

Due West UMC Preschool



NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR

- 1 Tuition and Lunch Bunch payments due
- 1& 2 Police visit—3s
- 2& 5 Spanish class—3-5s
- 3 Reptile Wrangler program—4 & 5s
- 3&4 Story Time—2s
- 5 Firefighter visit—3s
- 6 Preschool Registration for 2010-2011
(church families, alumni siblings, public)
- 8&9 Tumble Time—1 & 2s
- 10,11&12 Valentine special snacks—all ages
- 15 No School
- 17 Laminating Day
- 17 Staff Meeting—early dismissal 12:00
- 17&18 Music Classes—1's-4's
- 17&18 Atlanta Puppet program—3-5s
- 19 Chinese New Year Celebration—
Mrs. Kelley & Armentrout
- 22&23 Tumble Time—1 & 2s
- 23&26 Spanish class—3's, 4's, & Y.5's
- 24&25 Edward Casey silhouettes—all ages
- 24&25 Chapel—2's-Y. 5's
- 26 Makit Plate orders due



COMMUNITY HELPERS

The children in the infant through 3's classes will be learning about community helpers this month. We will have programs with a police officer and firefighter (including vehicles!) for the threes. The infants, ones and twos will go out and see the vehicles.



AFTERNOON PICK-UP

If someone other than a parent or the usual pick-up person is picking up your child, we need a note or a phone call to let us know who it will be. That helps us to be sure that each child is going to the correct person. Even if you give the person your carline number, we need to know who is picking up your child, so please send in a note or call the office (770-590-0982). We do not allow hand made carline numbers, so if you need another one just send in a note and we'll send one home. Thanks!



VALENTINE SPECIAL SNACKS

These "parties" will be held on Feb. 10th, 11th and 12th and will go back to a "low key" party with a special snack and maybe a simple activity or game. Your child's teacher will send a note home to let you know when the party will be and how she would like to handle valentine cards.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for 2010-2011 will open to the public on Saturday, February 6th. We'll take church and alumni families from 8:00-8:30am and then community families from 8:30-9:00am. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our registration. If they would like more information or to schedule a tour have them contact Mrs. Coffeen at 770-590-0982 or kcoffeen@duewest.org.

Help Turn Our Preschool Green!

Due West Preschool is off and running on a recycling program and would like your help to make it a success. We are collecting the items listed below and we will receive a rebate for sending in these items. Therefore, the more we collect the more we will receive. We collect them in the classrooms from snack and lunch and you can save them at home and send them in with your child. You do not have to do anything special to them. We only ask that you keep the juice boxes separated as they tend to be sticky. We will do the rest! Thank you to everyone who has already sent things in for us.

No longer will all the plastic packaging from Scott brand bath tissue, paper towels, napkins and moist wipes, and Huggies brand diapers be considered waste. TerraCycle tries to make its upcycled products appeal to the target audience of the original product. For example, Capri Sun drink pouches become pencil cases and lunch boxes, while [Frito-Lay products](#) are made into items such as binders and [portable speakers](#). Kleenex packaging becomes a desktop organizer. Beginning next year you will begin to see many of these products available at major retailers such as Target, Wal-Mart, and Home Depot.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Brown at ruick1@att.net or 678-662-9196 or Karen Coffeen at 770-590-0982.

Recycling List: Plastic Packaging from Huggies, Kleenex, Scott; Capri Sun & Honest Kids Juice Pouches; Bear Naked Snack Wrappers; Clif Bar Wrappers; Nabisco Product Wrappers; Mars Products (Candy Wrappers All Sizes); Frito Lays Products (Chip Wrappers All Sizes). We will continue to update this list as new items are accepted. Thank you for your help and support!

