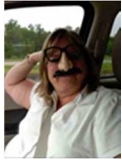


ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness

September 2015



Owner
Jane Terrell

Back To School Issue



Welcome to our Back-to-School issue of the Rocking Horse Academy newsletter! I'd like to thank our editor-in-chief, Ms. Linda Ashness, for her hard work to make this newsletter so special every month. She adds articles of interest and fun tidbits to give our families some helpful advice or a chuckle. And thanks to all of my teachers for their efforts to bring the news from their classroom to you. It's just one more way we like to communicate with families about all that happens at Rocking Horse Academy.

This year's Back to School Night will be on September 15th. Please stop by the gym between 5:30pm -6:30 pm to visit with our Lead Teachers. We look forward to visiting with parents and answering questions about the classrooms. This will also be an opportunity to say hello to your child's former and future teachers.

Rebecca will be passing out the new Mixed Bag catalogs for our fall fundraiser. There are many new items this year. I personally love the new kitchen gadgets

being offered. We will have a display of sample items for you to see. Again, we will offer prizes to our top sellers and to the classroom with the highest sales percentage. The money from the fundraiser will help us continue to pay for the shade cover (one more year) and some of the new features on our playground. I'm also wanting to update/refinish some of the birch furniture in some classrooms. If we have any volunteers who love working with wood, I'd love some help sanding and resealing a lot of our birch cabinets, cubbies, dramatic play pieces, and chairs.

October is Fire Safety month and we focus on practicing safety measures. Every month we conduct a fire drill at various times of the day. This keeps our teachers and students on their toes and prepared to respond in case of any emergency. We also reinforce teaching all children about Stranger Danger and how to say NO.

As a reminder, our school is closed on October 12th for

teacher training. The state mandates that all teachers receive 24 hours of training every year. Please plan accordingly.

Mr. Traye Dean, our amazing photographer with 512 Portrait Company, will be here again in October to work his magic. He welcomes families to come in the early morning for group sittings. He truly captures moments beyond the typical studio portraits. Keep an eye out for reminder signs and appointment forms.

I think everyone loves our Thanksgiving Feast; I know I do. This year we will serve Brisket and Sausage for our main course. Yee-Haw! It's a Texas style Thanksgiving! We will post sign-up forms for sides on our classroom doors. Please feel free to join us Friday, November 20th for this joyful gathering and our celebration of the Family. As a reminder for our Corral Kid families - Hays CISD it typically closed for the entire week of Thanksgiving. Our Corral Kids pro-

(Continued on page 2)

Date Nights



September	19
October	17
November	21
December	12

RHA IS CLOSED

September	7
October	12
November	26, 27
December	24, 25 31
January	1, 18

H.C.I.S.D CLOSINGS

September	7
October	12
November	23 - 27
December	18-31
January	1-4, 18



Back To School Issue

(Continued from page 1)

gram is available that week for Monday – Wednesday. Be sure to sign up with Ms. Brooke for the added care if you need it.

Our space will be limited as many of our college students head home for Thanksgiving to be with their families.

December is such a busy month for us. We have Shop 'Til You Drop on Saturday, December 12th. We generally open at noon and close at midnight. It's a per hour charge, so you are free to shop, wrap, attend parties, have a date, whatever you need, and we will take loving care of your child(ren)

at a reasonable price. Our Children Around the World celebration is December 17th. And remember we will close December 24th & 25th and January 31st and 1st to give our staff a little holiday break to be with their families. Hays CISD students will be on holiday break from December 18th (Friday) – January 4th (Monday). Again, be sure to let Brooke know if you need school-aged care during this time.

As a general reminder—We are required by state law to label water bottles. Both lid and bottle should have your child's name on it. I also recommend that all jackets and sweaters, etc. be labeled. It will prevent a mistaken loss. Rocking

Horse Academy is not responsible for loss of clothing, but we do our best to make sure every child goes home with his/her belongings every day. Please help us by putting in permanent labels.

