



The CHASTAIN School

A Child Development Center & Preschool



October 2010

Upcoming Dates

- October 15th** — Parent's Night Out
- October 15th** - K-9 Unit Visits TCS
- October 18th –22nd** — Fall Pictures with Muddy Faces
- October 28th** — Fire Truck Visits TCS
- October 29th** — Halloween Parade @ 3 PM

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See Our Garden Grow!



Last May, Randy Harris of [Chef Advantage](#) and approximately ten members his staff generously donated their time, money, and materials to help us cultivate our lovely garden.

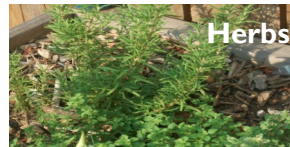
The TCS Children's Garden has really grown over the last few months. The Preschool classrooms have done a wonderful job tending to the garden. On a weekly basis, our preschool classes rotate the responsibilities of watering and maintaining the garden. The butterfly garden has provided a home for both butterflies and bumble bees.



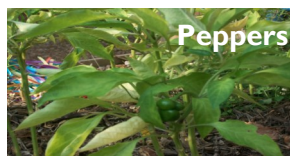
Tomatoes and green peppers are continuing to sprout and the herbs (rosemary, thyme, basil, lavender and parsley are fragrant and lush). We plan to make a pizza with the tomatoes and herbs that we grow when they are ready!



One of the main ideas we are emphasizing through the garden are the lessons of God's Circle of Life. As our children maintain, water, and tend the plants, they also have the opportunity to watch them grow into food that sustains life. They gain first-hand experience on the miracle of life through a seed. Watching a



seed grow can actually help simulate how life should be treated. Research has shown that the hands-on nature of gardening can enrich curriculum, improve children's interest in learning, encourage them to eat well, and develop social skills. Introducing children to gardening instills a life-long



passion for plants and respect for the environment. Some of the benefits of gardening with children include:

- Children are indirectly taught the wonders of science like the plant's life cycle and how human's intervention can break or make the environment.
- Provides science and math opportunities for hands-on learning, inquiry, observation, measuring, and experimentation.
- Promotes physical activity and quality outdoor experiences.
- Teaches children to nurture and care for other living things while developing patience.
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- Creates healthy eating habits.

You can encourage your children to develop a green-thumb by allowing them to participate in gardening activities at home and asking them about their gardening experiences at school.

Flu Shots with Passport Health

The Chastain School hosted a flu shot clinic with Passport Health for parents, children, and community members on Friday, September 24th from 4:30 PM — 6:15 PM.

This year we had 50 community members and 15 teachers sign up for flu shots, including most of our administrative staff and many of our infant teachers.

According to the CDC website: The single best way to protect against seasonal flu and its potential severe complications in children is to get a seasonal influenza vaccine each year. This year's vaccination will protect against the H1N1 virus in addition to two other strains of influenza.

For more information visit [Passport Health's website](#).



FYI: CVS has preservative-free flu shots available. Walk-ins are welcome, but it is better to call ahead. Supplies are limited. To locate a CVS near you, please visit their website at [CVS](#).

What	Where	When	Cost
9th Annual Pumpkin Festival	Stone Mountain Park	Fridays—Sundays in October Lasershow at 8pm -Saturdays	Tickets available @ Kroger -Adult \$24.60 Children -\$18.20
Fall Fun at the Farm	Cagle's Family Farm	Fridays- Sundays in October	Corn Maze Tickets 3yrs+ - \$10, Hayride to Bonfire Tickets - \$7
Disney on Ice presents: Toy Story 3	Philips Arena	Oct. 13-17. Wed.-Thurs. 7:30pm Fri 10:30am & 7:30pm, Sat 11am, 2:30 & 6:30 pm Sun—noon & 4pm	\$14 - \$75
Wings Over Atlanta Air Show	Dobbins Air Reserve Base	Oct. 16-17 - 8:30am -5:30pm	Free
Whooo's in the Park in the Dark?	Dunwoody Nature Center	Oct. 16. - 6:30 - 8:30pm	\$5/person
Fall Festival at The Frazer Center	The Frazer Center	Sunday, October 17th 2pm to 6pm	\$5 per adult & \$5 per child, or \$15 for Families
Middle School Musical	Alliance Theatre	Oct. 23 - 1:30 & 3:30 pm Oct. 25 - 7 pm Oct. 30, 1 & 3:30 pm	\$20 for adults \$15 for children
Pinocchio	Cobb Civic Center	Oct 23-24. Sat -7pm - Sun 2pm	\$15 - \$33

