

Due West UMC Preschool

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2009 CALENDAR

- 1 Tuition and lunch bunch fees due
- 1 Field trip to Marietta fire station—
Mrs. Micale & Mrs. Davalos
- 6&9 Spanish classes—3-5s
- 7&8 Story Time—2's
- 7&8 Individual & sibling pictures
- 12-16 Scholastic book fair (see article for
times)
- 12&13 Tumble Time—1 & 2s
- 13 Open House O2s-3's (T/Th) 6:00PM
- 15 Laminating Day
- 14&15 Music classes—1-5s
- 15 Open House 3s (M/W/F), 4s & 5s 6:00
- 16 Field Trip to Marietta fire station—
Mrs. Kelley & Mrs. Armentrout
- 16 Holiday Market committee meeting
9:30AM in the Miracle Basket Cafe
- 20&23 Spanish classes—3-5s
- 21&22 "Space" program—4 & 5s
- 23 Field trip to A la Carte—Mrs.
Armentrout
- 26&27 Chapel—2s—5s
- 27 Staff Meeting—early release, 12:00
- 28,29&30 Fall Special Snacks
- 29&30 Fall Progress Reports—3s-5s

OPEN HOUSE

Open House is an exciting night when we invite the children and their parents of the older two through young five-year-old classes to come to the classrooms to experience a shortened version of the preschool day. Let your child show you around his/her room and show you his/her favorite activities and toys. We will have two nights of Open House this year so that it won't be so late for the children.

The schedule will be:

October 13 6:00-6:45 PM

Mrs. Burn's class

Mrs. Crane's class

Mrs. Morrison's class

October 15 6:00-6:45 PM

Mrs. Dreyer's class

Mrs. Moskal's class

Mrs. Kelley's class

Mrs. Micale's class

Mrs. Davalos' class

Mrs. Armentrout's class

Please arrive on time as the teachers have activities planned for the whole time. If you have two children scheduled at the same time, it works best to bring two adults so that each child can be in their own class the whole time. A parent must accompany each child. We have scheduled child care for all siblings. We'll have a room for younger and one for older children. Please reply on the note we send home to reserve a spot for your non-preschool children.



PRESCHOOL MAGNETS

We have preschool logo magnets in the office for \$3.00 each. We would like for everyone to have one on their car to show that your child attends Due West and to let other people know about our school. If you would like to have one, just put \$3 in an envelope with preschool magnet and your child's name on the front. We will put the magnet in your child's folder.



GREAT START!

Thanks to all the teachers, assistants, parents, and children for a great start to our preschool year. We welcome those of you who are new to Due West and welcome back the returning families. We want this to be a great experience for everyone, so please help us keep the lines of communication open. We are always interested in your comments.



FIELD TRIP

The first field trip for the four and young five-year-old classes will be October 1st (Mrs. Micale & Mrs. Davalos) & Oct. 16th (Mrs. Kelley & Mrs. Armentrout). The children will visit the historic Marietta fire station on Haynes Street. We must have a signed permission slip and car/booster seat for every child who goes on the trip—no exceptions.

The children should wear their preschool t-shirts IF THEY HAVE ONE. Our order has not arrived for the new shirts.

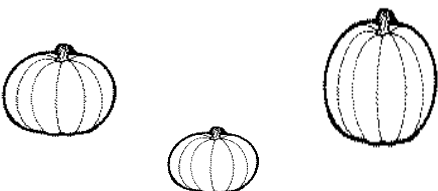
Parents, if you would like to be a driver for our field trips, we must have your field trip driver form and a copy of your driver's license and car insurance information on file in the preschool office. We appreciate your willingness to help us!

DANCE & TUMBLEBUS CLASSES

Dance classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays 1:00-1:45 for the 2 1/2-5s children who are enrolled. We have a few more openings in these classes: Monday: 3 and Tuesday: 6.

The Tumblebus comes to the preschool on Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00-1:30 every week for the 3-5s children who are enrolled. The openings we have are: Wednesday: 2 and Thursday: 2

If you have been thinking about enrolling your child for either class, there is still time. Ask for an enrollment form and return it with a check in your child's tote bag. I try to keep the children from a preschool class together in a class. If your child cannot go on the same day as his/her class, he/she can go the other day. The class limit is 12 children. If you have any questions, please call 770-590-0982 or email kcoffeen@duewest.org.



