

Due West UMC Preschool

NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2010 CALENDAR

- 1 Tuition & Lunch Bunch fees due
- 1 Preschool Board meeting
- 1& 2 Vision screening—4s & 5s
- 3&4 Story Time—2-5s
- 4 Field Trip to Mt. Paran for Annie, Jr.—
all 4 & 5s
- 8 & 9 Tumble Time—1s & 2s
- 9&12 Spanish classes—3-5s
- 10&11 Music classes—1s-5s
- 11-13 Due West Children's Consignment Sale
- 15&16 Class Pictures—all ages
- 18&19 "Spring Time" program—3s
- 18 Laminating day
- 22&23 Tumble Time—1s & 2s
- 22 Science Excitement program—4 & 5s
- 23&26 Spanish classes—3s-5s
- 23 Parent conferences—Mrs. Crane &
Mrs. Micale
- 24 Parent conferences Mrs. Moskal &
Mrs. Kelley
- 25 Parent conferences—Mrs. Morrison &
Mrs. Davalos
- 26 Parent conferences—Mrs. Dreyer &
Mrs. Armentrout
- 29&30 Chapel—2s-5s
- 31 Easter special snacks & egg hunts
- 31 Staff Meeting—Early release at 12:00
- 29-April 2 Toothbrush & toothpaste collection
for MUST

PICTURES

Paul Carson will be here March 15th & 16th to take class pictures. We will take them outside if the weather permits. This is the same company that did our fall pictures.



DUE WEST TREASURE CHEST

Mark your calendars now for the Due West Treasure Chest consignment sale. The Family Life Center will be filled with gently used children's and junior size clothes, toys, nursery items, and maternity clothes. It's a great place to outfit your children for the spring and summer at a fraction of the cost of buying things in a store. Plus 30% of the proceeds stay at the church and are used to purchase things to benefit all the children of the church (including the preschool). Money from past consignment sales paid for renovations to our playgrounds, a die cut machine and dies and other things that are not included in our budget. Please help us support this event.

Shopping hours are:

Thursday, March 11th 9:30 AM-7:00 PM

Friday, March 12th 9:30 AM-6:00 PM

Saturday, March 13th 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Opportunities to volunteer are still available.

Call 678-318-1908 or email

treasurechestvolunteer@yahoo.com if you are available to help. We need baked goods for the bake sale and people to work shifts during the sale.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIP

We'll have two special programs this month. Pat Leonard will be here to do a fun program about the springtime with the 3s. Joy Fuchs will bring her amazing mollusks for the 4 & 5s to learn about and explore.

The 4 & 5s will take a field trip to Mt. Paran's performing arts center to see their production of Annie, Jr. This production is made for preschool children and is a lot of fun. Best of all the tickets are free! It should be a great experience for our children.

VISION SCREENING

A representative from Prevent Blindness GA will be here March 1st & 2nd to screen our 4s and 5s. She will give you the results as well as the form that Cobb Co. requires for kindergarten registration.

PRESCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Due West Preschool is off and running on a recycling program. We have placed specially marked bins for you to place the items in on the preschool floor near Mrs. Coffeen's office, at Children's Check-In, and in the entrance area downstairs by the doors with the Cross on it. You do not have to do anything special to them. We only ask that you keep the juice boxes separated as they tend to be sticky. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Brown at ruick1@att.net or 678-662-9196 or Karen Coffeen at kcoffeen@duewest.org or 770-590-0982.

Recycling List: Plastic packaging from Huggies, Kleenex, Scott ; Capri Sun & Honest Kids Juice Pouches; Bear Naked Snack Wrappers; Clif Bar Wrappers; Nabisco Product Wrappers; Mars Products (Candy Wrappers All Sizes); Frito Lays Products (Chip Wrappers All Sizes), Elmer's Glue bottles or sticks, Lunchables Containers. We will continue to update this list as new items are accepted. Thank you for your help and support

COMMUNITY HELPERS



Thanks to our community helpers who came to talk to our children in February. A Cobb Co. fire fighter visited the school two days with a fire truck and all the gear that the fire fighters wear. He also showed us a fire safety video. The children in the 3s classes liked to see and touch the gear and fire truck. It helps to take the fear out of a possibly frightening situation.