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Information will be sent home on February 16 & 17 for our final fundraiser for this year—Makit Plates. Children with an order will make a picture on a round piece of paper using either washable markers or stamp pads. We will send the pictures to the Makit Company to be made into melamine plates. The plates are 10" in diameter and can be put in the dishwasher. Each plate costs \$12 and makes a great Mother's Day gift for Mom and Grandmas or a wonderful keepsake for your child. You can get duplicates of the same picture on other plates as well.

They do caution that the duplicates are a little lighter in color and contrast. Thanks in advance for your support of this fundraiser. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Coffeen 770-590-0982 or orkcoffeen@duewest.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you be interested in helping make a digital scrapbook of our pictures for this school year? We could use some help in organizing and choosing the pictures to be uploaded to a website. Please contact Mrs. Coffeen at 770-590-0982 or kcoffeen@duewest.org if you are interested.

EDWARD CASEY SILHOUETTES

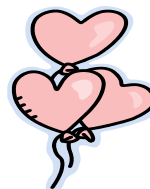
This event was moved from January to February because Edward had a heart attack in December. We are glad that he will be able to come to Due West this month. Edward Casey is a silhouette artist who formerly worked for Disney World. Silhouettes are a unique art form and silhouette artists are increasingly rare. Edward cuts the silhouette free hand as he looks at the person. He will be at the preschool on Feb. 24 & 25 to make silhouettes of your children. You are also welcome to bring in siblings who are not in preschool. He can also do a silhouette of two children together or from a photo as long as it shows their profiles. We will send home all of the information in February.

Reptile Wrangler

The fours and young fives will have a special treat this month when Ken Panse, the Reptile Wrangler comes to do a program for them. He'll be bringing a jumbo bullfrog, green iguana, boa constrictor, and emperor scorpion. He does a very educational and fun program and the children are always fascinated by the reptiles.

Atlanta Puppet

Peter Hart will be here Feb. 17 & 18 with his puppets and marionettes to do a program for the three through five year olds. His program involves a lot of music and interaction and the children are enthralled watching the puppets and marionettes.



Due West Treasure Chest Consignment Sale

The spring sale is coming March 11th-13th!
Registration to work and sell will be at the following time:

Saturday, February 6 9:00-11:00 am

All registrations will be held inside the “sunflower doors” (lower level-North Campus)

For more information call the Treasure Chest phone line at 678-318-1908 or email

treasurechest.duewest@yahoo.com or treasurechestvolunteer@yahoo.com. You can

also get more information on the website:

www.duewest.org/pages/community/consignment_sale.

On March 11th-13th, the family life center will be filled with gently used children's and junior's clothes, toys, nursery items, and maternity clothes. It's a great place to outfit your children for the spring and summer at a fraction of the cost of buying things in a store. Plus 30% of the proceeds stay at the church and are used to purchase things to benefit all the children of the church (including the preschool). We appreciate your support of this event.

If you are interested in this opportunity please send a note to Mrs. Coffeen and thank you for your help!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Cobb County will hold their kindergarten registration at all schools on March 31st. Mark your calendar now if your child will be attending kindergarten next year! We will send out more information in March.

Check out:

www.duewest.org/pages/community/weekday_preschool



NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

Mrs. Harris' Baby Bees (Infants):

It was so wonderful coming back from our holiday break to learn everything that our children had discovered new about themselves. Some were saying new words, making new signs and learning to get around in new and different ways and even eating more varieties of foods. How excited you must feel also.

We want to welcome our new student Madelyn to our Monday/Wednesday class. We are excited to have a new friend.

A big happy birthday goes out to Emily, Mrs. Augur and Mrs. Harris.

Thank you parents for your generous donation of the Boogie wipes and the Clorox cleaning wipes. We love to keep little noses and our class room clean.

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

January has gone so quickly. We have been talking about winter and transportation. We have been singing The Wheels on the Bus all month long. We have been painting a lot already this year. We have been enjoying our music class with Mrs. Partin and Tumble Time with Miss Tara. We have not had many warm or dry days to go outside so we have been playing downstairs with Mrs. Schaefer's class. If anyone has a favorite movie they want to send in, please feel free to do so. Happy 2nd Birthday, Zac.

