

The Spencer House Montessori News

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May 2006

SCHOOL NEWS

The last few weeks have been hectic ones...between the city meeting on the school expansion, preparing for the end of year presentation by the VPK and K-1 students, and getting all the student evaluations complete, only one teacher managed to do a write up for this edition! However there is much to report about the school in general.

City Approves School Expansion

We know that the parents never doubted that the city would approve our expansion plans, but they weren't living through the 4 month process Mr. Keven did of constantly having scary issues being raised by the city planning staff and facing deadline after deadline. Much of it was self-inflicted by him insisting on being his own engineer and drafting his own siteplan. It saved the school five thousand dollars that could be put towards the new building instead, but he swears that was the last time he ever does that! Needless to say it was a relief to finally get to the Planning and Zoning Meeting and be greeted by a bunch of smiling board members who approved the plans without a single question. Even better, the Mayor of Alachua made a point to compliment the school on its appearance and reputation!

Having completed the first hurdle of the project, we took a look at everything that would have to happen before August 14th to have the new building open for fall. We decided that the stress and financial strain on the school would be too great. So instead, we are going to have the building started in October for a January 1st opening. This will allow us to spend the summer getting the new drive and parking built and to put money towards much needed improvements and renovations to the existing buildings. Such things as a new floor in the Beginner's changing room and a new air conditioning unit for the Primary and Beginner's classroom are on top of the list. Mr. Keven is actually starting to rip up the floor of the changing room tonite, so let's hope there is not a gaping hole there when summer camp starts on Wednesday!

End of Year Presentation a Success

Parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters packed the auditorium of the First United Methodist Church of Alachua for the VPK/K-1 End of Year presentation. The kids did a great job showing off their French and singing skills and several recited poems of their own writing. All in all it was a cute show and it was very heartwarming to see a hundred people turnout on a weekday morning to see their children perform. The Senn,

Glover, Thompson, and Schreiber families all donated video footage to the school after our camera failed to record. Mr. Keven will be working on a DVD of the presentation during June. Details will follow!

Spencer House Places Second in Phonebook Competition

The results are in and the Spencer House placed second in the Most Phonebooks per Student category of the Alachua County Phonebook Recycling Contest. With 520 phonebooks collected we were sure we would place first like last year, but O2B Kid's Homeschool Program somehow beat us out. Nonetheless, it was a valiant effort and the school received a \$400 reward for it! We'll just have to try even harder next year!

Don't Forget!

The school is closed next Monday and Tuesday. We reopen on Wednesday, May 31st for Summer Camp. Please be aware that our summer camp hours are slightly different. We open at 7:30 and close at 5:30.

For faster service on requests to the office, email Cheryl Russell at:

SHMOFFICE@ALLTEL.NET

CLASS NOTES

Infants

“Babbles from the Babies”

Another month has flown by...the babies are growing up so fast. The weather is getting warmer by the day so we wanted to remind you to get your sunscreen/bug spray forms signed and brought in. Also, please fill out your allergy forms as soon as possible. Thank you!!!

This month Alyssa and Summer are running neck and neck trying to get this walking thing going. They both are taking steps by themselves...we are so proud and so are they!

Ethan is cruising around the room. He's been letting go some, too. He will be taking off real soon.

Savannah is always doing something to put a big smile on our faces. She is trying to talk and is saying a few words.

Easton celebrated his 1st birthday on the 2nd! HAPPY BIRTHDAY EASTON!! We missed you while you were on vacation. He is really wanting to let go and walk, too!

Ms. Tammy and I brought in some balls and the kids have really enjoyed them, along with bubbles and coloring. Puzzles are a big hit...even if they do turn into cymbals. The kids have a good time “playing” the puzzle pieces.

We're having such a good time in the Infant Room...come by and visit us any time! Don't forget to bring in your monthly “Puffs” and check your Daily Report! Thank you so much for your cooperation.

We will surely miss Ethan! We hope you have a nice summer vacation and we'll see you in the

Fall. As for Summer, Alyssa, and Savannah, we will come and visit you in the Beginner's class! Have fun!

Ms. Vicki, Ms. Betsy,
Ms. Tammy, and Ms. Laura

Talk about Timing!

On the last day of Summer Camp last year, we found a six inch long caterpillar called a hickory horned devil on the back patio of the school. The kids were amazed by it and we put it in a container of dirt. It quickly buried itself, never to be seen again. Ten months passed, and everyone had given up on it but Ms. Roberta.



Our resident animal lover kept the dirt damp and the container away from little hands. Today, on the last day of the school year, a huge moth emerged from the dirt! The kids were thrilled that it actually became a moth. After watching it dry its wings, everyone marched out to the big pecan tree behind the school to set it free. It was priceless!



Wet n' Wild

A special thank you to the Valentine family for turning our playground into a virtual water park with their HUGE waterslide! The kids had a great time and were still talking about it the next day. Thank you also to the Thompson, Thomas, and other families that brought water pools and treats for the kids. We had a lot of fun during our last week of school!



Important Dates

Monday May 29th

Tuesday May 30th

Wednesday, May 31st

Memorial Day - School Closed

Summer Camp Planning - School Closed

First day of Summer Camp