A police officer came two days to talk to the 3s about safety and his job. The children enjoyed their time with him and seeing his car and special Segway.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

All parents of children in the 3, 4, and 5-year-old classes will be invited to come in for a conference with your child's teacher March 23rd – 26th. Each teacher has one school day to do her conferences, so she will send home information about your appointment time. Please be sure to respond quickly so we can plan a time for every family. The teachers will work with you as much as possible to find a time that works for both you and the teacher. The assistant will be teaching and there will be a substitute the day of conferences, so the **children will have a regular school day.**

The Spring Progress Report will be sent home before your conference and discussed with you at the conference as well as any other questions that you may have. We hope that this is a valuable experience for you.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Cobb County public schools will be holding their kindergarten registration on Wednesday, March 31st, 8:30-11:00. Call your child's school to check on their procedure. Check the Cobb Co. schools website for the forms you'll need to take with you:
http://www.cobbk12.org/RockyMount/Kind_First_Grade%20Flyer%20English-Spanish%202010-11.pdf

BLUE JEAN COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous donations to our blue jean collection this month. We collected **70** pairs of jeans! Our donation box was missed when they packed up the jeans for Haiti, so Mrs. Coffeen took them to MUST. They were thrilled to have so many pairs of jeans to hand out to the people who come to their clothes closet.

SILHOUETTES

Thanks for your support of the silhouette fund raiser. I hope that you were pleased with your child's silhouette. If not, please let Mrs. Coffeen know what was wrong.



SPRING FUNDRAISER

Information has been sent home for our final fundraiser for this year—Makit Plates. The children who have an order will make a picture on a

round piece of paper using either washable markers or stamp pads. We will then send the pictures to the Makit Company to be made into melamine plates. The plates are 10" in diameter and can be put in the dishwasher. Each plate costs \$12 and makes a great Mother's Day gift for Mom and Grandmas or a wonderful keepsake for your child. The company can make duplicates of the drawings we send in so you can order as many as you want. Thanks in advance for your support of this fundraiser. If you have any questions or need another order form, please contact Mrs. Coffeen 770-590-0982 or kcoffeen@duewest.org.



SPRING MISSION PROJECT

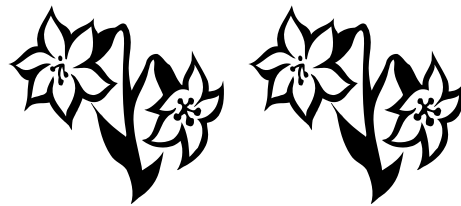
Our spring mission project will be held the week of March 29th-April 2nd. We will be collecting child-size toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste for the children at the MUST homeless shelter. A basket will be available each morning near the car line door for your donations or you can put them in your child's backpack. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

We currently have openings in the following classes: infants—Monday/Wednesday
young ones—Tuesday/Thursday
threes—Tuesday/Thursday
fours—Monday/Wednesday/Friday.
For next year we have openings in the infants, young twos, 2 day threes, and 3 day fours. If you know of anyone who might be interested in one of these spots, please have them contact Mrs. Coffeen 770-590-0982 or kcoffeen@duewest.org
We appreciate it when you tell your neighbors and friends about our great preschool!

REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

1. Please notify us if any of your emergency information changes (address, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, etc.)
2. Remember to turn your cell phones on when your children are at preschool.
3. When the weather gets warm, please remember to change your child's extra clothes at school.



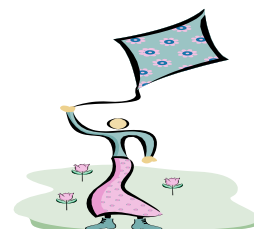
NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

Mrs. Harris' Baby Bees (Infants):

We were full of love, laughter and fun this month. We had a great time painting some trains and hearts. The police officers brought their cool car with flashing lights and even let us hear the siren. We want to thank them for taking the time to come and talk to our precious children.

Please make sure you are sending a jacket with your child. If the weather is warm enough we will do a short trip outside with our one year and young two friends. If you think your child has grown out of their extra outfit that we keep in the class room, please send in a replacement and we will send the other home.

We would like to welcome our new friend in the Tuesday/Thursday class Miss Mattie Swearingin. We are excited that you have joined us and can't wait to show you how much fun we have.



Mrs. Morrison's Ladybugs (Ones M/W):

This month was very exciting. We have been talking about loving one another and community helpers. Cobb County firemen brought a fire truck to the preschool for us to see. We had a wonderful Valentine's snack and we had a great time passing out our Valentines to our friends (even though we wanted to eat the candy before we got home). We appreciate all your support and we thank you again for allowing us to be a part of your child's life; we are truly blessed.

