



KID'S TRIBUNE

November 2013

**Bright Beginnings
Child Development
Center**

Notable Dates:

November 11

Teacher Workday
School Closed

November 22

International Friendship
Feast

November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holiday
School Closed

November 27-29

NC Pre-K Closed
Thanksgiving

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1

School Closed
Holiday Break

Dec. 23 - Jan. 1

NC Pre-K Closed
Holiday Break

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parents,

November is here, which means 2013 is coming to a close, believe it or not! This year has certainly flown by, but there is still much to be done before the New Year begins. As you will notice in our Classroom Updates section (pp. 2-3), all of our teachers have wonderful plans for their students throughout the month.

In addition, during November, all of our classrooms are participating in our annual Food Drive until November 18th. The non-perishables you give to our Food Drive are donated to the White Oak Foundation, a local nonprofit organization based in Cary which helps needy families in our community.

Also in November, we host what we consider to be the family event of the year! Our International Friendship Feast will be held this year on November 22nd at 6:30pm, the Friday before Thanksgiving. We invite all families to attend and to bring a dish from their respective home countries. We would also love for everyone to dress in their native, traditional clothing for the fashion show held during the event. Don't miss this fun and educational event!

Warm Clothing

So far this Fall, we haven't really experienced any truly cold weather . . . not that

we won't! As the temps drop, we simply ask that you remember to bundle up your little one. We also ask that you bring warm weather "backup" clothing for your child's cubbie, as well. Accidents happen on occasion . . . we just want to make sure your child is comfortable if he or she needs a change of clothing.

Like Us On Facebook

For those who do not know, Bright Beginnings is on Facebook! When you have the chance, please go on Facebook to Like Us. We ask you to do that for two reasons: First, we use our Facebook page to share announcements with you, especially Closings or Delays during inclement weather. Second, we use Facebook to inform people who do not have children here about our school. The more we can spread the word about Bright Beginnings the better!

Lobby Mural

Surely by now, you all have seen our new mural. The mural is the brainchild of Jennifer Wood, the same local artist who painted the butterflies and other insects you've seen throughout our school (if you haven't seen her work in the infant room, you're missing a treat!). If you ever need a mural or know someone who

is searching for an extremely creative and professional artist, we highly recommend Jennifer!

Discover Arts Academy

Most of you know that we also offer a trackout camp – Discover Arts Academy – for school-aged children (K-6). Our camp has been undergoing changes recently in an effort to improve the quality of the program. The camp's curriculum has changed to focus exclusively on Visual Arts and Dramatic Arts.

We also modified our website (www.discoverartsacademy.com) and our registration process. Feel free to check out the site anytime to learn about our new & improved program. Hopefully, our modifications will result in Discover Arts Academy being known as the premier children's Fine Arts camp in Wake County!

No Parking Lane

Please make note of where the "No Parking" lane is in front of our school (alongside the front island). The purpose for the lane is to alleviate traffic and to eliminate blind spots for oncoming cars. We would appreciate it if you do not park there.

Classroom: Infant/"Food", "Families"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Who's in the family?	Interacts with peers	Social-Emotional	None	None
What we eat	Talk about foods we eat	Language		
Classroom/Theme: Toddler/ "Family", "Be Thankful", "Homes"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Count family members	Uses numbers and concepts	Mathematics	None	Ava
Family collage	Fine motor strength and coordination	Physical		
Talk about the people we are thankful for	Uses appropriate conversations and other communication skills	Language		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 1 / "Family", "Food", "Turkey Time"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Learning to put on and off own jackets	Regulates own emotions and behaviors	Social-Emotional	Emerson Teague Aliya	Emerson
Pretend cooking with rice in sensory table	Compares and measures	Mathematics		
Sort toy people and animals into family groups	Uses classification skills	Cognitive		
Classroom/Themes: Preschool 2 / "Trees", "Study Investigations"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Books about Trees	To comprehend and respond to books	Language	None	None
Going on a tree hunt	Demonstrates traveling skills	Physical		
Exploring tree parts	To use scientific inquiry skills	Science		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 1/ "Buildings", "Thanksgiving", "Families"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Scat Singing	Exploring musical concepts and expression	The Arts	None	Cyann
Shape Hunt	Explores and describes spatial relationships	Mathematics		
Thankful Hands	Demonstrate knowledge about self	Social Studies		

Classrooms (cont'd)

Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 2 / "Buildings"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
"More or Fewer Towers"	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Lucy	None
"Buried Treasures"	Demonstrates knowledge of alphabet	Literacy		
Dramatic story re-telling ("3 Little Pigs")	Comprehends and responds to books and explores drama	Literacy & The Arts		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 3 / "Buildings", "Families"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Family Graph	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics	Ivan Daniel Ziad Diego	None
Family Flags	Shows basic understanding of people and how they live	Social Studies		
Name buildings we see in our community	Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills	Language		
Classroom/Themes: KinderPrep 4 / "Beginning of Year"				
Key Activities	Objectives	Area	Birthdays	New Students
Bookmaking	Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses	Literacy	Imoni	Timea Imoni
Nursery Rhyme Count	Uses number concepts and operations	Mathematics		
Sorting Syllables	Demonstrates phonological awareness	Literacy		

Feature Article

Children have been playing "Dress up" since the beginning of time. Little did we know when we were children just how beneficial and educational those little skits were. In this month's article, we will explore the Dramatic Play Area, a critical learning feature in all of our classrooms.

In the Dramatic Play area, children take on different roles and enact real-life experiences. They use props and make-believe to deepen their understandings about the world.

Pretending is very important to your child's development. Children who know how to make believe develop good vocabularies, which are important for reading. They learn to cooperate with others, to solve problems, and to think abstractly. All of those skills are important for success in school. When children pretend, they recall and re-create experiences. To do this, they need to form mental images. For example, to play the role of

a doctor, children have to remember what tools a doctor uses, how a doctor examines a patient, and what a doctor says. In playing a doctor or other roles, children learn to cooperate with others and to share ideas.

When children make believe, we talk with them and participate in their play to extend their thinking. We might ask,

“Is your baby sick? What are you going to do?”

“Are you the storekeeper here? I need to buy some food.”

“What are you cooking for dinner tonight? It smells very good!”

What You Can Do at Home

You can encourage the same kind of pretend play at home as we do at school simply by playing with your child and providing simple props. Draping a sheet over a table creates a house or a hideout. A large empty cardboard box can become almost anything: a pirate ship, a doghouse, a castle, or a train. The nice thing about dramatic play is that it requires only your imagination. Here are some simple ways to encourage your child’s learning through dramatic play:

- During baths, offer plastic boats, cups, and rubber dolls and pretend together.
- Save empty food cartons, make some play money, and play store with your child.
- Read stories together and involve your child in acting out different parts.
- Collect some old clothes for your child to use to dress up and make believe.
- Say to your child, “Let’s pretend we’re going on a train ride. What do we need? Tickets? Suitcases? Do you want to collect tickets?”

When you engage in pretend play with your child, you are teaching important skills and strengthening the relationships that are the foundation for all learning.



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