

Chesterbrook Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter January 2016

Dates to Remember:

1/1/16- School Closed

1/4/16-Fairfax County Schools Open

1/11- Read Across America Contest Begins

1/15: Hat Day (Wear your favorite Hat)

1/18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
School is Open

1/22- Winter Gala 3:30-4:30

1/23: Open House/Early Bird Registration 10-1 (Refer a family, get them to register and receive a free week of tuition)

1/25-1/29: Transition Week

1/29: Jersey Day. Wear your favorite sports jersey to school!

Winter Gala
Holidays Around the World
Friday January 22nd,
3:30pm-4:30pm
Enjoy light snacks and drinks afterwards while you integrate with other families!
Bring family and friends to cheer our students performances in their costumes
"Don't forget the camera"



Winter Competition

Winners



Winter door decorating contest: AM Preschool



Operation Hunger: AM Preschool



Read Across America!

January 11th-February 26th

Join us in a contest to read

2,500 books by March!

If we succeed, you could help make Ms Prachi into a

HUMAN SUNDAE!!!

As your child reads books with you and your family, remember to write the name of the book on the weekly reading sheet and turn it in the **Reading Drop Box every Friday until February 26th.**





Water bottles In School

Starting January 4th 2016, Chesterbrook Academy is discontinuing all home brought water bottles and water containers due to ongoing presence of juice and milk found in them. Despite several reminders and health notices, students are being put at risk of outside food which causes severe allergies to some of our students. Please be aware that students are given plenty of opportunities throughout the day to drink water in class and promote hydration. We thank all the parents in advance for their understanding and cooperation in maintaining the safest learning environment for their children.

Chesterbrook Academy Food Policy

It has been an exciting and busy school year! We are happy to share that our school is growing on a daily basis with new families. Keeping in mind with operational hours and more children arriving earlier, Fairlakes Chesterbrook Academy is changing the meal times to better serve our student's healthier eating habits.

Breakfast-8:00am-8:30am

Lunch- 11:30am-12:30am

Snack- 3:00-3:30

In conjunction with the early meals, we ask parents that they restrain from bringing any more outside food into the school. This is very important, for there are several students with serious food allergies of eggs, wheat, nuts, and other regular food products. Also, please understand the food offered by the school is sanctioned by the FDA and Virginia Department of Health, and there is always meal substitutions provided for children with medical or religious needs. With your help, we expect to provide the safest and most comfortable learning atmosphere for each child in our school, and gear our attention to the higher educational foundations for learning.

****No additional food will be served after the meal times due to scheduled curriculum activities and nap time.****

We thank you for your cooperation in this important health and safety matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to stop by the office or refer to the Parent Handbook.



Financial Reminders:

Tuition Due dates/Fees:

Weekly tuition is due every Friday for the upcoming week. Fees are considered delinquent at 12:00 noon on the day following the due date (Monday). Late charge will be assessed in the amount of \$25 for each week the full tuition that is not paid on time. If tuition and any other outstanding charges are not paid within seven days of the due date, attendance at the school is not permitted until the full past tuition and for the current period is paid.

Vacation Credits:

A vacation credit allows a family to take a week-long vacation without owing tuition. The credit may only be used in lieu of attendance and must be a whole calendar week, ie. Monday-Friday

A family becomes eligible for their vacation credit after *6 months* of enrollment. Two week advance notification in writing is required (ask the office for a Vacation Credit Form) or the request will be denied. In addition, each family will only receive one vacation credit per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30); all other weeks' tuition is due based on your enrolled schedule, regardless of your student's attendance. Finally, families using extended vacations or withdrawing for long periods of time forfeit current credits and must restart earning their vacation credits upon returning.

Extended Vacations:

If a family chooses to withdraw their student while away on an extended vacation (2 weeks or more), the following rules apply:

1. We require a 4 week notice. We will not be able to accommodate your withdrawal until the 4 week mark.
2. A new registration fee is due *before* your last day to re-register your student upon your return.
3. We cannot pro-rate partial weeks if you withdraw mid-week or return mid-week, school tuition is billed based on the schedule you are enrolled for.
4. Your tenure with us is forfeit and for all policy purposes, your "first day" will be counted as your return date. Thus, you will have to wait 6 months from your return date to be eligible for a vacation credit.





The Value of Visual Art Activities for Your Preschooler

Visual art experiences help children develop skills such as critical thinking, self-expression, problem-solving, communication and collaboration. Our teachers focus on process-based art education, in which the experience of creating art is valued over the end product.

In our classrooms, teachers integrate art into many aspects of our Links to Learning curriculum. After reading a book about polar bears, teachers might ask students to create their own polar bears using sponges, paint, markers and paper. They encourage students to talk about their art, providing a great opportunity to learn new vocabulary, particularly words related to colors, shapes, textures, and emotions.

Our students are also exposed to and inspired by famous artwork. In order to cultivate that fascination, we discuss famous artists and art works and ask students to create replicas of well-known paintings and sculptures. For example, after learning about Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, teachers mimic the activity in the classroom. They tape paper underneath tables, and students practice painting a masterpiece while lying down.

Below are visual art activities you and your child can do at home, as well as recommended reading.

At Home:

- Provide your child with finger paint, a large piece of paper and a smock. Let him create a masterpiece. Talk about how the paint feels and what colors and shapes he creates on the paper.
- Start a journal with your child. Have him draw a picture of something that happened during the day. Avoid giving direction. Instead of saying "Draw a picture of your teacher and classmates," encourage him to experiment using different colored markers or crayons. If age appropriate, ask your child to write a few words to describe the picture.
- Give your child a piece of paper and a box of crayons or markers. Show him how to use the materials to make dots, lines and swirls on the paper. Let him take over and have fun. Encourage conversation about your child's art by saying, "Tell me about what you made" or "I see you used a lot of blue in your picture. Why did you choose that color?"
- Ask your child to decorate a sign for his bedroom door using various art materials. Have him write his name on the sign.



Recommended Reading:

- *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds
- *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Art* by Patrick McDonnell
- *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
- *Mix It Up* by Herve Tullet

It is wonderful to share the joy that children naturally take in using art materials. Giving children extra opportunities to connect art to the world around them, contributes to happiness and future success in elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education