Mrs. Ashford's Ladybugs (Ones T/Th):

Curiosity may not be very good for cats, but it is essential for young children. Wonderful ones are exploring how things work and what people do when they work. Our unit on community helpers enabled your children to meet police officers and a firefighter. We tried out different roles through dress up, art, creative movement and music. It was so exciting to dress from head to toe and be firefighters with our firefighter songs! It was a bit difficult to coordinate our hand muscles to open the mailbox and deliver mail! It was crazy fun to paint with toothbrushes and sing about the dentist! It was incredibly empowering to become the doctor and the veterinarian, and be the one who inspects ears (instead of being the one whose ears are inspected)! This role play provided opportunities to show kindness, compassion and the need to work together the way community helpers do. In the bible, John Chapter 15 reminds us that we are the branches on Jesus' vine and he expects us to work together. Your wonderful ones know that being together with friends is a much happier way to play. Jesus wants us to experience this joy and commanded that we "Love one another" (John 15:17). So, Valentine activities were full of hearts, hugs and I love yous. Watch your wonderful ones express their love and you will see the joy Jesus had in mind. Love is a verb and is something we can "do" to others every day.

Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

February has been a month full of love and treats. Our color of the month was red so we painted red hearts for Valentine's Day. We all enjoyed exchanging valentines at our celebration. This gave the children a chance to take turns passing them out to their friends and placing them in their bags. A Big thanks to our special moms for our wonderful snack & juice.

All the children have been doing a great job of drinking from a paper cup at snack time. We no longer use lids. We are all very proud of them. Our next big achievement is to walk in a line and try to put on our own coats. The children love learning new things that they can do at home as well.

The rest of the month we talked about community helpers. We saw two police men and their car as well as a fire truck. We got to enjoy playing with Mrs. Ashford's ones and share their firemen coats, boots, and hats. The children loved taking off their shoes so they could put on the fireman boots.

Happy birthday to Mrs. Luders on the 8th, Kyra on the 9th, Ben H on the 12th, and Katherine on the 16th. God Bless.

Mrs. Burns' Fish (Older Twos):

February left the class seeing red. Cupid red that is. Love for learning, friendship, and faith was in the air. The class painted with the colors red and white and watched the pink come out. We stamped our valentine's bags with red hearts and heart stickers. And we made heart shaped fish and painted them.

We continued learning to put on our coats. The class is really enjoying learning to do things on their own.

This month's theme was community helpers. We discussed how a police person, fire person and others help out in our neighborhoods. The class also got a chance to climb on the fire truck. Our Valentine's day special snack was a big hit. Thanks again to the parents that helped make this a day to remember.

Ms. Crane's Bees (3's T/Th):

Our class has been so busy this month. We had a great visit with a firefighter and a police officer. The kids got to climb on the fire truck and learned about fire safety. We had a blast passing out Valentines and eating lots of sugar during our Valentine's Day celebration. Another treat was a puppet show from the Atlanta Puppet Company. It has been a great February and we love having your children with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mrs. Morrison's Turtles (3's T/Th):

February was a very exciting month. We have been talking about community helpers and loving one another. Two of Marietta's police officers came to the school and talked to us about "stranger danger", bicycle safety, and to call 911 in case of an emergency. We sat in the police car and stood on a police Segway. A Cobb County fireman also came to visit us. He talked about fire safety and brought their fire truck for us to see. The fireman put all of his gear on so we could see what a firefighter would look like if there was a fire. He also showed us a video about fire safety. We had a special program with marionettes that had the children laughing, clapping, and cheering. We also had a great time passing out our Valentines to our friends at our party. Happy 4th Birthdays to Ava, Michal, and Nora Grey.

Mrs. Dreyer's Fish (3's M-W-F):

February was a busy, fun filled month in the fish bowl. We had two very important community helpers, the firemen and policemen, come visit us. The children truly enjoyed seeing the police car, fire truck, standing on the Segway T3, and seeing the fireman dressed in his entire gear. It sure helped us realize how important they are to our community! Both the firemen and policemen were so sweet and patient with our kids. We had another special visitor this month. Mr. Hart from Atlanta Puppet brought his marionette puppets to life in front of our eyes! February was also a special month with lots of preparation getting ready for Valentine's Day. We want to thank Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs.

Mrs. Dreyer, continued

Breeden for a very special Valentine's Day party. The children enjoyed exchanging valentines, Mrs. Dreyer, continued decorating and eating cookies, and hearing great knock-knock jokes! In the Valentine spirit, we shared love and goodness with our classmates and families. The children decorated the room with hearts representing the good deeds that they have done at home. They also acted out the Bible story of the Good Samaritan, and decorated and filled first aid boxes to be Good Samaritans at home. We learned quite a few Zoo Phonics letters this month as we completed up to letter t. Our alphabet books are looking great! Mrs. Pass and I are truly enjoying your children and watching them grow in their love, knowledge and friendships! We are looking forward to March and the parent conferences, the Easter Story, and hopefully a little warmer weather!

