and you are more than welcome to make a copy of the assessment form, if you'd like. The original will be passed from teacher to teacher as your child moves up through our program, and will be given to you when your child "graduates" from Palmetto Prep.

Please understand that the developmental assessment is not a "test." It is simply an observational tool used by the teachers to show parents what skills their children demonstrate while at school. It also helps the teachers identify children's individual needs and interests so they can plan accordingly. The assessment covers all domains of learning -- social, emotional, physical and cognitive -- and focuses on strengths and capabilities.

Please talk with your child's teacher to schedule a time that's convenient for you to review your child's assessment.

# Classroom Highlights

## Infants



Our friends in Infant 1 are growing up so fast! Some are learning to crawl and hold their own bottles, while others have been strengthening their necks and pushing up on their arms during tummy time. Some of our younger friends have also been working on batting and grasping objects. The babies have enjoyed sensory development with bubbles and streamers this month, as well.

Infant 2 children have been visiting the theatre, gym and even the water park!

They rode the Bye-Bye-Buggy right onto the water park and clapped and laughed as the water sprayed around them.

The children in Infant 3 will be exploring the ocean in August. They will be learning about various fish and creatures that live in the ocean. Their fun activities will include making paper plate sting rays, coloring sharks with crayons, painting a huge red crab, and enjoying bubbles.



## Toddlers

Our "Creatures, Critters, and Pets" theme was a big success. The children loved learning about different animals. They especially enjoyed moving like animals and making their sounds! We would like to thank Maiale and her family for sharing their pet fish with us. "Ish" was a big splash with the children! In August, a baby bunny will join us as our class pet!

We will soon begin a unit on Families. We will ask parents to bring in current family pictures, and we will discuss the multicultural aspects of the different families in our classroom. We would love to have some parents come in and share their occupations with our children, or even come in and share a story with them. The Toddlers will also be compiling a set of family recipes during the month to share with our families.



In August we will focus on self help skills and will start a project called "I Can Do it Myself!" We will learn how to dress ourselves, put on our shoes, and even set the table! With our children wanting to become more independent, we thought that this would be really enjoyable for them! We will also study pets, days of the week and numbers 1-20.

The Pre-Preppers in the back completed a fun unit on ice cream. We talked about how ice cream feels in our mouth and the class watched as the ice cream melted quickly. The children loved tasting different flavors and graphing which flavor was their favorite. The children have also been learning

## Pre-Preppers

During July, the Pre-Preppers in the front discussed camping, cool summer treats, and the importance of safety signs. During camp week we talked about canoes, hiking and tents. Our favorite activity that week was using blankets, chairs, and tables to make our own tents in the classroom. During the cool treat week, we learned about watermelon, jello, lemonade, and popsicles. The children especially enjoyed tasting watermelon! One of the last topics of the month was safety signs. We learned what the colors of the traffic light mean and we even practiced them playing "Red Light, Green Light". We also reviewed our shapes and had a blast looking for different shapes hidden in some of our toys!



about the five senses. We painted with our noses, with pudding, and shaving cream in order to see how things feel. The kids also scratched sandpaper with cinnamon sticks to study their sense of smell. They thought the cinnamon smelled yummy! Over the next few weeks, we will continue to study the five senses and will start a unit on colors.

## Preppers

The month of July has been a time to review our children's strengths and weaknesses in preparation for our fall program. We have been going over colors, numbers, letters, and fine motor skills while enjoying the heat of summer! We had a car wash to help us keep cool on our water park days! All the Preppers enjoyed washing their cars and splashing their friends!



In July, we decorated our room to look like the ocean and "went to the beach" to learn what ocean water tastes like and about the animals that live at the beach! We also went on a camping trip. The kids loved setting up the tent complete with sleeping bags. We read stories and made s'mores!

The Preppers enjoy daily activities like puzzles, playdough, lacing, blocks, and coloring, to name a few. These activities promote physical growth, the increase of fine motor skills, and/or math and reading readiness! What an awesome day these Preppers enjoy!

## Pre-K



Pre-K 1 and 2 have been on fire for writing! We have been writing more and more in our summer journals. We have also been writing words that we see around the school in our new word book. So far, our favorite place to find words is the library. Our writing has come a long way and it is still one of our favorite activities. We spent a week in Hawaii learning Hawaiian words, how to hula dance, and even about volcanoes. We made hula skirts, lei paintings, and our own erupting volcano! We are now studying about water. We are making

boats, comparing ice and water, and even having a car wash on the playground. We especially love any activities that involve getting soaked or soaking the teacher! In math we're working on height and weight, addition and subtraction, and writing our numbers.

Pre-K 3 has been busy learning words that end in 'at'. We have also created words that begin with the letters "s", "m" and "f." The children are really excited when they can write these words on the dry-erase board. They also enjoy making word and letter collages.