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

Check out our winter wonderland bulletin board! Your wonderful ones have made plenty of painted “no flakes” and “no mans”! Our winter theme had us working on sign language for “cold”, “snow” and “rain”. Concepts are definitely easier to grasp when the weather cooperates!! Very young children need lots of time to explore experiences that you and I take for granted. Our adult brains are able to calculate which temperatures are cold, and we can determine “coldness” just by looking at something. But wonderful ones need tactile encounters: going outside when it is chilly, seeing snowflakes fall, feeling cold tap water, and playing with icy snowmen reinforce the concept of “cold”. (continued on next page)

Mrs. Ashford, continued

The best day ever was with Mrs. Schaefer's class when we shared Mitten Day. We hung out in our mittens with our very own snowmen, read mitten stories, had a snowman shaped snack, and then made snow! It was great to be with our bigger buddies. Thank you God, for making winter (Psalm 74:17)!

Mrs. Schaefer's Bears (Young Twos):

It was great to get back to school after the winter holidays! January has been full of fun getting back into the swing of things. The kids have adjusted well and are continuing to develop more and more each week. They are all talking more and expressing themselves more clearly. Some of them are even getting a little more interested in the potty! Our Bible thought for the month was "God made the winter" Psalm 74:17. So we talked and read books about snow. We even prayed for snow and God gave us a little. We made several snowmen & snowflakes for crafts. This month was also about transportation. The kids loved talking about how Jesus traveled to the Temple. They didn't understand why he just didn't drive or take a plane there. Our big achievement for the month was drinking out of regular paper cups at snack time and the kids did great! Lunch Bunch is a little harder so please keep sending a sippy cup for lunch. Our next goal is to learn how to put on our coats by ourselves. Please help with this at home and try not to send coats that need to go over their heads. We celebrated three birthdays this month: James on the 3rd, and Aidan & Mrs. Schaefer on the 25th. Happy Birthday! God Bless.

Mrs. Burns' Fish (Older Twos):

The Older Twos made it back to class well rested and ready for school. We read books about snowballs, snowmen, and snowflakes. For craft, the class made snowmen and snowflakes. Using this month's colors black and white, we painted penguins and made footprint penguins. This month we started working on putting on our own coats. The children really enjoyed this and worked very hard at it. The children are doing a great job with all the skills we are

Mrs. Burns, continued

working on. For example: walking in a straight line, playing nicely, sharing and cleaning up behind themselves.

Thanks again to all the parents for sending in snacks, napkins and cups.

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

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a great holiday and a nice, relaxing break. We are right back into the swing of things here at school. Happy Birthday to Caroline this month! Welcome to James Hale, our newest student. He moved to Atlanta from Savannah. We have been learning about transportation and winter this month. The class has all mastered recognizing their names and finding them at the table during snack, lunch and craft time. This is a huge accomplishment, so be sure to tell your preschooler good job. Mrs. Alexander and I have also noticed since the break that everyone is able to put their coats on without much help. This is another wonderful achievement! We had a really fun visit from Pat Leonard who did a presentation on the desert. The children sang songs about how life is out west and learned the differences between our weather and the weather on the desert. Thank you to all the parents who came for donuts for dad. The children had so much fun and it was a great success. Just a reminder...please make sure your child's coat is labeled and if we send home your child's clothing to send back in a spare set.

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

In January we have been talking about transportation, winter, and our Dads. We have made snowmen pictures, a special craft with Dad, and many other transportation pictures. We had a wonderful time this month with Mrs. Leonard who told us stories about the desert and the animals that live in the desert. The children have greatly enjoyed Spanish with Señora Tansey, especially singing Spanish songs. I would like to thank all the dads (and moms) for coming to school to have doughnuts with us, the children really enjoyed painting hands and showing all of you our class. We have been playing inside due to the cold and wet weather, so if you have a

Mrs. Morrison, continued

movie you want to send in for us to watch, please do so.

