

OUR MISSION:
To provide excellent learning programs
that nurture the development of
the whole child in a safe and secure
environment.

CALENDAR



Haircuts are available
on the following dates:
2/3 and 2/18

Monday, February 1
Primary School
Open Enrollment begins

Thursday, February 11
Primary School
Third Quarter Progress
Reports Issued

Saturday, February 13
Parents' Night Out &
Weekend Campers
5:00 - 10:00 pm
The cost is \$35.00 per child
and \$15.00 per sibling.
You must sign up in advance.

Monday, February 15
Palmetto Prep Closed
Staff Development

Saturday, February 27
Parents' Night Out &
Weekend Campers
5:00 - 10:00 pm
The cost is \$35.00 per child
and \$15.00 per sibling.
You must sign up in advance.

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Palmetto Press

FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome, Mr. Clint!

Please join us in welcoming Clint Jarrett to the Palmetto Prep family. Mr. Clint most recently worked as Vice President for an international golf start up company based in Scottsdale, AZ. In that capacity, he led all U.S. initiatives including direct responsibility of sales, operations, and finance. He has a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from Webster University. He also has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from Southern Wesleyan University. In his spare time, Mr. Clint enjoys all sports including the game of golf. He is a PGA "Class A" Professional and has passed rigorous testing to become certified in Executive Management through the PGA of America. Mr. Clint is very excited to have a part in providing an exceptional education for the children at Palmetto Prep.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

To ensure that Palmetto Prep employees are kept abreast of the best practices in early childhood and elementary education, Palmetto Prep provides a minimum of 15 hours of staff development training each year. Additionally, all employees are certified in Infant/Child CPR and First Aid, and educated about blood borne pathogens. Palmetto Prep is closed each year on President's Day (in February) and Columbus Day (in October) to allow the staff to participate in day-long training sessions. We are proud to be able to offer these continuing education programs to our staff.

Congratulations, Spelling Bees!

Congratulations to the following Fourth and Fifth Grade students who participated in Clarity's Spelling Bee on Saturday, January 23rd. We are very proud of you.

Spencer Danley
Drequan Harris
Jonathan Kessinger
Gray Lindsey
Stephanie Navarrete - Hernandez





Primary School Highlights

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten circled half the globe during the month of January with lessons on three of the seven continents. The first stop was our southernly neighbor, South America. There we trekked through the Amazon rainforest, climbed the steps of Machu Picchu, endured the heat of the Atacama Desert, and swam with the dangerous animals of the Amazon River.

After this journey, we bundled up to survive the frigid temperatures as we explored the whales, penguins, and seals of Antarctica. We also said hello to the lone resident of the southernmost continent. Finally, we headed for warmer weather to the summers of Australia. We enjoyed the beaches of this island country before heading into the heat of the Outback. Ayers Rock was quite beautiful at sunset, as were the many fish off the coast of the Great Barrier Reef.

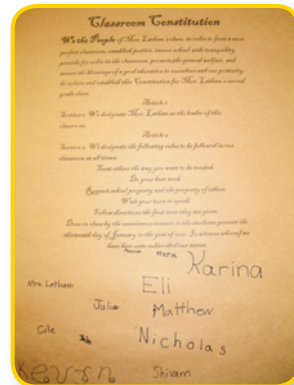


FIRST GRADE

Did you know you can buy a sports car for only 97 cents in First Grade? Stop by our class store, "The Martini Market," for the best math deals in town. Practicing counting change has never been so fun! Students work in pairs; the "shopper" chooses items to purchase and then uses their own real coins to count out the correct change for their partner, the "cashier." First graders challenge themselves to calculate the same amount using different coins. Ask your child to show you "another way" to make 97 cents. You'll be amazed!

SECOND GRADE

The Second Graders studied the first in a series of units on American history. They discovered that our government is based upon the United States Constitution, the highest law of our land. We explored the origins of the Constitution, the "Founding Fathers," and the significance of the words "We the people" found in the Preamble. Students learned about the three branches of government outlined in the Constitution: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The Bill of Rights was discussed as well as the difference between our rights and responsibilities as United States citizens. They then applied what they learned by converting the class rules into a Classroom Constitution that was signed by all of the students.



