

ALL ABOUT US

Volume 53 Issue 5 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 January, 2018

Calendar Notes

January 2

Classes Resume

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
(No School– Student Holiday)

January 17

Staff Training Day

(***School Hours 9-12***)

(Student Dress Down Days-Jan.16&17)

January 18 & 19

Winnie The Pooh Celebration
All School Pajama Days

January 26 & 29

No School-Student Holiday

January 30 & 31

2017 In-house Registration

February 2

Alumni Registration

Units Of Study

Hibernation
Winter Weather
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Presidents



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Winter Break and enjoyed spending time with family and loved ones. As we begin a brand new year, it is important for us to take a look at some of the things which are essential to a child's development. One thing which all children need to learn is transitioning from one activity to another. Every day includes transitions.

Here at Accotink, we always give students advance notice about transitioning by saying, "we will be cleaning up the toys in 5 minutes, etc." and then following it up with another 2 minute reminder. Transitions can be difficult for lots of children. One reason is that children have not yet developed the capacity to think, "What's next?" A few suggestions which parents might find helpful when teaching children about transition time are listed below.

- **Prepare children for transitions by announcing what is coming next.** This warning gives them time to wrap it up and is an effective way to move children forward. The most effective way to give a verbal warning would be to say, "Start finishing your picture. In 5 minutes we will have to leave to go grocery shopping." Focus on key points—what is happening next, and what your child needs to do to get ready.
- **Limit the number of transitions as much as possible for your child.** By limiting transitions, you will definitely cut down on frustration—yours and theirs. Keep children occupied so things run smoothly from one activity to another.

Waiting is always difficult for all of us, but it is especially difficult for children. If there are not as many transitions, there will be bigger chunks of time in between. Research has shown that a large block of time for doing things is beneficial to children. If they are going outside to play, give them time to get into an activity before coming back inside. If they are starting a puzzle, try to give them time to complete it.

Continued on page 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration for 2018-2019 Classes

On Tuesday, January 30th, registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be held for families who currently have children enrolled at Accotink. On Friday, February 2nd, we will hold registration for Accotink alumni. Registration for the general public will be held on Wednesday, February 7th.

In order to attend our program, the age requirements are as follows:

2 Day program: The child must turn three by January 31, 2019 and be toilet trained

3 Day program: The child must turn three by December 31, 2018 and be toilet trained

5 Day program: The child must turn four by January 31, 2019

Children attending our **Junior Kindergarten** program must turn five by December 31, 2018. In order to be eligible for **Kindergarten** classes, children must turn five by September 30, 2018. **Students who are currently enrolled in Accotink Academy Preschool must be recommended for our kindergarten program by their current teacher.**

The schedule for registration is as follows:



Tuesday, January 30

Registration open to all current Accotink families.



Friday, February 2

“Alumni Day” Registration open to parents who previously had children attend Accotink.

Wednesday, February 7

Registration for the public

Parents may complete registration forms online and print them out or stop by our office to pick them up.

Staff Training Day Changes

Beginning **February 2018**, our Staff Training Days will change from Wednesday to Tuesday of every month. On these staff development days, our **school hours are 9:00 am to Noon**. Below you will find the dates for the Staff Meetings for the remainder of our school year.

Tuesday

February 13th

March 13th

April 10th

****Our next Staff Training day will be on Wednesday, January 17th!****



After School Care Program

If you are interested in looking to extend the day for your children, InCourage Martial Arts Program is partnered with Accotink to provide structured after care, martial arts and transportation for families who might be interested. This program is offered Monday-Friday from 2:00 pm till 6:15 pm and children will be picked up here at Accotink and transported to the studio in King's Park Shopping Center where the studio is located. Additional information regarding the costs, etc. for this program can be located on our website at www.accotinkacademy.com under the Parent Resources Tab section.

Director's Desk - continued from page 1

- ***Have a playful attitude and make transitions fun whenever you can.*** You can pretend to sprinkle kids with slumber dust at naptime or bedtime. Play the game of Simon Says on the way to the dentist office. When picking up toys from the floor, pretend to step over the dinosaur taking a nap in the middle of the room. Making a game out of transitioning from one activity to another peaks a child's interest and engages him/her to do whatever task is needed while making it fun.

We hope that these suggestions will help ease your children into transition time at home. We have found that these recommendations work very effectively here at school and hope they will do the same for you.

Wishing you a warm and wonderful New Year!

Lexie



Inclement Weather Policy

On days when inclement weather threatens, parents are sent emails and encouraged to listen to local radio and television stations for announcements concerning delayed openings and school closings. When Fairfax County close schools for the day, we also will be closed.

When Fairfax County schools open 2 hours late, our hours of operation will be from 11 AM to 1 PM. **Lunch Bunch and Enrichment classes will dismiss at 2:00 PM.**

When Fairfax county schools have early dismissal, our classes will dismiss at 12 PM and there will be no Lunch Bunch or Enrichment classes.

Toys For Tots Contributions



Our staff would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for your generosity and spirit of giving to the Toys for Tots Campaign this year. Our students learned how valuable it is to give back to the community for children less fortunate than our own. The collection of toys was simply amazing and we are so grateful to all who gave so generously to this worthy cause. As we have said many times on previous occasions, we feel very fortunate to have such wonderful and caring parents here at Accotink. Your contributions meant so much for those in need.



PAJAMA DAYS ARE COMING SOON!

On Thursday, January 18th and Friday, January 19th, we will celebrate Winnie the Pooh's birthday by having "*Pajama Party Days*" for all of the students. On these days, please be sure to have your children wear their pajamas to school. We will have lots of fun eating a special snack, reading Winnie the Pooh stories, and watching a movie. This is a wonderful and fun day for all of the children and our staff!



Many Thanks To Our Santa's!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mark Guido, (Tori's dad), and Mr. Andrew Harrison, (Ellis's dad) for being our "*Santa's*" this year. As Santa made his appearance in each classroom, he handed out candy canes and spread lots of holiday cheer to our students. The children enjoyed sharing their "wish lists" with Santa. A special thanks also goes out to all of the parents who volunteered their time in helping out with classroom parties during the holiday season. It really makes the celebrations so special for our students. Lastly, the Accotink staff would like to express our gratitude for all of the delicious treats and goodies many parents so generously provided during the holiday season!



Keep Saving Your Box Tops!

Please continue to save your General Mills "Box Tops for Education" logos. This is a great opportunity for our school to purchase additional equipment for our playground. Simply clip these box top logos from food labels and boxes and save them for us. Each month we have copies of a themed collection sheet on the cart adjacent to the Hall Monitor's desk. This is a fun way to involve your children in the collection process as they color and paste on the box top logos. We have a box on the cart where you can deposit these sheets and loose box tops. In the past, we have been able to furnish the playground with lots of fun equipment, etc. through the generosity of our parents and students. Keep clipping and saving these logos for us throughout the remainder of the school year!

Age Changes for 2018-19 Enrollment

For the 2018-2019 school year, the following age changes will apply for students attending a **2 Day**, **3 Day** or **5 Day** program:

- ♦ **2 Day Program:** The child must turn three (3) by January 31, 2019 and be toilet trained
- ♦ **3 Day Program:** The child must turn three (3) by December 31, 2018 and be toilet trained
- ♦ **5 Day Program:** The child must turn four (4) by January 31, 2019