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

It is hard to believe how quickly January has flown by. This was a perfect month to talk about how God made winter because of all the snow, ice and very cold weather we had! The children enjoyed making snowflakes, snowmen and skiing penguins. Transportation is always one of the children's favorite themes. They enjoyed playing with cars, paper airplanes, buses, trains and singing "The Wheels on the Bus! The children shared kindness throughout the month in the classroom by sharing and listening well to their friends and teachers. It is amazing how kind three and four year olds can be to each other! After finishing letters i, j, k, and l we are now almost halfway through our alphabet books. The books look great and the children are getting very good at cutting, drawing and learning their Zoo-phonics animals and sounds. The children enjoyed two special shows this month, Deserts by Pat Leonard and a Super Fun Show. They truly enjoyed both! However, their favorite guests were their dads! Donuts with Dad was such a fun day for the children. They enjoyed eating donuts, painting their dad's hand and singing special songs! The dads looked great in their ties too! We were very sad to say goodbye to our very special friend Payton. We will miss her so much and wish her the best in Florida. We want to welcome Jack to our class. He is a great addition to the group. We are excited for February and themes full of hearts, love and goodness!

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

It was great welcoming your children back the first of the year. We loved seeing their smiling faces!

We pretended to go sledding and had a snowball fight. We all took a plane ride and they took turns being the pilots. They all had a great time with their own paper airplanes and helicopters. It has been fun talking about all the different types of transportation and winter

Mrs. Moskal, continued

hibernation for animals. We had fun hibernating in our pretend cave and reading with our flashlights. We worked on our letters K, L, M & N. We have enjoyed talking about our Bible story through the finger play and song they sang for the Dads. They enjoyed making their scrolls with the Bible story inside and hopefully were able to share some of the story with you. We have had fun working on colors, numbers and shapes. They have spent time writing their names and drawing figures.

They had fun working on gifts and songs for their dads, especially the D-A-D-D-Y song. They were all excited and looking forward to doughnuts with dad. Thanks to all the dads for taking time to enjoy the morning with your special little one. It was great!

We have missed Jackson. As some of you may know, Jackson broke his leg. He has to wear a cast for four weeks. He will return to school when he is comfortable walking on the cast.

We enjoyed celebrating Abby's birthday (1/19). Thanks to Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Harmon for reading to the class.

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

Happy New Year to all!! We were blessed with another wonderful month of preschool fun! Our return to school was in full swing with an outstanding program on the 6th - Fun Science. The kids were able to be scientists and chemists in the morning, discovering what happens when different things are mixed together. Hopefully when they got home they were able to show you what they did with their beakers and test tubes. Later in the month, we got to go to the Super Fun Show, which I am sure that if you asked your child about it they said it was "super fun". We all had a blast dancing and singing while learning at the same time. The children seemed to enjoy all of the neat crafts that went along with our winter and cold weather friends theme. I hope all of you have enjoyed displaying them around your home. One of my favorites that the children created was their snowman that they painted. We have a very creative class! Our dinosaur unit seemed to be a big hit with the children. They loved making

Mrs. Kelley, continued

dinosaur eggs and couldn't wait to get them home and hatch them. Hopefully, they all had a nice little surprise when they were hatched. Thanks to all the dads who took time out of their busy schedule to come and share "Donuts with Dad" with the children. They always look forward to sharing special events with their families. One last thing... I am so proud of the children on how well they are learning their addresses and phone numbers. Their award ribbons are getting pretty full now ☺.

