

# DAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

*Where Learning is Fun!*

**MAY 2009**

## **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

This is the last newsletter of the 2008/2009 school year. It is hard to believe that the summer break is right around the corner. Before we all rush off to the beach, I want to take this time to thank and recognize a few people who helped make this year so successful. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped during this school year. You subbed in the classrooms, prepared food for Day School events, worked with the We Care group, shared a talent in the classrooms, helped support our annual fundraiser, and surprised our wonderful teachers with appreciation gifts all year long. A special thanks to Kim Lavach and Fiona Tower who organized Casino Night and worked endless hours to make it a success, to Dan Kane for being our Newsletter Editor, to Elisa Wilkes and Diana Vicenti for being our "go to" substitutes☺, to all of the folks who helped with We Care, to Michele Young-Stone for helping the children create the beautiful bookshelf, to Young Jin Kim for volunteering in the Mixed Aged Class weekly, to my amazing teachers Rebecca, Carter, Nancy, Laura, Kristin, and Joan, and last but not least the wonderful Day School Board; Kirk Candler, Susannah Raine-Haddad, Ed Riley, Fiona Tower, Kim Lavach, Amy Strite, Matt Bryant, Cal

Buchanan, Diana Vicenti, Tracey Wingold, and Sue Eaves who are so supportive. I am unable to name all of the wonderful folks who helped out this year, but please know how much you are appreciated. Thank you St. Thomas' Families! I look forward to seeing many of you in the fall and for those who are moving on, know that you will always be a part of the St. Thomas' family. Have a happy and safe summer!

Kelly

## **FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLD CLASS**

Teachers: Joan Bowles and Kristin Fisher

Lots of **April Showers** didn't stop us from flying through the solar system and making suns, stars and even our own planet!! We talked about how we can do things to keep our planet clean and healthy on **Earth Day!** We ended the month with bugs and insects of all sorts. We had fun making ladybugs, caterpillars and spiders! The kids also enjoyed the second annual field day with lots of bouncing, running, and games. It's hard to believe that we are starting practice for our graduation performance and summer will soon be here!!

## **MIXED AGE CLASS**

Teachers: Nancy Marston and Laura Harbison

We started the month talking about Easter and new beginnings. We dyed eggs, made baskets, made bunny ears and ended the week with an Easter egg hunt.

After Spring break we jumped back into things by learning about different kinds of birds & bees, we learned where they live and what they eat. We made nests, birds and even painted with real worms.

We had a blast during Jungle week, we made dioramas and we turned into monkeys and snakes, We learned about all the layers in a Rainforest and with a little help from Axle Rose (Welcome to the jungle) we felt like we were there 😊 We ended the month learning about the Earth.

We celebrated 4 birthday's this month, Eloise, Aidan, Maria and Colleen Yeah!!

Next Month we will talk about Mom's and babies, The Beach and Farewell We have French lessons on Friday mornings and we are practicing our number recognition.

## **THREE-DAY CLASS**

Teachers: Carter Raper and Rebecca Shigley

April was a great month for the Three Day Class! We started out talking about Easter. We made tulips and candy nests and some really cool “stained glass” eggs. We also talked about the letter ‘Z’,

finishing up our alphabet. After the break we learned about exercise and being healthy. We talked about healthy foods and the importance of moving our bodies. We painted with apples and oranges and made crowns to celebrate being kings and queens, or princes and princesses, of being healthy. Also, we “exercised” our scissor skills by cutting out all kinds of shapes and spent an amazing day outside, moving and shaking, for Field Day. From there we moved on to learning about spiders. We made our own spiders out of cork and molding clay. We also made spider masks and started practicing the numbers one through ten. After talking about spiders, we switched to learning about reptiles and other pond life. We made turtles and snakes and our own pond pictures. We talked about the numbers eleven through twenty as well. We will wrap up the school year (where did the year go?!) in May by talking about butterflies and getting ready for summer.

## **TWO-DAY CLASS**

Teachers: Carter Raper and Rebecca Shigley

Not even April showers could dampen the spirits of the Two Day Class this month! We kicked off April by talking about Easter. We made Easter eggs and Easter baskets and worked on our tracing skills. After Spring Break, we started up again talking about bugs. We sang about the different bugs that we know and painted some pretty silly, wiggly worms. We also used cereal to work on our beading. From there we moved on to talking about Eric Carle. We made “very busy spider webs” and some very cool cats, all while practicing sorting our colors. We wrapped up April by talking

about flowers. We painted with some beautiful azaleas and even made our own colorful spring flowers. In May, we will finish out the school year (can you believe it?!) by talking about the beach and other summer activities.

#### **MESSAGE FROM MEGAN BLAKE**

Hi Kelly!

I wanted to thank everyone at St. Thomas Day School for all of the support the staff and parents have given our family as we have dealt with all of the surgeries, chemo, and treatment for my breast cancer. Would you mind adding the following to the May newsletter?:

Hello St. Thomas Staff and Families,

We wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful support you have given our family over the past few months as we have battled my breast cancer with surgeries, chemotherapy and (upcoming) radiation therapy. We have been so blessed to have the St. Thomas family help us out with childcare, meals, prayers, cards, emails, and more. Your support has made getting through everything so much easier, and we are so very, very grateful! We are always telling people how lucky we are to have our son, Will, at St. Thomas Day School, and be a part of this very special family of friends and neighbors. Thank you for everything!!!

Very Sincerely,  
Megan, Chris, Will and Katie Blake

#### **END OF YEAR CELEBRATION**

Join us on the last day of school for the End of Year Celebration. The schedule is as follows:

#### **Wednesday May 20, 2009**

**9:00** Normal Drop Off...Coffee will be provided for the parents

**10:00** Performances by the 3-Day, Mixed Aged, and 4 & 5 year old Classes Please pack a picnic for your family and join us after the classes perform! 2-Day families are invited to attend the End of Year Celebration.

**Extended Day will not be offered on May 20<sup>th</sup>**

If you are not attending the performance, **dismissal is at 10:45** and the teachers are officially "off duty" ☺

#### **UKROP'S GOLDEN GIFT**

Once again St. Thomas' Day School is participating in the Golden Gift Program sponsored by Ukrop's. Last year we were able to purchase 2 new tables for the Day School. Every little bit helps! We would once again appreciate you donating your certificates to the Day School. Thank you!

#### **2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS**

Kirk Candler  
Matt Bryant  
Diana Vicenti  
Kim Lavach  
Fiona Tower  
Tracey Wingold  
Cal Buchanan  
Amy Strite  
Ed Riley  
Susannah Raine-Haddad