



## May 2011 Issue

### Upcoming Dates:

- MAY 8TH**  
MOTHER'S DAY
- MAY 9TH - 13TH**  
TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK
- MAY 13TH**  
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
- MAY 19TH**  
END OF THE YEAR PARTIES
- MAY 27TH**  
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
- MAY 30TH**  
TCS CLOSED-  
MEMORIAL DAY
- MAY 31ST**  
1ST DAY OF SUMMER CAMP

### Inside this issue:

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## TCS Summer Curriculum

When you think of summer, you think of sun, sand, family vacations and most of all, no school! Summer at The Chastain School looks similar with one significant difference. We are still in school and we are learning every moment of every day. Many times parents may feel that summer is a time for children to stop learning and spend all day playing. Nothing could be farther from the truth at TCS. Does our curriculum change for the summer? Yes, absolutely. Do we still teach the children during the summer? Yes, absolutely. The main difference is that what we are teaching and learning shifts in its focus.

We spend many hours during the spring planning

our summer curriculum. We focus on the themes that we would like to teach and that the children will be interested in and how to incorporate exciting and different activities into the lesson plans. We look for opportunities to bring in outside vendors to provide our children with activities that we do not have the internal capability to provide during our normal school year. We allow our teachers to be very creative and incorporate more relaxed teaching methods during the summer as well. This is all a part of the summer shift. The things that don't change for the children during the summer is the expectation that rules stay the same, classroom responsibilities are in tact and that rela-

tionships continue to grow. We still focus on the core learning skills that are developmentally appropriate for each age group in the program. Colors, letters, reading and writing are still a part of our summer program, but how the children are working with them may look different.

It is our goal to provide each child in our program with a high quality, engaging curriculum that keeps them coming back for more and we feel that our summer program is an extension of that focus.

We take our business of caring for and teaching your child very seriously. Thank you for entrusting the care and development of your child to The Chastain School.

## TCS 4th Annual Spring Fling

For the fourth year in a row, TCS has worked together with local businesses to reach out to the community by hosting a fun-filled event for our families and families in the area. The weather was beautiful, and with the help and support of parents, teachers, and TCS leadership, the event turned out fantastic!

We would like to give a big "Thank You" to the following

businesses who volunteered their services to make the Spring Fling a huge success: **Sandy Springs Fire Department (Station 4), Publix (Prado), Kroger (Fountain Oaks), Rome Metro Ambulance Service, Sandy Springs Police Department, Children's Dentistry, Playball, and MyGym.**

Additionally, we would like to thank all of our parents who

volunteered to help set up, break down, supply baked goodies, donated tents, put out yard signs, spread the news to their friends, and passed out flyers.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank everyone who attended the Spring Fling this year. We look forward to seeing you all next year for another wonderful Spring Fling in 2012.

What	Where	When	Cost
<b>TIME FOR TWO'S AND THREE'S STORIES AND SONGS</b>	<b>Northside Branch Library</b> 3295 Northside Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30327	Tuesday , May 3rd & 10th 10:30 AM-11:00 AM	Free
<b>DUNWOODY ARTS FESTIVAL</b> Art Activities, Rides, Games, and More	<a href="http://dunwoodyartfestival.com">dunwoodyartfestival.com</a>	Saturday, May 7, 10 - 7PM, Sunday, 12:30-6PM.	Free & Pet-friendly
<b>PIRATE &amp; PRINCESS DAY</b> Radio Disney & Treasure Hunt	<a href="http://Fernbank Museum of Natural History">Fernbank Museum of Natural History</a>	Saturday, May 14th 10am-2pm	17.50 Adults 14.50 Student 15.50 Kids 3-12
<b>BRAVES GAME &amp; KIDS RUN</b> Kids are invited to take the field after the game & run the bases .	<a href="http://Turner Field">Turner Field</a>	Sunday, May 15th 1:30p	\$12.00-\$180.00
<b>MILES FOR HOPE</b> WALK TOWARDS A CURE	<a href="http://Wade Walker Park">Wade Walker Park</a>	<b>Saturday, May 21, 2011</b> 7:00AM to 11:00AM	Walk/Run \$20-\$25
<b>ATLANTA CARRIBBEAN CARNIVAL</b>	<a href="http://Atlanta Caribbean Carnival">Atlanta Caribbean Carnival</a> Downtown Atlanta Sweet Auburn District	<b>Saturday, May 28, 2011</b> 10:00AM	\$10.00