THIRD GRADE

Our Third Grade friends have been studying Ecology and are really dedicated to helping protect our environment from pollution. Each student pledged how they wanted to help and even wrote a persuasive letter to "Polluting Pete" on ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Students worked as teams to create posters promoting ways to help the environment. The posters will be displayed in classrooms around the school to inform all students of ways they can help as well. We have also been busy participating in Reader's Workshop. A fourth grade student, Jo'nae, spoke to our class about how to select a "just right" book. The students now feel confident as they choose a book that is at their reading level. Similarly, we want to "pay it forward" when it comes to reading, so we began Book Buddies with Ms. Doyle's Kindergarten class. We look forward to reading to our new friends and having them read to us also!



FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Graders completed their service learning project with Senior Action. They thoroughly enjoyed this intergenerational learning experience. Their senior partners provided the students with an authentic writing project: the students wrote biographies for an audience of their partners' peers. The students also finished a unit on the history of African kingdoms and cultures. They integrated technology into their lessons by completing a webquest about medieval Africa. They are very excited to begin their next unit of study: China. The plans for our Chinese feast are already underway!





Primary School Highlights

CONTINUED

FIFTH GRADE

The Fifth Grade has conquered the Wild West! After participating in a Pioneer Simulation, students have a better understanding of how difficult it was to travel across the United States in a covered wagon. The pioneers went without food for days at a time, encountered Native Americans, and somehow avoided contracting cholera. The two wagon companies made decisions throughout the entire experience such as how to spend their budget and pack for the 2,000 mile journey. Making life or death decisions such as floating your wagon or taking the ferry allowed students to use skills they have gained in all subject areas throughout the year. They didn't even realize they were practicing their math while doing this! Students also presented their biographies to their Senior Action partners in Fountain Inn. Everyone had a blast at the talk show-style event and was sad to see it come to an end.



Pre-School Highlights

INFANTS



Our babies in Infant 1 continue to work on reaching important milestones. The younger babies are working on their fine motor skills as they learn to pick up toys and grasp them with both hands. They are also working hard on building their back and neck muscles as they learn how to hold their heads up during tummy time. The older babies are working more on their gross motor skills as they learn to put weight on their legs while in the jumperoo. They are also learning how to sit without support.

Have you heard about the excitement in Infant 2? Since all of our little friends are growing up, we have made changes to our schedule and our classroom. The new schedule is more structured and offers the opportunity to visit the gym and Theater everyday! So far, the children's favorite place is the gym. They love the wall mirrors, playing with large balls and crawling through the tunnel. In the classroom, the little friends now sit in small chairs at a tiny table for meals and snacks! We are also learning self-help skills including eating from a plate and helping pick up toys.

TODDLERS

"Baby, it's cold outside." With winter in full swing, our wonderful little Toddlers have been enjoying every aspect of the season. We started our winter learning by exploring the warm and snuggly clothes we wear in the wintertime. Our friends decorated colorful mitten cut-outs with cotton balls, colored hats and scarves, and adored trying on the real versions of these things! As we ventured further into our winter journey, we explored the frigid world of snowmen. The Toddlers painted melting snowmen using a fork and sponge-painted white paint on black paper. We also enjoyed yummy vanilla ice cream and watched it melt a little bit before we ate it. The children had the best time exploring bears that hibernate during the winter. The friends even practiced their lacing skills while learning about these warm and fuzzy animals.





Pre-School Highlights CONTINUED

PRE-PREPPERS

Brrr...it's cold outside! January was an exciting month in the Pre-Prepper classes. We welcomed new friends Ava, Samantha, and Amrit, as well as Ms. Andrea, to the Pre-Prepper front classroom, while Mrs. Jenn moved to the Prepper front classroom to teach the older friends. This month we studied winter weather and learned about the special types of clothes we wear during the chilly season. The friends loved playing our snowman game during circle time! Each day a different friend got to be our "snowman" and we all took turns dressing him or her up in their fuzziest and warmest winter clothes! We also began learning about the calendar. Our friends love singing the days of the week song and counting the days on the calendar each morning. We focused a lot on the basics this month as well. We worked very hard reviewing our colors, shapes, opposites and sizes. We are all looking forward to a fun and exciting year with new and old friends alike.



PREPPERS

It's been chilly this month in the Prepper classrooms since we have been discussing animals of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The Preppers loved our week about penguins! We learned that there are different types of penguins, such as the emperor penguin, the macaroni penguin (the children's favorite), the chinstrap penguin, the king penguin and the yellow-eyed penguin! We also talked about polar bears and were surprised to learn that a polar bear's skin is actually black beneath the white fur! This helps the bear absorb heat to stay warm in the cold weather. To give the students an idea of how cold the polar regions are, we put them into teams and let them stack ice cubes to form igloos. They loved it! The Preppers have also started learning to trace and write their names!