PROGRESS REPORTS

Children in the three, four, and young five-year-old classes will receive a fall progress report on October 29 & 30. These one page forms are the way we let you know how your child is adjusting to preschool. If you have any questions about your child's progress report, please contact your child's teacher.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair every morning the week of Oct. 12-16 and during both Open House nights. The location will be in the first room on the right inside the door to our hall from the Narthex. It will be open every morning that week 8:30-10:00 and on the Open House nights 6:00-8:00. Scholastic has a great selection of children's books that we recommend for your children. They make great Christmas presents! The preschool will earn free books and cash based on the amount of purchases, but our main goal is to get as many books as possible into our students' homes. We thank you for your participation. We will also need volunteers to be at the book fair every time it is open. You will receive an email that will tell you how you can volunteer to help us.



FALL SPECIAL SNACKS



October 28, 29, and 30 will be the days our classes will have their fall special snacks. This is a very "low key" day when we celebrate fall and all that is needed is a special snack and drink and maybe a game to celebrate the day. The children do NOT wear costumes or have other Halloween type activities. Thanks to the parents who are providing our special snacks for this day!

PRESCHOOL OFFICE PHONE

If you receive the main church message when you call the preschool office number (770-590-0982), you can easily reach the preschool phone by dialing **242** any time during the message. I know it's frustrating to have to listen to the whole message, so dial 242 and it will ring in the preschool office.



HOLIDAY MARKET

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 7th 9:00-2:00 for the fifth annual Holiday Market. It is a fun day with shopping (over 40 vendors with all kinds of craft items, food, jewelry, and gifts), an extensive silent auction (including an item from each preschool class), a bake sale, and live entertainment. The preschool parent Holiday Market Committee sponsors this great event with lots of help from all of you and businesses in this area and beyond. We'll be sending home a packet of information of ways that you can be involved in this great event. The proceeds will be used for classroom materials and equipment. The next committee meeting is Friday, October 16th at 9:30 in the Miracle Basket Café and nursery is available. Let Mrs. Coffeen know if you plan to attend and if you'll need nursery.

MUSTARD SEED FUND RAISING BOOKS

I hope everyone has had a chance to check out the Mustard Seed Fund Raising website to see the wonderful personalized books that you or your child's grandparents can order for your child. They have more details about your child than any personalized book I have ever seen. These books will be great Christmas presents! You can also forward this website to your friends and relatives so they can order one too. October 11th is the last day to order these books.

<http://www.mustardseedfundraising.org/organizations/duw-west-umc-preschool-ministry>



REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

1. Carline. Please drive slowly in the church parking lot! You never know when a child may come out between the parked cars. Also, please don't try to cut in or let other cars get in front of you in the afternoon carline. If the assistant has already gotten the numbers we will not have that child in line.
2. Please remember the shoe policy. All children should be wearing closed toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes) every day to school. Even on rainy days the children play in the large room downstairs so flip flops, sandals, and Crocs are not safe for them to wear.
3. Every child in every class should have a complete change of clothes in a Ziploc bag (pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) at the school.
4. Please check your child each morning to be sure he/she is well enough to come to school. When everyone keeps their sick children at home, everyone stays healthier. Germs are spread very easily between children and even as much as we wash hands and clean, the best prevention is having healthy children in the class and sick children at home! This is especially important this year with the flu going around.
5. If you have a cell phone, please be sure that it is turned on when your child is at school. We need to be able to reach you in case your child becomes sick during school time.
6. We close the preschool any day that Cobb Co. schools are closed. The only exceptions to that are days like Monday, the 21st when we determine that it is not safe to have the children here or parents driving and Good Friday. We do not follow their early release days. The only days that we release the children early are our staff meeting days which are once a month (except December and May when we don't have one on a school day). We will not have a staff meeting in September in place of the one we missed.



NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

Mrs. Harris' Baby Bees (Infants):

September was a great month. We have had such a wonderful time getting to know each other. I want to say thank you to all of our parents, you have helped make it such an easy transition in the morning by giving a quick goodbye and it has allowed your child to adjust so quickly to their new environment. They are all so happy and ready to sponge up so many new things.

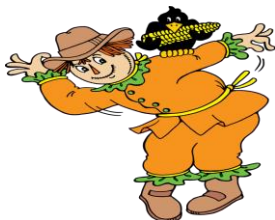
The young ones have been going outside with our friends in the one year and the young two's class and have really enjoyed watching all the big kids climb and jump and we will soon be ready to do that ourselves. Our Tumble Time and Music classes have started this month and we had a blast jumping, rolling, sliding and singing.

We look forward to see your child learn and grow, thank you so much for allowing us to share that with you.