Each and every day I am thankful for your continued support in our school. Education is essential to the success of every individual, but also to the success of our nation's future. Our motto states it best: Educating tomorrow's leaders today.
Jane

Just a reminder for January: RHA Closed January 18th for staff train-

Ask about a free lunch



NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

It's that time again, cooler weather, pumpkins, and everyone's favorite daylight savings. All these changes mean changes to the menu. As the weather cools down we will be adding more soups and stews, and bring back warmer morning snacks like Oatmeal and Cream of Wheat. We tried some new items over the summer with great results! We always appreciate any feedback. Here is a favorite warm weather recipe.

Beef Stew

1 pound beef stew meat
 3-4 potatoes cubed
 1 bag of fresh baby carrots
 4 cups of water
 1 onion diced
 Garlic powder salt and pepper to taste
 1 bay leaf
 Brown stew meat in pot. Add water, potatoes, carrots, and bay leaf. Season to taste. Bring to boil, reduce and simmer for 1 1/2- 2 hours. You can add beef broth if you want more flavor.
 Enjoy!

TUITION DUE DATES

September 14	November 9
September 28	November 23
October 13	December 7
October 26	December 21

Kyle Founders Parade

On Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 10am, the Kyle Founders' Parade will begin downtown. The parade participants will be gathering at Gregg-Clarke Park and will head east on Center Street. and will end at the Mary Kyle Hartson City Square Park's Gazebo.

Visit <http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/kyle-founders-parade> for complete details.



Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Date: December 2, 2015
 Time: 4:30-9:00 pm

Location: City Square Park/Historic Kyle City hall (Pictures with Santa)

Visit <http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/kyle-founders-parade> for complete details.





September 2015

FOALS I

Wow!! Can't believe that summer is almost coming to an end. It has been a fun, busy summer in the Foals 1 classroom. These are a few important points to keep in mind as you enjoy your time with your baby.

Babies learn through their senses.

Babies respond to a rich environment.

Babies learn from imitation.

Babies learn from repetition.

Babies learn through language.

Babies proceed at their own pace.

Your baby grows physically, cognitively, verbally, psychologically, socially and emotionally.

Let us begin the new school year with lots of fun in Foals 1.

The themes for September are: 5 Senses, Back to School, My School, My Classroom and My Friends.

Spanish words are September-Septiembre, touch-tocar, taste-probar, smell-oler, and rules-reglas.

For music we will sing "Wheels on the Bus."

We learn so much through language. The books we will read are: "Little Alphabet," and "Toes Ears and Nose." Start a conversation by smiling at your infant.

For the month of October we will focus on: Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers, and Fantasy.

Our feature Spanish words are October-Octubre, fire-fuego, stranger danger-peligroso, and pumpkin-calabazas. Reading is awesome and the books we will read are: "Julius's Candy Corn," "Lulla's Perfect Pumpkin," and "Nursery Rhymes." We will sing "Five Little Pumpkins." At 5 months old infants can differentiate between family members, parents, siblings, and strangers.

The school wide themes for November are: Fall, Foods, Weather, Holidays, and Family and Home.

Spanish words are November-Noviembre, family-familia, fall-otono, and home-casa. For music we will sing "Honey Bear Come Cuddle with Me." For our story time we will read: "Hugs and Kisses," "You Are My Sunshine," "Helping Hands," and "At Home." We introduce English and Spanish through books and songs.

As we end the year the themes for December are: Holiday Traditions, and Children and Cultures Around The World. Spanish words are December-Diciembre,

children-ninos, music-musica, red-rojo, green-verde, and Christmas-navidad. Making music is fun and the songs we will sing are: "Jingle Bells," "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," and "Santa Clause Is Coming To Town." Books we will read are: "Time for Bed," "Santa's Workshop," and "Flying with Santa."

Using toys of different shapes and sizes will help our babies continue to adjust their grasp and will also help the development of their arches in their palm. Remember every child is unique. Also, every parent is unique. It is so important that you talk to your child, hug your child, and read to your child.

