

ALL ABOUT US

Volume 54 Issue 2 Accotink Academy Preschool 6215 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 451-5797 October, 2017
www.accotinkacademy.com

CALENDAR NOTES

October 9

Columbus Day Holiday

No School

October 10

Enrichment Classes Begin

October 18

Staff Training

School Hours: 9:00-12:00

(Dress Down Days -Oct. 17 & 18)

October 19 & 20

Fall Festival

(Dress Down Days -Oct. 19 & 20)

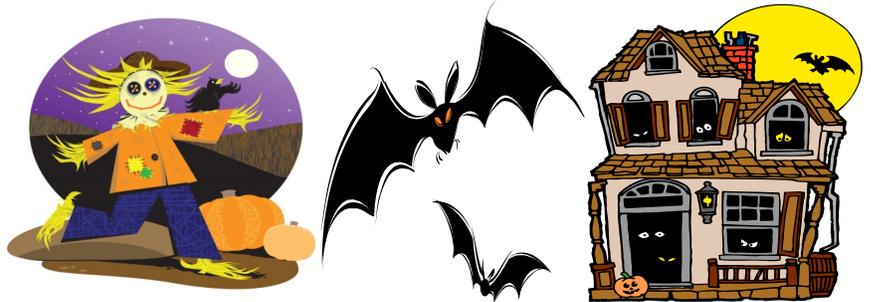
October 26 & 27

Halloween Parades and Parties

Parades Begin at 12:15

Units Of Study

Autumn Changes
Christopher Columbus
Halloween



FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

All of the children have settled nicely into the school routine and are enjoying learning and playing with their new friends. They are all having fun participating in their P.E., Music, Spanish and Drama classes which started last month.

At school we try to help the children learn how to acknowledge feelings and be empathetic when the situation calls for it. Teaching children kindness is a skill that can be practiced and mastered even with small children. Young children are still learning to navigate and control their own emotions. In addition, they are just starting to develop the capacity to understand that not everyone thinks and feel the same way they do. Here are some things that can help expand a “me-focused” world for children: which can help them learn empathy:

- **Validate Feelings**—demonstrate your own empathy toward your child by creating an environment in which he/she feels heard, even when frustrated. Children will soon realize that you have acknowledged, not ignored, the upset feelings they have when they can’t always get what they want.
- **Label the Emotion**—Research has shown that when parents ask their children to describe emotions in the books they read, it helps them share more readily and can develop vocabulary that promotes empathy. You can also do this when watching a movie together and discuss feelings and emotions that the characters may feel. Connecting cues (like tears) to a related feeling, such as sadness, also prepares children to interpret and respond to these behaviors when they see them in real life. Rather than simply stating whether a character is happy or sad, ask your child to describe what might be happening and why.

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Continued

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Festival is Coming!

The Accotink Staff is pleased to announce that we will be having our annual **Fall Festival on October 19th and 20th**. Activities will include tattoos, face painting, art, games, story time, and yummy snacks. Once again, we will have our Accotink pumpkin patch where each child can select a pumpkin to take home. The Fall Festival is a special event for our students. **Please be aware that supplies are ordered for enrolled children only and we kindly request that siblings not attend this festival.** We need many parent volunteers to help out with this event. Volunteer forms will be sent home this week. Make sure to check your child's backpack/book bag for this important information! We ask that volunteer forms be turned in no later than **Thursday, October 12th**. This event will be held rain or shine. We always love having parents help us out with these activities!



Halloween Parades

October would not be complete without the fun and excitement of our annual Halloween parades! Come watch as the children parade in costume and sing seasonal songs. Please have your family join us for this fun-filled and much anticipated celebration. The children love to see their parents and siblings watching them as they parade around the parking lot with their class. Don't forget to bring your cameras because you won't want to miss this special event! You will find the schedule listed below for the times and days for each parade:



Thursday, Oct. 26th at Noon

Magalong 2 Day Class
Jacewitz 2 Day Class
Winston 5 Day Class
McBride 5 Day Class
Altman JK Class

Friday, Oct. 27th at Noon

Buell 3 Day Class
O'Pray 3 Day Class
Yocom 3 Day Class
Scavongelli 3 Day Class
Druggan JK/Kindergarten Class

***Please bring your child's costume to school in a bag which is labelled with his or her name on parade day. We also ask that your child's face not be altered for our parades. We will have lots of fun and look forward to seeing everyone there!**

PraxiSchool Portal

We hope you are enjoying all of the benefits of our PraxiSchool system. Just log on at: app.praxischool.com to see what information is available. If you have any trouble logging on, or have any questions about this new system, please contact the office for assistance.





Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences and written evaluations are held twice during the school year; one is held in the Fall and the other in the Spring. Our kindergarten students are evaluated four times during the school year. Conferences with parents are an invaluable tool which provides them and the teacher with important information about their child. Our teachers are constantly observing and evaluating their children on a daily basis. They are watching how they play together, follow directions, listen, handle manipulative materials, participate in different activities and many other important things they do in the classroom.

These conferences are a wonderful vehicle for communication between parents and teachers so they can bridge the gap between home and school. Children benefit when experiences at school are supported and extended at home. Sharing information between teachers and parents strengthens the teamwork while helping children reach their greatest potential. More information about conferences will be in the November issue of the Allaboutus.



Visitors and Volunteer Sign-In Procedures

We are requesting that all visitors to the school, as well as parents who volunteer in their child's classroom, please ring the "NEW" door bell before entering the blue doors. Also, please sign in with one of the Hall Monitors before proceeding to the classroom. We have a sign-in log book which is used for this purpose and a Visitor or Volunteer badge will be issued to you. We will be doing this in an effort to continue to monitor the safety and well-being of the children when visitors and others are in the building.

Also, remember to call or check in with the office staff if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child. We need to make sure that this person is authorized on the enrollment form before we can release your child. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with these procedures as we consider your child's safety first.



Labelling Lunches and Snacks

This is a reminder to make sure that parents clearly label your child's lunch with the child's name and current date. This is required by our licensing agency and is very important, especially since many children will often have the same lunch box or bag as another student. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this effort.

Director's Desk continued

- **Practice What You Preach**—Young children can be very perceptive even at a young age and they quickly learn to imitate and observe. They will notice whether you are grateful and courteous to people, and they will also pay attention to the words you use with others. The more your child sees you being kind, the more likely they will follow suit, even if a little preaching is needed.
- **Talk About Sensations**—By teaching children to link their own physical sensations to specific experiences, they will develop a real sense of what other people might feel in a similar situation. For example, if your child sees someone who is scared, you might ask her, “Remember that time on Halloween, when you saw a big kid in a scary mask? How did that feel? By recalling the prickly goosebumps or pounding heart, your child will instantly know that sensation and what it feels like to be afraid.

Raising a caring child in today’s world parents can achieve this by, simply taking advantage of everyday opportunities, you can foster an awareness of others and a sense of kindness that your child will carry for life. Not only is empathy the foundation of relationships children will form, but it also can show improvements in attitudes, behavior and have an impact of success in school and beyond.



Lexie



Fall Enrichment Classes Begin This Month

On Wednesday, September 27th, we held registration for the Fall Enrichment classes. Fall Enrichment Classes will begin on Tuesday, October 10th and will run for 4 weeks. The cost for each class is \$48.00. The children will need to bring a hearty snack or a light lunch from home on the days they attend their enrichment class. These classes will begin at 1:00 pm and end at 2:00 pm. Fall Enrichment classes will include Wiggles and Jiggles, Science, Spanish, Mindfulness and Art.



Staff Training Days Begin

This month we will begin holding our staff training sessions for our teachers. These meetings provide our staff with ongoing educational opportunities and developments in the early childhood field. Staff training days will be held once a month beginning in October and continue through May. During the months of **October through January**, these meetings will be held on a **Wednesday**. On Staff Training days, school hours will be from **9:00 am—12:00 pm**. On these days, **Lunch Bunch will run from 12:00-1:00 pm. No Enrichment classes will be held on these days.** Staff Training sessions for October and November will be as follows:

Wednesday, October 18

Wednesday, November 15

*You will also find these dates listed on the bright yellow 2016-17 School Calendar which you received in the packet sent home during the summer. This information is also available on the Parent Portal which you can check online. Teachers will remind parents in their daily notes and monthly calendars of the days we hold staff training meetings. ***Also, children are not required to wear uniforms on the Tuesday and/or Wednesday when these meetings are held.***

All School Dress Down Days

To coincide with our staff training day each month, **students will be able to wear their regular clothing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays** of that week. Children will not need to wear uniforms on these days. For our Fall Festival celebration, **students will not need to wear their uniform on October 17-20th.** They should wear play clothes to school on these days and dress for the weather (sweaters and jackets) since many of the activities will take place outdoors, weather permitting. **For the Halloween parades, uniforms will not be necessary and play clothes may be worn on these occasions as well.**