Parents thank you so much for your donations of wipes, tissues and Clorox clean up wipes, they are every day uses that help keep our faces and room clean of those nasty germs.

Mrs. Morrison's Ladybugs (Ones M/W):

Our year is off to a great start. We have had a few tears shed at the beginning but the children are wonderful. We have been spending a lot of time getting to know each other. We had our first Tumble Time. We played with the parachute and enjoyed jumping around. We love to go out on the playground and play with Mrs. Schaefer's class. Some of us like to eat the mulch on the playground or put it in our hair. I'm looking forward to working with all of you this school year. Thank you for all the school supplies that were sent in to get our year off to a good start.



Mrs. Ashford's Ladybugs (Ones T/Th):

Together we have navigated the first six weeks of preschool. How do you feel? I hope there is a sense of familiarity, routine and fun. Remember that this is all new to your children even if they were here last year. They are trying to become acquainted with a new space and new faces. Separation anxiety and tears are expected developmental responses to a child learning to be independent. Seeing you leave is hard – a pull between wishing to keep you close, yet wanting to stay and play. Always say goodbye and remind your child that you will be back. Your child learns that you are truthful and that they can trust you. This sense of security makes it easier to venture out and spend some time at preschool all by themselves. While you are gone, we are hard at work singing, dancing, working puzzles, building blocks, and painting. We love to run outside with Mrs. Schaefer's young twos and Mrs. Harris' young ones. There is so much to discover! Happy September birthdays: Evan and Sonali have turned two!!!

Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

Well, the school year has gotten off with a bang! We have had fun in September getting to know one another. The kids are adjusting to our daily routine and are learning our inside & playground rules. We have also learned how to color on the paper and not on the table and to wait our turn for almost everything. We have been busy doing fun art work and I have learned that they all love to paint. We attended our first music class, story time, chapel, and tumble time and the kids all did a great job and enjoyed participating. Our Bible thought for this month was "God made me" and we have learned that God made each one of us very special in our own little way. Mrs. Luders, Mrs. Kubek, and I would like to thank all our parents for the wonderful items we received from our class' wish list. We would also like to thank you for the great job you are all doing for us by using the car pool line. We are looking forward to the rest of the year, watching your children learn and have fun with their new friends and having new experiences with us. Thank you for allowing us to share this time with them. God bless.

Mrs. Burns' Fish (Older Twos):

September was getting to know you month. The class had a wonderful time introducing themselves and learning the names of their new friends. They're also learning the classroom and playground rules. While this will be a year long process, the children are adjusting.

Now that it's the end of the month, the cool breeze of fall is in the air. We are learning the colors of fall. We've already free painted using yellow, green, and orange. We also have painted trees and have made 3 D versions of the trees.

Mrs. Rochler and I are asking that you please pack a jacket in your child's school bag. We go outside at 10:30 in the morning and some days it may be a little chilly.

Remember to check your child's bag and folder each day that he or she attends class for information from Mrs. Coffeen or me.

We would like to thank you for the stickers, the yummy snacks and for being supportive of the class.

Ms. Crane's Puppies (3's T/Th):

We have had a great month getting to know each other. We have had fun at Tumble Bus, learned how to dance in Spanish and had a lovely time with Story Time and Mother Goose.

The children have gotten the routine of the day very well and are a pleasure to have on Tuesdays and Thursdays! We have been working very hard on our Creation book at craft time and reading the story of how God created our world! Please ask your child about Allie Alligator and Bubba Bear.

Mrs. Morrison's Turtles (3's T/Th):

We are off to a wonderful start this year. We have had a very busy first month of school. We have spent a lot of time getting to know each other and going over the school rules. We greatly enjoyed our visit to Tumblebus. We have had our first Spanish class, Chapel, Story Time and Music class. We had a wonderful time with the magician and his

Mrs. Morrison, continued

puppets. This month we have been talking about Creation, our five senses, and working on Zoo-phonics. We have spent a lot of time working on a book about Creation and on our cutting skills. Our playground time is spent with two other classes, Mrs. Burns Older 2's and Mrs. Crane's 3's. We really enjoy playing outside, so please remember to dress your child in outdoor play clothes (no sandals please). When we have rainy days or days that it is too cold to go out, we can go to the Family Life center to play or watch a video. So if your child has a special video that they would like to share with the class, they can bring it in on the days we cannot go outside. Thank you for all the school supplies, it has made the start of the year a lot easier. I look forward to seeing all of you at the open house in October. Happy Birthday, Emily and Seth!