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

It was really nice to return from Christmas Break and see so many smiling faces. The children had wonderful stories to share and were happy to see their classmates again. Our theme for January focused on dinosaurs. We began by learning new vocabulary which included the words prehistoric, paleontologist, extinct, carnivore, and vegetarian. One of the favorite centers was the Sand Center where we pretended to be scientists and dug for fossils and bones. In art, we made dinosaur eggs. I hope everyone was successful in helping the eggs "hatch". In Phonics this month we concentrated on the letters Ss, Zz, Bb, and Dd. We also completed a review of all the letters we have covered so far this year. The children are doing a great job of recognizing the sounds as well as identifying the letters. Our math lessons this month concentrated on a review of numbers 1-10. We have practiced counting to 10 and also counting groups of objects from 0 – 10. We also practiced writing our numerals from 1-5. Another skill we concentrated on this month was learning positional words. We learned two Bible Stories this month. The first was the story of Jesus visiting the Temple as a boy and the second was the story of David and Goliath. Our nursery rhyme this month was The Three Little Kittens. January was also a month for several special events. We had a Fun Science program that focused on preschool chemistry. The children did a great job of pouring liquids from their beakers to test tubes and were fascinated with the dry ice. Hopefully you have had a chance to use your chemistry kits at home. Our next

Mrs. Micale, continued

special event was Donuts with Dads. The children were thrilled to share the morning with Dad. Mrs. Alfonsin and I appreciate your willingness to take time out of your days to spend the morning with us, We had all 14 children present! Next, we enjoyed a visit from Shawn Brown and his Super Fun Show. This is an exciting and interactive program and the children had a wonderful time using their imaginations. The last day of the month was spent celebrating Chinese New Year. The children were able to taste various Chinese foods, make lantern and dragon crafts, hear an informative story about the holiday, and received a piece of real Chinese money. Thanks so much to Mrs. Kirkman and Mrs. Merchant for helping us with this special day.

Mrs. Davalos' Butterflies (4's M-Th):

What a way to start the year! I hope everyone enjoyed the snow. It wasn't much, but it was beautiful to see. The kids came back to school, rested, happy and ready to learn. They have been behaving so well and their quality of work continues to improve daily. We are so excited to see their progress.

This month we have been studying dinosaurs. We first learned about paleontologists and dug for dinosaurs at the sand table. Then we learned a fun Dino Dance and talked about how some dinosaurs ate plants while others ate meat. Next, we read about baby dinosaurs. The children loved making their paper mache' eggs. And finally we learned about fossils and made some out of clay. Dinosaurs are always exciting to learn about.

We continue to learn letters through books, writing and show and tell. Along with our new letters Ss, Zz, Bb, and Dd, we have been reviewing previously learned letters too. Our math concepts continue to be days of the week, counting, recognizing numbers, patterning, and we have been focusing this month on positional words like up, down, in front and behind.

This month we have focused our bible lessons on what Jesus was like as a child. We talked about how he loved to learn about God as a child. We even acted out a story to help them remember how he was lost at the temple once during

Mrs. Davalos, continued

Passover. The children did 12 jumping jacks to remember he was 12 years old, ran around the room 3 times to remember that he was lost for 3 days, and played leap frog (jumping over) to remember that he was celebrating Passover.

The children loved learning how to be a scientist during our Fun Science class. Their favorite was watching dry ice create bubbles in their beakers.

Donuts with Dad is always such a great time for dads to be a part of their children's day. Thanks to all the dads (and moms) that came to spend the morning with us.

We had our first 2 birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to Madison and Elizabeth!

Mrs. Armentrout's Frogs (Young Fives):

2010 has started out very busy for us! Your kids are doing great on their "Leveled Reading" and sight words. The kids are having fun taking their books home and practicing them with you. Please remember to send them back to school on Tuesdays so that they can read to me and get a new book.

The first few weeks back at school we worked on "winter" projects. We had a lot of fun wearing our pajamas to school and drinking hot cocoa!!

We had a week where we explored Space. The kids enjoyed making their CD aliens, making mini moons, and building a kaleidoscope.

The "Super Fun Show" was great! The kids were constantly laughing and at the edge of their seat for the whole show!

