

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Newsletter of St. Thomas Day School
3602 Hawthorne Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Where Learning is Fun!

FEBRUARY 2010

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

February begins enrollment for the upcoming school year for many local schools in the area including St. Thomas'. Parent/teacher conferences are held in February to show you your child's progress from the beginning of the year. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate asking your child's teachers or myself.

There are a lot of choices for a pre-school program in our local area, and I am proud to say that I am the Director of a wonderful program. Below are some of the things that make us great:

- We have been around for over 35 years
- We have an awesome teacher to child ratio...did you know that the state requires 1 adult for 12 children for ages 2-5...we offer 1:6 in our 2 & 3 year old classes, 1:7 in our mixed aged class, and 1:9 in our 4 & 5 year old class
- We offer a variety of options from 2-5 days per week and even offer an extended day option until 2:00pm (Mon-Fri starting in the 2010/2011 school year)
- Our staff is WONDERFUL
- We allow children to be children while getting them prepared for Kindergarten and beyond...they get to play and learn!

- We offer scholarships for any family enrolled at St. Thomas' who needs financial assistance...this year providing scholarships for 10 children to attend.

We are a "neighborhood" school with families from Ginter Park, Bellevue, The Fan, Mechanicsville, and even Varina.

Speaking as a parent of a child who is now in Kindergarten, St. Thomas' Day School prepared him to succeed both academically and socially this year. Domenic has had the easiest adjustment to his new school and I am very grateful for all of the teachers who had a "hand" on him at the Day School.

If you have questions about any of our classes, please feel free to contact me. Our Pre-K program is hands down the best for getting your child ready for Kindergarten!

-Kelly

FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLD CLASS

Teachers: Joan Bowles and Carter Raper

Our class started out the New Year with a bang! We welcomed a new student, Delaney, and a new teacher, Ms. Carter. We talked about winter and made gingerbread men, igloos, elephants, snowflakes, snowmen, and penguins. We learned about the letters Mm and Nn. We spent some time working on our skill booklets. We worked on counting, writing, tracing, and cutting. We also practiced recognizing our numbers, letters, shapes, and colors. We have been trying to get outside and play, despite the cold temperatures. When we have to stay in, we've been singing and dancing and playing the parish hall to get those wiggles out. In February, we'll talk about the five senses, Valentine's Day, famous Americans, and community helpers. Based on January, the rest of the year in the Four and Five Year Old Class should be very busy. And super fun!

MIXED AGE CLASS

Teachers: Laura Harbison and Diana Vicenti

January was a busy month for us. The weather certainly cooperated with us as we talked about

Winter. We made snowmen, penguins, Eskimos & igloos and painted with snow. We talked about the season and what we enjoy about it.

During Forest Animal week we made snakes, turtles, owls & bears, and learned what it meant for bears to hibernate and that owls are nocturnal.

Open wide! Dental Health week was very fun! We learned how to care for our teeth and

even painted with dental floss and toothbrushes. Thank you to Kelly (Colleen and Maria's mom) for reading

a special story to the class.

We ended the month with Germ week, we learned how to wash our hands properly, how to cover that sneeze and went on a germ hunt. Just because you can't see them doesn't mean they aren't there!

We have been working on colors, letter sounds, directionals. We have also been working on our fine motor skills and was taught how to "Pinch and flip" (how to grasp a pencil and hold it properly). We had two birthdays this month...Jack & Matt Richter and also Loudoun Arthur. Thanks for sharing your special days with us!

Next month we will learn about Frank Asch, Dinosaurs, Opposites and of course Valentines!

THREE-DAY CLASS

Teachers: Rebecca Shigley and Lisa Wilkes

I probably say this all the time, but how is it that January is gone already?! We are so busy that time really does fly!

This month we talked about winter, Forest Animals, Dental Health and Germs! We learned how important it is to take care of our teeth and to wash our hands while singing the ABC's and then washing the germs away. There are lots of yucky bugs flying around Richmond so let's keep those hands clean. We also are learning to cough into our elbows and not our hands. It would be great to reinforce these things at home as well!

We haven't been outside as much this month with all the rain and the freezing temperatures. We will be getting out as much as we can in February! February will bring us to learn about Frank Asch, Valentines, Dinosaurs, and Opposites/Directionals. We will also

continue to work on our number/letter recognition, and our scissor cutting skills! We look forward to another fun and busy month! See you then!

TWO-DAY CLASS

Teachers: Rebecca Shigley and Lisa Wilkes

January has come and gone with a blink of an eye. We are no longer a group of 5 but a group of 7! We welcomed this New Year two new friends, Jude and Kylie! Everyone is making fast friends and enjoying each other! This month we talked about winter, bears, the differences between day and night, and nursery rhymes. We enjoyed making sock puppets, night time skies and beautiful suns, and polar bear caves with marshmallows! Everyone loved pajama day and couldn't believe that even the teachers were wearing their pj's! Our self help skills have also tremendously grown, we now are able to get our own snack for snack time! Yah Friends!! Next month we will be concentrating on Valentines Day, the circus, and life at the zoo! See you all in February for another fun filled month!

KID'S CORNER

Focus on Three Day Class

My special Valentine is...

Bay: Mom
Emma: Gracie
Brent: Mommy
Claire: Ruby
Lexi: Mommy
Jack C: Daddy
Jack W: Momma
Ned: Dad
Marcy: Mommy
Makayla: Mom

Ruby: Monica
Turner: Ned

LET YOUR INNER CHILD COME OUT AND PLAY...

Educators know that spending time with children keeps you young at heart. It's one of the special things about working with children that inspire us everyday. In today's busy world it can be challenging finding the time to spend with your children. But remember, the quality of time you spend with your children is as important as the quantity of time you spend with them. The time you spend with your children can enhance family bonding; build a child's self esteem, and keep all involved young at heart. Below you will find some fun ideas for "quality time" activities that you can do with your children.

- *Go on a scavenger hunt
- *Dance to all types of music- hip-hop, disco, swing, line, waltz, etc...
- *Play dress up
- *Draw, paint, and create
- *Have your child help you prepare dinner
- *Go on a special "date" with your child
- *Play video games or watch a movie
- *Read a book together
- *Blow bubbles
- *Sing
- *Play a game
- *Make smores
- *Go bowling

Remember to let your inner child out and have fun!

REMINDER FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

St. Thomas Day School follows Richmond City Public Schools for closings and delays. If Richmond City

Public Schools are CLOSED, we are CLOSED. If Richmond City Public Schools have a 1-hour delay, then we will open at 9:00am with no early time program. If Richmond City Public Schools have a 2-hour delay, then we will open at 10:00am and extended day will be offered Monday-Thursday.

2009-2010 BOARD MEMBERS

Kirk Candler- Chairperson
Tracey Wingold- Secretary
Ed Riley
Susannah Raine-Haddad
Fiona Tower
Kinsey Thomas
Suzanne Vinson
Stacy Murphy-Johnson
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Nancy Marston-Rechenbach

TAX ID NUMBER

Tax Time is right around the corner. Our Tax ID # is 540600404 for those who need it for tax purposes.