Mrs. Dreyer's Fish (3's M-W-F):

We have had a fantastic beginning of preschool! It has been a joy to get to know all of the children. We are amazed at how quickly they have adjusted to our classroom routines. Birthday celebrations have been almost weekly. The kids ask "Whose birthday is it next week?" Happy Birthday Paige, Haden and Andrew! The children have loved having jobs and it has helped them learn to take turns. The kids all truly enjoy showing their creativity doing art projects. They especially love painting, cutting, and gluing. We have discussed all of God's amazing creations and worked hard on our creation books. We have also finished our introduction to the Zoo Phonics letters and animals. We were amazed at the excitement the kids have to meet the new animals and learn their sounds! Our first Spanish, music, story time and chapel were so much fun and enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Johnson, the magician and his animal puppets put on a great show for us and taught us a lot about values. Thank you Mrs. Young for the red play dough and thank you Mrs. Finn for reading to us! Mrs. Pass and I appreciate all the supplies, donations and support from all the parents. We are so blessed to have such great children and parents and are looking forward to a wonderful year!



Mrs. Moskal's Turtles (3's M-W-F):

We are having a great time together! It has been fun getting to know each child and to see friendships developing.

We spent our first two weeks of preschool getting to know each other and becoming adjusted to our routine and rules. The month of September was busy. We talked about God's creations and put together our creation book. We focused on how each one of us is special because God made us. We talked about how we are to love one another. We worked on our Zoo-phonics letters, sounds and song. We also spent time covering our five senses. They have worked on cutting skills, painting, play dough, days of the week, the circle shape, the color red, our numbers and walking in a straight line. Thank you to Mrs. Harmon for making our play dough this month.

The children loved the magician that came to school. They were rolling on the floor with laughter. They loved Mrs. Jones' puppets during story time. Mrs. Partin, the music teacher, kept them moving with fun songs. They were very attentive during chapel with Mrs. Coffeen and hearing the creation story.

We celebrated Ryan Deaver's birthday on September 14th.

Mrs. Rochler and I are enjoying your wonderful children and look forward to watching them grow and change during the year.

Mrs. Kelley's Busy Bees (4's M-W-F):

Wow! What a great start to the school year! Mrs. Deiters and I couldn't be more thrilled with the wonderful class we have been blessed with. All of the children are a joy to teach. The children are making fast friends and everyone is getting along great! You should be proud of how well they are behaving; very few clips are moving!

We began the year getting to know each other while working on a special prayer book which we will give out at Open House in October. That was a lot of fun. Later in the

month, we talked about apples and made yummy applesauce. Ask your child how they liked it. We even characterized the apples by size, shape, color etc. The class is really enjoying Zoo-phonics. I am amazed at how much they already know. The children are really catching on to identifying patterns. Ask them how to tell the difference between AB and AABB patterns. They are so smart!! ☺

We had two Spanish classes this month and we were amazed at how much Spanish the children already knew. They really enjoyed Story Time with Mrs. Jones. Everyone was so attentive and each child was able to participate in acting out the stories that she told. The magic program was a big hit. Mr. Johnson does a super job – he is very funny!! As always, the children were taught some great songs in music class by Mrs. Partin. Can you believe that we will soon begin working on songs for Thanksgiving? How time flies...

Mrs. Deiters and I thank you for allowing us to teach your children. We are going to have an awesome year!



Mrs. Micale's Monkeys (4's M-Th):

Let me begin by saying your children are awesome! We have had a wonderful start to the school year and it is amazing how quickly everyone settled into our classroom routine. Our themes for September were "All about Me" and "My Community". We learned about the unique and amazing ways that God made each of us special. The theme was reinforced through art projects and songs. We have also learned two Bible stories this month, the story of Creation and the story of the Wise Builder. Our nursery rhyme was Humpty Dumpty and the children had lots of fun reciting the rhyme and acting it out.

Mrs. Micale, continued

In addition to our theme and Bible stories we have begun working on some important skills. We have started our Zoo-phonics lessons and have completed the introduction to all 26 “animal friends”. We have also worked on the letters, Aa, Ee ,Ii ,and Oo. Thank you for the support of our Letter of the Week Show-n-Tell. The children really enjoy this activity. In math this month we have begun working on two patterns, ABAB and AABB. We also worked on the numbers 1-5.

We have enjoyed many special activities this month. We saw a magic show focusing on traditional values and had a Mother Goose story time with Mrs. Jones. We have also experienced our first music and Spanish classes this month. Chapel with Mrs. Coffeen was another special time.