Parents please help us by checking your child's drawer to be sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask. Also be sure to LABEL everything. It does help us get the right items in the right bags. Many of us love to shop Target and Kohls and might purchase the same items or similar. Help us help you.

Thank You Foals 1

BABY SAFETY AND FACTS

Fact: 65 percent of moms in a survey said they've slept in bed with their baby, and 38 percent do so regularly. Previous research has shown that half of suffocation deaths in infants happen in an adult bed.

Safe Tip: To keep close contact while keeping your babies safe, place cribs or bassinets next to the bed—we know that

room-sharing is a great way to protect against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and it also keeps babies away from comforters, pillows and sleeping people that could potentially block their airway while they sleep..

See more at: safekids.org

Did You know : When babies are born, they have 300 bones. Adults have 206. Bones fuse together during growth to come up with the new number.

Gender Not Equal : While the average chance of having a boy or a girl remains 50/50, the actual numbers don't match. For every 100 girls born, there are 105 boys born.



September 2015

FOALS II

Welcome to Foals 2. Here's a preview of some of the exciting things our Foals 2 class will discover over next 4 months. September our class will be working on 5 Senses, Back to School, My School, My Classroom, My Friends. 5 Senses is our one of our favorite themes because babies use all of their senses. Seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and especially tasting, to find out about their world. Remember to add talking to everything baby sees, feels, tastes, hears, or smells. This will help baby learn to talk. Some of the books we will be reading will be "When Stella was Very, Very Small" by Marie-Louise Gay, "Maisy Goes to Preschool" by Cousins, Lucy, "My Friends" by Taro Gami. Sign Language and Spanish words for the month of September are: Hello-Hola, Good Bye- Adios, Eat-Comer, Sleep-Sueno.

October, we look forward to learning about Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers, and Fantasy. We will be having a very special in class puppet show about 'Community Helpers' and what they do to make our community safe. Some of books for the month of October include "Fire, Fire" by Gail Gib-

son, "Stranger Dangers" Hedley Griffin, "Whose Tools Are These"? by Sharon Katz Coop, "Whose Hat Is This?: A Look at Hats Workers Wear - Hard, Tall, and Shiny (Whose Is It"?: Community Workers) by Sharon Katz Coop. Sign Language and Spanish words for the month of October are: Please- Por favor, Thank you- Gracias, Cold-Frio, Hot-Caliente.

November we look forward to Autumn leaves changing colors and the fall weather upon us. Fall is one of our themes for the month of November. We also look forward to learning all about Fall Foods, Weather, Holidays, Family & Home and Forest animals. We will be making beautiful and unique art work for everyone to admire. Family pictures will be along our room for all to see and enjoy. Books for our class will be "Let It Fall" by Maryann Cocca-Leffler, "Leaf Man" by Lois Ehlert, "Mouse's First Fall" by Lauren Thompson, "We Belong Together" by Todd Parr. Sign language and Spanish words for November are: Brown-Marron, Red-Rojo, Orange-Naranja, Yellow-Amarillo, Mom-Mama, Dad-Papa

December we look forward to learning

about Holiday Traditions, Children & Cultures from around the world, Review basic letters, and numbers. "Around The World Through Holidays" by Carol Peterson, "Christmas around the World" by Calliope Glass, "1,2,3, Peas" by Keith Baker, "Pete the Cat and his Groovy Buttons" by Eric Litwin. Sign Language and Spanish words for December: Happy-Contento, Smile-Sonreír, Hug-Abrazo. Please know that with every activity that we do here in Foals 2 we are working on and reaching goals with each child at his/her own pace. Benchmarks that we work on daily are Social/Emotional, Language, Cognitive, Visual/Sensory, Physical, and Developmental Health Watch. Each child is in a different stage, so all lesson plans are planned with this in mind.

Please help us by labeling bottles, bottle lids, jar food, plastic food containers, clothes, diaper cream and anything else that you may bring in belonging to your child. Thank you for cooperation.