Learning About: **India**



A very special thank-you from the entire Chastain School goes out to Pooja Atwal (Jayan's mom in the Mulberry Room) for giving a presentation on Indian culture to our preschool classes.

The presentation included a short movie, story-telling, authentic clothing, pictures and descriptions of Indian customs and culture, and delicious samosas.

Our preschool classes have also incorporated stories and activities into their lesson plans that highlight Indian culture, including looking at maps, listening to music, and creating flags.

Throughout the school year, our preschool classrooms will design activities focused on one country every month. This list is as follows:

- November — Australia
- December — South Africa
- January — Japan
- February — Brazil
- March — Spain
- April — Italy
- May — Canada

If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact Kathy or Dana.

Did you know that children begin their path to reading as babies when they hear and respond to the sound of a human voice?

Literacy, the ability to comprehend and communicate through reading and writing, begins with understanding the *sounds* in language. Listening, talking, reading, and writing are all parts of early literacy learning—and they’re all connected.

It’s important for young children to hear and understand spoken language, become aware of the different language sounds, and start learning about print—letters and words. Preschoolers need writing to help them learn about reading and reading to help them learn about writing, but they need to *talk and listen* before learning about both!

Young children learn about literacy through everyday things at home. It’s especially important for families to encourage a love of reading and to demonstrate the power of writing to communicate ideas. When you guide your child’s hands and eyes to words on a page, she learns that marks have meaning. When you listen as she “reads” her scribbles, you give meaning to her own marks.

How else can you encourage your child to love reading, writing, and oral language so much that she begs for a bedtime story? The following strategies are a great start.

Ways to encourage literacy

In any home, there are countless ways to encourage a child’s love of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Here are 10 simple ideas for highlighting literacy in your everyday routine.

Talk and listen

Engage your child in meaningful, thought-provoking conversation. While you listen and respond to what he has to say, introduce new words or offer more description using more mature language.

Read aloud together

Perhaps the most important thing you can do to help your child build reading and writing skills is to read aloud with her.

Suggest activities that go with the books you read (“In this book, Yoko brought sushi to school for lunch. Would you like to make a special food for lunch?”)

Explore the sounds of language

Children love to play with sounds and words. Invite them to play with sounds and words and to think about spoken language itself. Make up games. Using stories, poems, and songs, or your own imagination, play with the following: rhymes, alliteration, sound matching, and sound/letter connections

Offer alphabet activities

Over time, playing with items like the following can help your child recognize the letters of the alphabet:

- ABC books
- magnetic letters
- alphabet blocks and puzzles

Support budding readers and writers as they test their new skills

Your child needs time and space to explore books and print on his own or with friends. You can

- Create a cozy book nook somewhere in your home and stock it with lots of good books
 - Reread favorite books, especially ones that invite your child to chime in (predictable books)
 - Fill your home with meaningful print, such as a daily schedule, helper charts, labels to identify things, and reminders (“Pump the soap one time”)
 - Encourage print in play (for example, provide or help your child create menus for a pretend restaurant)

Offer books throughout your home and even outdoors

Be sure to provide a wide variety of styles and topics:

- information books, like Byron Barton’s *Airport*, which introduce new vocabulary and concepts
- books, songs, and poems with strong rhymes, such as Raffi’s *Down by the Bay*
- stories with strong narrative plots, such as Mercer Mayer’s *There’s an Alligator under My Bed*

- books that reflect your culture and life experiences
- classics and new literature
- books with beautiful, inspiring illustrations