PRE-K

What a cold month in Pre-K as we dove headfirst into the chilly winter season! We discussed winter attire and weather, and learned about different types of snow. Next, we explored the wonderful world of ice, in all its forms: liquid, solid, and gas! We created ice cream by mixing ice, salt, vanilla, and sugar! Our ice cream experiment was fun, informative, and delicious! We focused next on hibernation and winter animals. Our friends played "musical hibernation" and created edible cinnamon bear paws while learning interesting facts about polar bears and penguins. We saved the best for last when we participated in fun winter activities! We had a snowball fight, searched for sight word snowballs, made snow angels and frosted igloos, and even went ice skating in the classroom! Wow...who knew that winter could be so much fun? To emphasize the importance of teamwork for our group activities, we read *The Crayon Box that Talked* by Shane DeRolf. Our friends learned that, although we are different from each other, when we work together the outcome is beautiful. They loved creating their very own crayon box, on display in the Pre-K hallway!





Enrichment Highlights

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This month in Physical Education, we completed units on two traditional winter sports, basketball and volleyball. In basketball, Kindergarten and First Grade primarily worked on their dribbling skills. The students enjoyed several challenging activities that required the use of both hands to dribble the basketball. Second through Fifth Graders, in addition to dribbling and passing skills, worked on the proper form to shoot a layup and set shot. In volleyball, all grades worked on the forearm bump and overhead set. To ensure hitting success, the early grades used balloons while the older grades used beach balls. We also learned a new game this year, Newcombe ball, designed to help the students learn the rules and scoring of volleyball.

AFTER SCHOOL

In Afterschool we are excited about the new year and all the fun activities in store for us. We are also very happy to welcome our new Afterschool teacher, Ms. Mosley. This month, we had a great time learning new group games to play in the Fieldhouse. In Afterschool Art, Ms. Henderson helped us make shadow silhouettes, and they look fantastic!

SPANISH

This month, the Preschool classes learned the parts of the body! To practice this new vocabulary, we put together Mr. Potato Head while naming each body part in Spanish. The friends also enjoyed building Matman, a "person" made completely out of objects found in our classroom! For our cultural lesson this month, we explored Spain and discussed Spanish customs, food, and artwork. The Primary School students studied a wide variety of subjects in Spanish. The Kindergarteners enjoyed playing "Hangman" using vocabulary from their lesson on South America. First Grade learned the Mayan alphabet; while Second Grade worked hard to form complete Spanish sentences. Third Graders "spaced out" while doing word searches to learn the Spanish names of the planets in our solar system. Fourth and Fifth Graders played "Jeopardy!" using facts about Africa.



ART

This past month in Art, the Pre-Preppers and Preppers painted snowmen, and had fun mixing white paint with glitter to make snowy pictures. The Pre-K students loved viewing and learning about the artwork of Henri Rousseau and his paintings of jungle scenes. The students used tempera paint, construction paper and animal print collage paper to create a jungle, complete with jungle animals! The results of this project were amazing! The Kindergarteners painted seals using watercolors to correspond with their lesson about Antarctica. Using their handprints as a basis, the students also worked on an Aboriginal dot painting to enhance their study of Australia. First Grade worked on drawings/paintings of their house. The students also put finishing touches on several projects for the art show. Remember the art show is March 25th for Pre-K through 5th grade students! The Second and Third Graders reviewed Picasso, focusing on his Cubist portraits and the students created a self portrait based on the characteristics of cubism. Fourth and Fifth Grade created repousse flowers in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe for the upcoming art show! Also, the Second through Fifth grade students have all begun a unit on architecture. They are working on detailed drawings of a Victorian-style house which should be displayed soon!

MUSIC

The Preschool has been developing their sequencing skills in Music this month. The students have been using call-and-response techniques to learn various children's songs. They hear a simple pattern once, then reproduce it vocally, with body percussion or instruments. We focused especially on simple rhythm patterns connected to the stress and meter of the English language. The Primary School has been discovering how to work together as an ensemble. The students have been playing games that involve listening exercises and ear-training. Each game requires a lot of subtle communication using only eye contact and listening as a group. We are preparing for our upcoming musical revue entitled "Destination: America!", an educational play that follows the evolution of American music. The music includes selections of Folk, Blues, Country, Motown, Broadway, and of course, Rock n' Roll! More information about the play will be sent home soon.