Mrs. Moskal's Turtles (3's M-W-F):

This has been another fun filled month. The children really enjoyed our visits from the fire and police departments. We have talked about other community helpers through books, crafts, puppets and play. It has been fun hearing the children talk about what they want to be when they grow up. We have worked on our letters O, P, Q & R. They spent a lot of time cutting and painting in preparation for Valentine's Day. Our Valentine's Party was great and the children had a wonderful time. Thanks to Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Harmon for all the preparations for the party.

It has been fun talking about loving one another and different ways to show love to each other by obeying, sharing, giving and helping. They enjoyed the Good Samaritan story and talking about goodness in our heart like the Good Samaritan. The children enjoyed bringing in their hearts and talking about their good deeds at home. It made a great looking bulletin board. Thanks for your help.

We had a great time at the puppet show. The children were very attentive and hopefully enjoyed telling you about the show.

Mrs. Moskal, continued

Thanks to Mrs. Deaver for our play dough this month. We enjoyed celebrating Brady's birthday this month (2/14).

Mrs. Kelley's Busy Bees (4's M-W-F):

Happy Valentine's Day to all of my class and their families! I truly feel blessed by the love your children show me and Mrs. Deiters each and every day.

We had a lot of fun this month although it has flown by! We began with Groundhog Day. If you haven't seen our door, please come check it out. The kids had a lot of fun predicting when spring will come. Their answers are hilarious! We also had a great Valentine's Day party. A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Donselaar for the yummy cookies and helping the kids with decorating them. I am also grateful for all of your hands-on help during the party!

We had a lot of fun in our class during our Western theme. The children enjoyed making snakes and cactus pictures and acting out the life of the cowboy. We also discussed President's day and learned about George Washington. I think we might have some presidential hopefuls in our class! We also did a lot of reviewing of our letters, colors, shapes, and numbers. I have been so impressed at the way the class has caught on to patterning. They are so smart!

I hope the children enjoyed our Chinese New Year celebration. I know I did!! We even had a mom from another class who is from China come and read and tell us some facts about this special day.

Finally, our puppet show was just awesome. I know it was only one of the few times I had ever seen a marionette so I am sure the children were as excited as I was to be able to have experienced it. As always, the Reptile Wrangler was very entertaining. It was very fascinating seeing these creatures up close.

We celebrated four birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to Stone (9th), Ben C. (10th), Olivia (14th), and Lindy (14th) who all turned 5 this month.

Mrs. Micale's Monkeys (4's M-Th):

February was the month for celebrations! We began the month with Groundhogs Day. The children enjoyed "predicting" the weather and playing with the groundhog puppets we made in class. The next week we learned about Presidents' Day and Valentine's Day. We read stories about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln We also discussed the responsibilities of our current day President and ways that we too could be leaders. Valentine's Day was a big hit. Everyone had so much fun exchanging cards, making crafts, and playing games. Thank you to Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Himes, and Mrs. Kirkman for making this such a special day for everyone.

We have also enjoyed several special programs this month. The first was a visit by the Reptile Wrangler. The children saw an informative program on different reptiles and even got to pet a boa constrictor Next we saw a puppet show by Atlanta Puppets. This was a fun and interactive program for the children.

Our theme for this month was Life Out West. We began by learning about the desert habitat. We made crafts, learned songs and played in the sand. Next we learned about cowboys/girls and their important jobs. We concluded the theme with a special Rodeo day. The children were able to eat beans and wieners for snack and made an edible fire for dessert. We also participated in rodeo games and enjoyed a special story as we relaxed around our campfire.

In phonics this month we worked on the letters Pp ,Qq, Jj, and Gg .The children continue to do a fantastic job of identifying the letters by sight and sound. Thank you for the support of our Thursday homework sheets. This really helps to reinforce our weekly lesson and the children love earning an extra check on Monday. Our nursery rhyme was Baa Baa Black Sheep and our Bible Story was The Good Samaritan.

Mrs. Davalos' Butterflies (4's M-Th):

Lots of exciting things are happening at preschool. At the end of last month, we celebrated Chinese New Year. What a great day it was tasting the food, making a lantern and dragon wand, reading about "lucky money", and dancing with a dragon. Many thanks go out to Mr. Isley and Mrs. Merchant who helped with this exciting day!