We enjoy being part of your baby's life. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to let us know. Foals 2 staff

Here's a list of finger food favorites:

When your baby's between 8 and 9 months old

- O-shaped toasted oat cereal or other low-sugar cereal
- Small pieces of lightly toasted bread or bagels (spread with vegetable puree for extra vitamins)
- Small chunks of banana or other very ripe peeled and pitted fruit, like mango, plum, pear, peach, cantaloupe, or seedless watermelon
- Small cubes of tofu
- Well-cooked pasta spirals, cut into pieces
- Very small chunks of soft cheese

- Chopped hard-boiled egg
- Mashed stewed prunes
- Small pieces of well-cooked vegetables, like carrots, peas, zucchini, potato, or sweet potato
- Small well-cooked broccoli or cauliflower "trees"
- Pea-size pieces of cooked chicken, ground beef or turkey, or other soft meat



September 2015

COLTS

Fall and winter are upon us and we are looking forward to cooler weather. We want to welcome our new families to the Colt room. These next 3 months are going to be fun-filled learning experience.

In the month of September, we will talk about **My 5 senses and Back to School**. During these units, we will talk about how our 5 senses work and learn about our school, our friends and our supplies that we use daily. The first two weeks we will sing **The Wheels on the Bus** and **Tickity Tock**. We will also learn in our Spanish lesson the following words: **friends-amigos, libro-books, classroom-aula and school bus-autobus**. We will color with paintbrushes for our fine motor skills. The last two weeks we will learn about our 5 senses. We will be drawing while **listening** to music, we will be **feeling** the touch of paint by finger painting, we will be **smelling** different scents by using our noses and then at the of our unit we will be doing a science experiment with our taste buds to **taste** the foods. We will work on our gross motor skills by running, kicking and catching balls, and climbing stairs. We will continue to study letters, numbers, and shapes. September 7th we will be closed for Labor Day,

October is an exciting month. We will

talk about Fire Prevention. We will practice a fire drill and to Stop, Drop and Roll. We will read **Stop, Drop and, Roll**. We will sing **Hurry, Hurry Drive the Fire Truck**. The next week will be a fun one. Fall Harvest will have many activities as we welcome the fall season. We will clean out a pumpkin and count its seeds. We will also paint apples and make an apple tree.

On October 30th we will have a harvest party. You may dress up your favorite book character. We will also make a wand and a crown for our fantasy week.

In the month of November, we will talk about *Family and Home, Fall and Forest animals* To help us enjoy our Family Feast, we will make our own placemats and create a family collage to help us learn about relatives and relationships. We will build a Colt family tree with pictures of our family members and pets. We will play with ears of corn and gourds to see how they feel in our hands.

Please plan on joining us on November 20th for our annual Family Thanksgiving Feast. Parents are asked to bring side dishes to share with the school. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the room soon. We will be learning about fall. We will looking for leaves and acorns to see and feel them. We will also practice our sign language skills by learning some new signs about fall items. We will be signing

songs about forest animals and we will also make some forest animals during art time. We will practice using our spoons at meal times and sitting in our seats. We will be closed to celebrate Thanksgiving November 26 & 27.

In the month of December, we will learn about *Music and Movement, Holiday Traditions, and Children Around the World*. We will listen to all kinds of music from classical to country. We will Dance with the Stars as we strut our stuff to the beat. The second week, we will talk about other holiday traditions. How do different people celebrate the holidays? We will make a special gift for our parents--making a hand-y Christmas tree. The third week, we will talk about *Children Around the World*. We will learn about the Philippines. We will make the Philippines flag and learn more about the country. We will be closed December 24 and 25th.

With the weather changing, be sure to change out the extra clothing in the cubbies. Also, please label coats and jackets. We all shop at the same stores and it can get confusing— especially if the person who drops off the child is not the person picking up the child or if we have a substitute in the classroom. Labeling helps prevent lost items.