Support budding writers with lots of materials

Children need easy access to materials so they can build their early writing skills through scribble writing, groupings of random letters, and their own unique spelling of words. Offer your child:

- a writing basket stocked with pens, pencils, markers, paper, envelopes, and book-making materials
- demonstrations of writing (for example, write down your child’s description of her drawing)
- opportunities for meaningful writing (labels or explanations for artwork, block constructions, and other creations)
- writing materials to use in play (for example, pencils and notepads to write prescriptions, take orders, or make grocery lists)

Explain how books and print work

While introducing and reading books or other texts, help your child learn how print works:

- Point to words as you read them
- Note the differences between pictures and print
- Show how books in English are read from left to right, top to bottom
- Talk about the different parts of books, like the cover and the title page
- Encourage him to join in with repeated lines when reading his favorite stories

Build a home book collection

When children have books at home they are more likely to read for fun and to learn new things. You don’t have to spend a lot of money to develop a home library for your child. Good sources for cheap ways to build your collection include yard sales, secondhand stores, relatives and friends, libraries, used-book stores, online sellers, and early childhood programs.

This article is adapted from K.A. Roskos, J.F. Christie, and D.J. Richgels, “The Essentials of Early Literacy Instruction,” [Young Children 58 \(March 2003\): 52–60](#).

WHAT DOES PRESCHOOL LITERACY LOOK LIKE?

In the preschool years, many children learn to

- name and write alphabet letters
- hear rhymes and sounds in words
- recognize and write their own names
- use new vocabulary words in their conversations
- listen to stories for meaning

All About Me & Community Helpers

This school year marks the second year that our preschool and older toddler classrooms are participating in monthly school-wide themes. September's theme was **All About Me**.

The **All About Me** theme was centered around learning about classmates and family members and increase sensory awareness. We schedule this theme first because it is a great way to help our students become comfortable in new classrooms and is a great self-esteem builder.

You may have seen some projects directly related to this on your child's weekly lesson plans. Some of these activities included drawing self portraits, identifying family members, sharing family pictures, and storytelling by the children.

This month the school will focus on **Community Helpers**. Activities are



designed around learning about the people that help keep our community safe and functioning. Each class will design activities to learn about doctors, firefighters, police officers, mailmen, and other community members. Safety and using community resources is also a big focus of this unit.

This unit is highlighted by:

- **K-9 Unit Visit** — October 15th @ 3:30 PM
- **Fire Truck Visit** — October 28th @ 3:30 PM

The rest of this year's themes are as follows:

- November — Fall Harvest
- December — Cultures & Celebrations
- January — Winter Wonderland
- February — Food and Health
- March — Spring and Nature
- April — Outer Space
- May — Transportation



September/October Birthdays

Olivia Stahel	3-Sep	Magnolia
Luke Johnson	3-Sep	Mimosa
Patrick Smyth	6-Sep	Plum
Hannah Hosmer	7-Sep	Plum
Madelyn Krause	10-Sep	Mimosa
Tanisha LeFever	10-Sep	Mahogany
Dennis Scott	13-Sep	Oak
Evan Milam	16-Sep	Kids' club
Brady Calloway	19-Sep	Lime
Chase Charette	20-Sep	Mango
Thomas Wakefield	21-Sep	Kids' club
Ava Anderson	21-Sep	Mango
Ava Fulton	22-Sep	Birch
Lucas Winters	26-Sep	Dogwood
Sam Johnson	29-Sep	Lime
Fallen Turpin	30 -Sep	Floater
Tracey Starwood	5-Oct	Front Desk
Erica Ravenell	7-Oct	Oak
Dorothy Williams	12-Oct	Mahogany

Congratulations Ms. Brenda



We would like to congratulate Ms. Brenda for pursuing her Early Childhood Specialist Certificate online as well as earning the letter grade of "B" on both finals and maintaining a "B" average in her Human Growth Development and Introduction to Early Childhood Care classes.

She only has one more class to complete before completing the program and receiving her Early Childhood Specialist Certificate.

Ms. Brenda plans to continue her education by pursuing her associates degree in Early Childhood Education. Great Job Ms. Brenda!