We also had a "Fun Science" chemistry class. The kids really enjoyed this and had a lot of fun seeing what all dry ice can do.

This month we have worked on our letters "X", "W", "S", and "I". The environmental wordbooks have been great. Keep up the good work!

In Science in our classroom this month we made snow in the classroom and got to play with it. We melted ice cubes and guessed how they would melt the fastest.

I would like to thank all the dads, moms, and grandparents who came to our "Donuts for

Mrs. Armentrout, continued

Dads". It was fun for the kids to eat breakfast with them.

We celebrated 2 birthdays this month—Sam on the 5th, and Luke on the 15th.

Thank you all again for all that each and every one of you do to make this class successful. We are very lucky to have such an awesome class!



A Parent's Guide to Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

What is school readiness?

It is never too early to start providing the kinds of experiences that will help your child enter school ready to succeed. "School readiness" refers to the academic, independence, communication, and social skills children need to do well in school. Getting your child ready for school requires you to spend time reading, talking, and playing with your child.

Academic readiness

Before entering kindergarten, children should have basic knowledge of themselves, their families, and the world around them. Through play and interactions with caring adults, children can come to school with many skills that teachers can build upon. To get your child academically ready for school you should:

- Read to your child daily and talk about what you've read.
- Visit the library. Check out books and attend story times.
- Sing rhyming songs and finger plays.
- Put your child's name on clothing and toys to help him or her recognize their name in print.
- Encourage your child to write his or her name.

(continued on the next page)

- Help your child learn basic colors by pointing and naming objects like, "green trees," "red apples," "blue coats."
- Give your child puzzles and games that require counting and problem solving.
- Let your child scribble, draw and write, cut and paste.
- Sing the alphabet song with your child, and provide letter magnets or other toys that will help him/her begin to recognize the letters of the alphabet.
- Take your child to the zoo, parks, the grocery store, the post office, and the pet shop. Talk about the sights and sounds of your day.
- Make time for your child to sing, dance, climb, jump, run, and ride tricycles or bikes.
- Choose childcare that promotes learning with well-planned, fun and interesting activities.

Social readiness

Social readiness is as important as academic readiness. Being able to get along with other children, follow directions, take turns, and say "goodbye" to parents are skills that kindergarten teachers hope to see from incoming children. To get your child socially ready for school you should:

- Set rules and give consequences for breaking them.
- Have regular routines for mealtime and bedtime.
- Encourage your child to play with and talk to other children.
- Encourage your child to take turns and share with other children.
- Encourage your child to finish difficult or frustrating tasks once they have begun them.

- Encourage your child to consider the feelings of others.
- Model and discuss positive ways for your child to express his or her feelings.
- Discourage hitting, biting, screaming, and other negative behaviors.
- Kiss and hug your child several times a day.

Independence

When children complete basic self-help tasks such as zipping their coats or tying their shoes, they feel a great sense of pride. Independence builds confidence and self-esteem. In school, children will be expected to do many things on their own. To make sure your child is independent in school you should:

- Buy shoes and clothes that are easy for children to buckle, zip and fasten on their own.
- Let your child get dressed and put on shoes by him or herself.
- Let your child do simple chores like setting the table at mealtimes or cleaning up toys after playing.
- Encourage independent toileting and hand washing.
- Let your child work independently on activities such as completing puzzles.

Communication skills

Listening and speaking are the first steps to reading and writing in the preschool years. Through conversations with parents, teachers, and friends, children learn about the people, places and objects about which they will later read and write. It is through speaking that young children tell us what they know and understand about the world. To make sure that your child can communicate his or her thoughts and feelings in school you should:

- Have regular conversations with your child.

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Communication skills, continued

- Encourage your child to listen and respond to others when they speak.
- Answer your child's questions, even if the answer is "no."
- Help your child learn and use new words.
- Explore language through singing, rhyming, songs, and chant.
- Model the language you want your child to use.
- Write notes to your child.
- Help your child dictate letters to family and friends.