In math we have learned to recognize concepts like big, bigger and biggest and small, smaller, and smallest. We cut out different sizes of shapes and labeled them. We are also sorting items like vegetables, for example, into different groups of sizes and colors.



During the past two weeks our theme has been "Gardening". We planted flowers, made our own garden -- which is displayed on the hallway windows -- and created our very own "Flower Shop". We also brought in vegetables and made vegetable soup. The children were really excited to make the soup and enjoyed participating the tasting process! It was a big success!

## Art

In Art class last month, the Pre-Preppers enjoyed making "Blotter Bugs" as they learned about color. Each child had three folded pieces of paper with different colors of paint on them. They closed the papers on the folded line and rubbed and rubbed. When they opened the papers, a bug-like shape had formed in a "new" color!

The Preppers and Pre-K's have been working on a color book. It includes pages using primary colors, secondary colors, neutral colors and imagination. The Pre-K's also made a pattern page and enjoyed coloring a cover page which shows them coming to school at Palmetto Prep.

In addition to their color books, the Preppers also worked together in small groups to paint large cats. These are hanging up in the hallway near their class. Be sure to see which cat your Prepper helped to paint!

## Music

Palmetto Prep students are extremely observant and seem to remember everything they see, hear, and visualize. When asked, "How do you play the flute?" students can tell me to move the air "across" the hole, and Pre-K students not only know their composers, but can also tell me which ones have names that start with the letter "H," or "C!"

In the past month we have studied the guitar and the piano. Students know that the guitar has six strings, and that you play it with a pick. There have been many opportunities to play instruments, especially the piano! The Preppers know where the high and low notes are on the piano, and our Pre-K students are using the piano to play solos, which are one measure rhythms with notes and rests.

At the end of July, Mrs. Mayo came to visit again, and she brought her flute, bass clarinet, and the French horn, just to review. The students were all very excited to hear the instruments they know so much about!

This month we will be concentrating on our concepts and learning new songs. The Pre-K students are ready to learn that "music happens in measures" and the Preppers will begin to learn that when you see a rest, you make a silence. We will listen and move to music by Mussorgsky and Berlioz and other children's classics.

Opportunities will exist to have your students experience an orchestra rehearsal, as the Palmetto Youth Symphony will be in season starting in September. Students can come in and look, hear and feel a live rehearsal of a youth orchestra, made up of high school students in the Spartanburg area. Please note that there is no affiliation between Palmetto Prep and the Palmetto Youth Orchestra, which operates out of Converse College and the Music Foundation of Spartanburg. If you are interested, speak directly with Mr. Mayo ([jmayo@palmettoprep.com](mailto:jmayo@palmettoprep.com)).

## Foreign Language Highlights

The Pre-Preppers, Preppers, and Pre-K students have made a smooth transition from French to Spanish class. Our Spanish class follows a similar style as the previous French classes, and students are distinguishing the differences between the two languages. These beginning weeks provided an opportunity to review basic concepts and informally assess the levels of the classes. While reviewing, they have enjoyed sock puppets, bingo, hopscotch, and creating Spanish flags. Students practice basic greetings, and each day we express our feelings. We practice numbers with the calendar, and reinforce vocabulary through songs and games. We have been working on the following vocabulary:

### Greetings:

Hola! (Hello)  
Buenos días! (Good day!)  
Adiós amigos! (Goodbye friends.)  
Cómo estás? (How are you?)  
Cómo te llamas?/Me llamo...(What is your name/My name is)  
Estoy bien/mal/triste/cansado/cansada (I am well, poor, sad, tired.)  
Hasta mañana! (See you later.)

### Colors:

Rojo (red), Anaranjado (orange), Amarillo (yellow), Verde (green), Azul (blue), Morado (purple), Negro (black), Blanco (white), Café (brown)

### Numbers:

(1-10) uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez

### Songs:

"Buenos Días"; "Adiós Amigos"; "Diez Amigos"; "Dónde Está??"

I look forward to working with your student as we continue our cultural unit on Spain. If you have questions, please contact me via e-mail ([mjohnson@palmettoprep.com](mailto:mjohnson@palmettoprep.com)) or stop by and see me in the classroom. Hasta pronto!

## Palmetto Prep Summer Adventures

August marks the end of Summer Camp and the beginning of a new school year!! We have had a great summer! We have learned many new and exciting things and made some new friends, too. If you want to see what your child has been doing all summer, look no further than across the hall from our classroom. We have made a big collection of pictures of all our summer activities. Our adventures for August are Safety, Karate and Animal week. Some of our field trips include swimming, movies, parks, and rock climbing! For your child's safety, all parents are asked to walk their child to the camp classroom everyday. Also do not forget to check the lost and found for missing items. As always if you have any questions our concerns please feel free to call or e-mail us at [jwingard@palmettoprep.com](mailto:jwingard@palmettoprep.com) or [hbelcher@palmettoprep.com](mailto:hbelcher@palmettoprep.com).