## Teacher Appreciation Week - May 9th - 13th

We will celebrate our teachers during the week of **May 9th—13th**. The themes for each day are as follows:

**Monday, May 9th - Sherbet Colors & Sweet Treat Day.** The teachers & children can dress in sherbet or spring colors on this day and the parents can bring a sweet treat for their teachers to enjoy.

**Tuesday, May 10th - Red Carpet & Breakfast at Tiffany's.** Teachers & children can dress up in their "red carpet" fancy clothes & the parents can share breakfast goodies with their teachers.

**Wednesday, May 11th - Team Spirit &**

**Tailgate Snack Day.** The teachers & children can show their spirit by dressing in their favorite team's colors & the parents can bring a favorite snack item for their teachers.

**Thursday, May 12th - Western Wear & Country Cookin' Day.** The teachers & children can dress in their western attire. We will be enjoying lunch on the range as a team, so we will need parent volunteers to sit in the classrooms between 12:30 - 2pm during nap-time. We will need to have a minimum of 2 parents in the classrooms at all times.

**Friday, May 13th - Hawaiian Wear & Tropical Smoothie Day.** Teachers & chil-

dren will celebrate the start of summer by dressing in their favorite tropical wear and parents can bring delicious fruit smoothies to share with their teachers. This is traditionally the day that the room parents coordinate a special gift to give to the teachers. Gift certificates to restaurants, spas & stores are always popular gifts.

During this week we would like to continue the tradition of each child donating a book to the school library, The Nancy Weaver Children's Library, in honor of their teachers.

Let's make this a wonderful week full of appreciation for the teaching and support teams.

Toddlers are busy little people, working hard to explore their new world and learn everything they can. They move from one challenge to another in a matter of minutes and require a great deal of chasing, engaging, cleaning up after, and redirection.

These ten creative activities will keep toddlers occupied for at least ten minutes at a time, and they are great for encouraging and increasing their attention span and developing motor skills.

**1. Sorting Machine.** Most toddlers love to sort things. For a toddler who enjoys organizing, provide a few handfuls of multi-colored, O-shaped cereal and a muffin pan. With a little direction, she'll sort the cereal by color into the muffin pan cups and enjoy a healthy snack. For a non-edible activity, use blocks.

**2. Future Picasso.** A bowl of soft, chopped fruit with a little cream cheese and graham crackers is great for an entertaining, edible art project. First, spread the cream cheese on the graham cracker. Then have the toddler press fruit chunks into the cream cheese to create a nutritious work of art. You may just inspire the world's next Picasso.

**3. Toy Rotation.** A bin filled with toys can be stashed away for months in a closet

or cupboard. When the forgotten toys are reintroduced, toddlers feel they have rediscovered them.

**4. Shake It Up.** Place toys or treats inside clear containers with the lids attached. Children love to shake and rattle things, and when a toddler realizes a treat is inside, the activity will be even more appealing.

**5. Water Colors.** Add a drop of blue food coloring to a shallow wading pool or sand and water table. Toss in some sea creature toys. For a change of theme, use green food coloring and jungle creature toys. It makes a great outdoor activity on warm days. Remember to closely supervise any waterplay.

**6. Lid-Less Ideas.** Try presenting toddlers with a tub of plastic containers and their detached lids. Children can find and affix the matching lids to each container. Cleaned and dried plastic bottles like those used for condiments (ketchup and mustard), and grated cheese have distinctive lids that are easily identified and attached.

**7. Roughin' It.** Turn over a table or gather chairs into a circle in the center of the room, then drape blankets over them to construct tents. Flashlights and a non-sticky snack can create a fun environment while you read a story or sing songs.

