



The CDC Times

VCU Child Development Center
School of Education

VOL. 6

Fall 2010



Thank you to all the parents who joined us at the PUMPKIN PATCH. We had a wonderful turnout with approximately 71 parents in attendance!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE CDC WEBSITE!

<http://www.soe.vcu.edu/cdc/Welcome.html>

NEW CLASSROOM COMPUTERS!

Five new computers have been added to rooms 101, 201, and 202.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PAC FAMILY PIZZA PARTY

November 5th from 5-6:30pm. All family members invited!

PAC MEETING

November 9th from 6-7pm; Childcare/Dinner provided.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The CDC will CLOSE at NOON on November 12th so that parents can meet with their child's teachers.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

The CDC will be CLOSED November 25-26, 2010.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS!

G1

Fall is Here

For the next few months, G1 will talk about the color orange, vegetables, and Native Americans, as we celebrate the month of November. As we approach December, the children will learn about holidays and traditions established in different cultures. The children will be engaged in art activities, reading books, singing songs, and sensory fun for the next few months!



G2

Books We Love

Due to the interest shown by the children in If You Give a Pig a Pancake, our class will explore this series by Laura Numeroff which also includes If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. The children will make and try pancakes as well as design their own cookies using different colored construction paper. After Thanksgiving, we will explore the various holidays including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. The children will create collages using colors representing Kwanzaa, a Jewish star, and a glittery tree. In January, we will begin our themes on winter by reading Snowballs and Cat and Dog in the Snow.

102

Me and My Senses

This Fall we are very excited to begin learning "all about me." We will start by learning about feelings and then move onto the five senses. Activities will include show-and-tell, body tracings, mirror activities, and All-About-Me booklets. The five senses unit will include making mini herb gardens, tasting foods that are salty, sweet or sour, experiments with disposable cameras, and so much more! We will also pay tribute to the winter holidays with festive art and cooking projects.



101

Nutrition and Manners

In November, we will focus on the festive season of Fall, discussing scarecrows and popcorn. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, we will address good nutrition and manners. What a great time of year to practice these skills both at home and school! In December, we will enjoy stories and activities from children's author, Jan Brett. The holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza will be explored. We invite you to share with the class a special tradition, story, or recipe for the children to enjoy.

201

Special Days to Come

As autumn season continues we will explore scarecrows and the fall harvest. November is full of special days, one being the birthday of Lois Ehlert. We will be reading her wonderful stories and admiring her unique illustrations. It is our hope that by the end of the week, the children will know her name and recognize her art style. As November comes to a close, our thoughts and activities will be about Thanksgiving and all the trimmings that go along with it. As December creeps in and steals more of our daylight, we will brighten our days with the lights of Hanukkah, while gingerbread and holiday fun fill the remaining December days.

202

Cultural Discovery

The Jewels of 202 are looking forward to a busy, fun filled month learning about Native American culture, which includes our visit to the Native American POW-WOW on November 12th. Continuing our discovery of culture, we will discuss Three Kings Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. We encourage families to share any information or activities related to these holidays or any other celebrations you may observe during this festive holiday season. We are very excited about the months ahead!





TRANSITIONS

Teachers and families work together to ease children into transitions. This is true whether you are talking about the home-school transition in the morning, transitions between activities at school, or a transition to a new room and/or school.

At the VCU Child Development Center, decisions on transitioning children from one classroom to another are not based on biological age, but rather on that individual child's developmental readiness, which includes their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical readiness.

The process includes the following:

- Once a child is identified by his/her teachers to be ready to transition, the teachers submit a form to the director that explains how the child will benefit from the move.
- Approximately one month before the transition, the director will send a letter to the parents and new teachers describing why it would be advantageous for this child to move to the next classroom. Parents will be encouraged to use this time to meet with the new teachers and/or director to discuss any questions they may have.
- At least one week before the move, the child's existing teachers will complete a *Transition Information Form* describing the child's personality, likes/dislikes, and any special needs (e.g. what comforts the child if upset, favorite toys/activities, and health care needs) to share with his/her new teachers.
- Transitions occur gradually:
 - Day 1: The child visits the new classroom for circle time and outside time.
 - Day 2: The child visits for the entire morning through lunch.
 - Day 3: The child is dropped off in the new classroom for the entire day.

Note: Because individual children vary on how much time they need to transition, teachers will evaluate the child's progress over the three days and if modifications to the schedule are necessary, they will share them with the parents.

CDC PARENTS ARE THE BEST! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to...

- **Collin Cox, Kristi Martin, Anneke Padolina and Cynthia Zang** who helped spruce up the playground on Saturday, Oct. 2nd. It looks great!
- **Jodi Kuhn** for coming in to teach the children of Rm. 101 some great Yoga Moves!
- **Amanda Patterson** for coming into G2 to coordinate a caterpillar craft with apple prints!
- **David Watkinson and Chris Gough** for sharing their musical instruments with the children of 201. The children had a blast!
- **David Flemming, Amanda Patterson, Amy Reidy, Alicia Aroche, and Joan Coogan** who have volunteered to compile the family information for the classroom directories!
- **The Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** for their generous donation of \$50 per classroom for new books! The teachers were delighted to choose a total of 39 books to add to their classroom libraries! They should arrive very soon.

Thank You!