Mrs. Alfonsin and I would like to thank everyone for attending orientation and for your generosity in providing our classroom with much needed supplies. We really appreciate the support and are looking forward to a great year.

Happy Birthday to Kendra , August 31.

Mrs. Davalos’ Butterflies (4’s M-Th):

It has been a wonderful start to our school year. We have really gotten to know your children over the past few weeks and have never had a more loving bunch. These kids know how to give great hugs! They are also learning our classroom schedule and procedures. The children are becoming more independent as they unpack their own bags each morning and lunches each afternoon. They are also a great group at cleaning up. They can make a mess, but they get it cleaned up in no time.

We have enjoyed going to our first "special" classes. We have had a great show on values. Puppets and magic were used to remind the children to be kind and honest. They also had their first Spanish class. Mrs. Tansey helped them learn the Mexican Hat Dance. What an undertaking!! It was so much fun and the children learned to count in

Mrs. Davalos, continued

Spanish too. Our first story time was acting out nursery rhymes. Every child got a chance to help act out, sing, or recite a nursery rhyme. These rhymes have been lost over the years, but we are trying to bring them back as they are great ways to teach rhyming words, memorization, and sequencing. (Not to mention the children love them!) We also had our first music class. These children love to sing and dance.

We have been working on learning our vowels. In Zoo-phonics they are called hard workers. We have been examining how many of the children have vowels in their names. They are always surprised to see how many hard workers (vowels) are used in every one’s names. Each week we learn the sound of the letter, decorate the animal it represents, read stories with and about the letter, and learn to write it too. Phonics is an important part of our day. We hope you are enjoying the practice we send home too. It is a chance to review each letter with your child, and see what they remember.

Our religious lessons have been varied. We have talked about creation, the wise builder, and have learned many prayers. We know you all can’t practice all of the prayers we have learned so we have a special surprise for you...coming soon. We also talked to the children about silent prayer. They were surprised and excited to learn that you could pray inside your head and God would hear. We've been practicing that skill at school too.

The focus of math has been calendar, counting, and patterning. We review and sing about the days of the week daily. We put up numbers on the calendar and review how they look, and we pattern on the calendar too. This month our pattern is red apple, green apple, red apple, green apple. This is called an AB pattern. Many of the children need practice with this skill so we will keep working on it at school. At home you can help too! Pattern everything from cereal to toys. For example, red block, blue car, red block, blue car or Cheerio, Chex, Cheerio, Chex etc.

(continued on next page)



Mrs. Davalos, continued

We have also talked about what a community is and what one looks like. I challenged the kids to tell you something that they see in their community as they drive down the street. We will be making a community map for our room soon too. We will also celebrate Johnny Appleseed's birthday later this month.

What fun preschool is! I guess that is why we never left.

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

Wow! One month over already! We are having such a great time with all of your children. Thank you again for sharing your children with us.

We started the school year off by getting our carpet squares done in one day! Your children love getting their toes and hands dirty!!

The last week of August we learned about the Ocean and the letter "O". Your children (and you) did an excellent job on the "O"s Around Us environmental wordbook. The children had fun reading them to their classmates. Thank you for all your help! We have also been learning a lot about our country's flag. It always amazes me how fast the children learn and remember things. We cannot wait for them to teach you a few of these facts at our Open House in October. The first week of September we learned about each other and ourselves. We had a great performance called "Traditional Values". The kids really enjoyed the magician's magic tricks. We also started our Prayer books, which the kids will be taking home at Open House.

We learned about each other's families the second week of September. We have posted our "Family Photos" in the classroom, so stop by and take a peek next time you are in the school. We enjoyed our first Story Time and Spanish class.

We ended the month with a week on Apples and a week on Friends. We had fun making applesauce and learning about Johnny Appleseed. We had a special visit (thanks to Mrs. Tinney) from him!

Mrs. Armentrout, continued

We made pizzas one day and they were yummy! We had fun in Music and learned a lot in Chapel with Mrs. Coffeen.

Our science project of the week has been a BIG hit. Be sure to ask your children what they did for science on Wednesdays (and sometimes Thursdays!)

We celebrated two birthdays this month Jackson's on the 10th and Faith's on the 25th. Ask about the surprise at the end of the birthday book.

We would like to thank you for all the donations you all have made to the class, and for all of you who donated your time to fill our classroom helper slots. The "Mystery Reader" has been a big hit with the kids and we cannot wait to have you visit if you haven't yet!

It is going to be a fantastic year! Time flies when you are having fun...and we are having lots of fun and the days are just flying by.