**8. Obstacle Course.** Use nap mats on their sides, propped against chairs or tables, to form walls for a maze. Pillows can be hopped over, crawled on, or used as steppingstones in an obstacle course. Play Follow the Leader in the obstacle course, changing the leader each time you reach the beginning. Encourage the children to vocalize - can they travel as kittens, as cows, as racecars?

**9. Paper Play.** Consider allowing toddlers to wrap themselves in toilet paper and pretend they are snowmen, or to decorate the room with toilet paper streamers. You may want to use the game as a potty training introduction or celebration of a potty success.

**10. Footsteps.** Place a small amount of washable paint on a pie tin or sturdy paper plate. Encourage the toddler to step into the paint with her bare foot, or feet, and walk across banner paper. She can even have a different color for each foot. This activity can be confined to a wading pool or tarp to ensure easier clean-up.

## Conclusion

With all their energy, providing constant stimulation for toddlers can be difficult. These inexpensive and easy ideas will afford parents a few minutes of downtime while encouraging children to use their minds and their bodies to explore, play, and learn.

# Welcome To Our TCS Family

# TCS Summer Weather



**Kiticha Kelly** - was born in the beautiful city of Albany, Georgia and is the oldest of three siblings. She has always loved working with children and loves being an influence in their lives. Kiticha has earned her CDA and is currently enrolled at Walden University online pursuing her Early Childhood Education degree. She has been working with children for over 3 years and is happy to be a part of the TCS Team as the new Dogwood teacher. In her spare time, Kiticha enjoys reading, gardening, photography and cooking.

Weather permitting, children will play outside for approximately 45 minutes twice a day. If the temperature is above 95 degrees, we will not go outside. If the smog alert is **code red**, the children will not go outside and if the smog alert is **code orange**, the time will be limited to 15-30 minutes.

If we are unable to go outside, teachers will plan alternate activities. Please dress your children appropriately and remember to bring in sun screen and bug spray. Also remember to apply sun screen to your child before dropping off in the morning. The teachers will reapply in the afternoon. **TCS + You = A Wonderful Summer!**



## Thomas Gary Weaver is here!

7 lbs. 5 oz., 19" long, Lil Thomas Weaver was born last Thursday, April 21st at 3:26am. Everybody is healthy and doing.

**Congratulations to the Weavers!**



# May Birthdays

Sara Stevens	3rd	Aspen
<b>Brenda Cook</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>Kids Club/Bible</b>
Joshua DePalma	5th	Mulberry
Connor Britton	7th	Aspen
Lila Kate Barrow	7th	Aspen
Emerson Grubb	7th	Kids Club
Griffin Bittel	7th	Kids Club
Alexander Terry	11th	Aspen
<b>John Weaver</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>Business Manager</b>
<b>Asya Agadzhanova</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>Mimosa</b>
Anthony Webb	15th	Mulberry
Lena Balkcom	20th	Aspen
Lily Tolivar	20th	Aspen
Hunter Davis	21st	Kids Club
Ethan Yates	26th	Wisteria
Robert Foster	26th	Mulberry
Braden Stokes	28th	Bonsai
Anthony Lombardi	29th	Mango

# MVP for May



## Henrietta Okogi

Congratulations to Henrietta Okogi for being nominated as the MVP for the month of May.

Henrietta was nominated for being an EXCELLENT team player and an enthusiastic care giver. She is always ready to assist whenever help is needed. She has great relationships

with her parents. They all admire and respect her caring attitude. She does her job so quietly, that we tend not to notice. However, if you're working in the Aspen room, you can see how dedicated she is to the children. She loves them and they love her!