We also had the Reptile Wrangler at school. He brought a giant scorpion, a boa constrictor, a huge iguana, and a big bullfrog. The children learned so much about these amazing animals and got to touch a couple of them.

The Super Fun Show was of course super fun. Mrs. Coffeen purchased his interactive video that the children have been dancing and singing to during indoor recess (with this weather, there have been a few of those!). His tunes and moves are very catchy.

The children went to see a puppet show in February. For many this was their first live marionette show. They really enjoyed it.

Pancakes and PJ's was also a hit. The children loved spending the day in their pajamas and who knew they could eat so many pancakes! I hope it will help them remember the letter Pp just a little better.

Our Valentine's special snack was another highlight of our month. The children loved exchanging valentines. Thanks for working so hard on them; I think the place mats turned out so cute! Thanks to Mrs. Kunkel and Mrs. Scott for making the cupcakes and planning the candy necklaces for them to make and take.

We finished out the month with Rodeo Day. The children dressed like cowboys, ate beans and wieners, made an edible fire, and played rodeo games like galloping around cones and doing sack races.

There was hardly time for anything else with these special functions, but somehow we did manage to learn some letters and sounds, count to one hundred daily, recite Baa Baa Black Sheep, act out and create a keepsake for the bible story, The Good Samaritan, learn the months of the year, learn about presidents, money, and cowboys.

Mrs. Davalos, continued

There is never a dull moment in preschool! It has been a great and very busy month.

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

We started February off with our 100th day of school celebration and Super Bowl Friday. WOW...what fun!! The kids had a blast doing all the sport drills.

We celebrated Chinese New Year the third week of February. Thank you to Linlin Huang, Faith's mom for coming in and reading to us. We have been busy!

While we worked very hard making our valentine projects, we also got a few science lessons in! We experimented with colors and crystals. Our Valentines party was a lot of fun. Thank you again for all of the sweets! I would also like to thank the party moms for putting together another great party.

We have learned a lot about a few of our past Presidents. Ask the children to sing the song about the penny and the quarter. And what Abraham Lincoln kept in his hat!

We end our month with Dental Health and Dinosaurs. I cannot wait to see what they come up with for their dinosaur class book!

Our letters of the week were "V", "P", and "Y". Thank you for all the time you are spending with your child helping them with their homework!

I am very excited about how well the children are doing with their sight words and leveled reading books. Thank you for all the time you have been spending at home reading with them. It really shows!

I have been busy doing assessments with the children and I look forward to meeting with you all during conferences.



PARENT PAGE

“The Changing Nature of Play”

In an excellent segment on National Public Radio, Howard Chudacoff, a cultural historian at Brown University, discussed how play has changed. Up until recently children played outdoors, unsupervised, engaged in freewheeling and imaginative play. However, today, children’s play is more scripted by their toys, more directed by the media, and more protected by anxious parents. In the NPR interview, Chudacoff talked about how these changes in how children play also results in changes in their cognitive and emotional development.

“It turns out that all that time spent playing make-believe actually helped children develop a critical cognitive skill called executive function. Executive function has a number of different elements, but a central one is the ability to self-regulate. Kids with good self-regulation are able to control their emotions and behavior, resist impulses, and exert self-control and discipline.

We know that children’s capacity for self-regulation has diminished. A recent study replicated a study of self-regulation first done in the late 1940s, in which psychological researchers asked kids ages 3, 5, and 7 to do a number of exercises. One of those exercises included standing perfectly still without moving. The 3-year-olds couldn’t stand still at all, the 5-year-olds could do it for about three minutes, and the 7-year-olds could stand pretty much as long as the researchers asked. In 2001, researchers repeated this experiment. But, psychologist Elena Bodrova at the National Institute for Early Education Research says, the results were very different.

“Today’s 5-year-olds were acting at the level of 3-year-olds 60 years ago, and today’s 7-year-olds were barely approaching the level of a 5-year-old 60 years ago,” Bodrova explains.

“So the results were very sad.”

“Sad because self-regulation is incredibly important. Poor executive function is associated

Parent Page, continued

with high dropout rates, drug use, and crime. In fact, good executive function is a better predictor of success in school than a child’s IQ. Children who are able to manage their feelings and pay attention are better able to learn.” As executive function researcher Laura Berk explains, “Self-regulation predicts effective development in virtually every domain.”

Taken from the Exchange Every Day newsletter, February 22, 2008