As the MVP of the Month, Henrietta was awarded a \$100 gift-card and the coveted Teacher of the Month Parking Spot. **We love you Ms. Henrietta and congratulations once again!!**



By Tracy Buckler

According to **Mem Fox**, author of **Reading Magic**, "If parents understood the huge educational benefit and intense happiness brought about by reading aloud to their children, and if every parent—and every adult caring for a child—read aloud a minimum of three stories a day to the children in their lives, we could probably wipe out illiteracy within one generation." This is a pretty bold statement, but one that many Early Childhood professionals firmly believe in. Reading to a child can and should begin as soon after birth as possible, as it will help with brain development, speech skills, as well as simply bonding with the child, which will help in other developmental areas as well.

It may seem to some that infants will not benefit from being read aloud to, but many experts on the subject disagree. Most people don't realize that when a child is born, only twenty-five percent of the brain is developed, and the rest develops within the first year of life. This is an extremely crucial time in a child's life where reading aloud and simply talking to the child will help tremendously with brain development along with their speaking skills. "The sense of dislocation and confusion that occurs when kids and parents don't connect disturbs children long after childhood is over," (*Reading Magic* pg. 21).

In his book *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease gives several examples to emphasize the belief that there is a literacy problem in the United States. One such example follows:

"Every workday afternoon a courier shows up at the door of the fifth largest insurance company in America, New York Life. There he is handed a satchel of insurance claims, which he drives to JFK Airport. The satchel is then loaded aboard an Aer Lingus jet and flown to Dublin, Ireland, where American insurance claims will be processed by another people in another county. Why? Because New York Life cannot find enough young people in the metropolitan area, between the ages of twenty and thirty, who know how to read, write, and think clearly and critically enough to process insurance claims. Ireland has them."

There is a simple solution to this problem, read aloud to your children every day, even when they are old enough to read to themselves. "The more you read, the better you get at it; the better you get at it, the more you like it; and the more you like it, the more you do it." (*The Read Aloud Handbook*, pg. 4). Reading aloud should be fun, exciting and pleasurable for both the person reading and the child being read to, if it's not, the child will not want to be read to and consequently not like to read later in life.

There are several do's and don'ts one could follow when reading aloud to children. **The most important thing to do is to begin reading to infants, as soon as they are born!!** Use rhyming book, such as Mother Goose rhymes and songs to help with language development. "Rhymers will be readers." (*Reading Magic*, pg. 85) There are many more do's about reading to children than don'ts, as it's simply most important to just read!

A few don'ts to follow when reading to your children include, don't read books you don't enjoy yourself. Have fun reading and make it a special time for both of you. Use books that are age appropriate for the child and make sure you have read the book prior to reading it aloud to be sure of it's contents. Using books that the child doesn't understand can turn them off of books for good.

Most parents being working with their children by teaching them their letters first, then they move onto words and then the stories. According to Mem Fox this is exactly opposite of the way it should be done. If a parent reads aloud to their child early and often then the letters and words will naturally come into the child's world.

One very important aspect of reading aloud to children is to discuss what's being read to them. This helps the child to not only learn to read the words on the page, but to understand what they are reading, or being read to. A child can learn the words and read them from a book, but if they don't understand what they are reading, then they are not reading.

According to Mem Fox there are three secrets of reading: being able to make the print mean something; understanding the language; and our knowledge. The more a person knows about life, the easier it will be to learn to read. One thing to keep in mind when working with older children; if the child is having trouble pronouncing a word, don't have them try to sound it out, just tell them what it is and move on with the story. If the child worries too much about what certain words are they will forget about what they are reading, that in turn means they really are not reading, if they are not comprehending the story.

Also, if an older child is having trouble reading a particular book, it may be that it's just too difficult for them. Suggesting nicely that maybe you could read some of it aloud to them might be a good idea. If the child is struggling with reading a book that is a bit out of their reading level, it very well might turn them off of reading forever. That is not what we want to happen!

Some simple things that parents can do to ensure their children become readers are to first and foremost, read to them. Second have books readily available around the house and take them to the library as often as possible. Make reading fun and make sure it's done often. "Whatever happens in the world of school, continuing to read aloud to our children at home should solve most reading problems and will always be a lifeline to their happiness, their literacy, and their future." (*Reading Magic*, pg. 152).