How Much Is Enough

How much food does a toddler need? Because toddlers have small stomachs (about the size of their own fists), they need to eat small amounts of food more often throughout the day. Compared to their first year, you may notice your child's appetite declining or becoming unpredictable. Don't worry, your toddler is probably getting all the nutrients s/he needs.

Just continue to offer her a variety of food with each meal, but don't force or bribe them to eat. Remember, toddlers tend to be frequent nibblers.

Green Peas- offer a new taste and texture with frozen whole peas. Frozen peas provide relief for teething gums and are not a choking hazard because of their small size. The worst that can happen is that they come out

whole from the other end! Steamed carrot sticks and green beans are also great finger foods. Fresh watermelon, peaches, tomatoes, and avocado can be cut into elongated pieces or small cubes and are very nutritious and tasty.

Natalia Stasenکو, R.D.



September 2015

PONIES

Hello from the Ponies! We have been busy since our last newsletter. Not only are we reinforcing our academic knowledge, but we are increasing our verbal and social skills. Every day is a learning adventure! Students enjoy puzzles and finger plays that help them learn their fine motor skills and visual perceptions. Ponies also love exploring with shaving cream, using their hands as well as a paint brush. At this age, we encourage the children to use their words and learn to share. We will practice walking through the hallway like big boys and girls and look at all the artwork on the walls. We encourage children to communicate their feelings using words and not with aggression. "Soft touches only" and "Use your words" are key phrases that we use often in class.

Every month we review our shapes, learn our colors, and focus on various letters of the alphabet. In our everyday activities, we find opportunities to count from 1 to 10. Mom and Dad can help too by counting to ten each time we brush our teeth or when we wash our hands. Children learn so much faster by doing activities over and over; repetition is key! We will continue practicing Spanish and sign language as well and will be working on the following words over the next few months: sit down (sientate), more (mas), eat (comer-come), please (por favor), and sleep (dormir).

September delves into the themes of **Getting to Know You, Manners, and I Am Special**. In Getting to Know You, we want to find out what your Pony's favorite color, animal, bedtime story, and family activity is. We'll ask parents to bring in pictures and help us make a poster of our favorite things. We always promote using good manners in the Pony Room and encourage children to share with friends. During this month, we will focus on saying, "Excuse me" when asking a friend to move over and will continue to practice saying and signing, "Please" and "Thank

you" during our mealtimes. During Circle Time, we will read a poem about manners and sing 'Share Your Toys' and 'The Thank You Tune'. During I Am Special, we plan to focus on building self-esteem. Self-esteem is fundamentally important to acceptable social behavior and lifelong happiness. If the child believes that he/she is important and successful then he/she is more likely to be happy and successful as an adult. It's never too early to help each child find success.

October has us all fired up about Safety and Fire Prevention. Of course, we practice our fire drills every month at RHA, but we want to give extra time to teach our Ponies to stop, drop, and roll. We will talk about safety in our kitchens and bathrooms, too. You might want to schedule a fire drill in your house so your little ones know what to do in case of an emergency. Stranger Danger is another topic we work on ALL year, but especially during October. Your Pony will learn all about community helpers. Police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and teachers are among some of the people in our community that make a difference. What does each of these helpers do and who in particular do they help? At the end of the month, we plan to dress up and have a party to celebrate the fall season!

In November, autumn is in full swing and the holidays are right around the corner! There is a lot to do and learn as we dive right into one of the busiest and most fun seasons of the year. We will learn our fall colors: red (rojo), brown (marron), orange (naranja), and yellow (amarillo) in English and Spanish. Some of our art projects will include apple prints, pumpkins, collecting fall leaves, and leaf rubbings.

This month we will also talk about our homes (casas) and families (familias). What kinds of homes are there for people? How many people live in your home? Do you have pets, or siblings? Moms and Dads will be asked to bring

this information in for us, so be ready for some questionnaires! In November we will use the Thanksgiving Feast to bring together the themes of family and community as our Rocking Horse community gathers to eat together with family and friends. We hope you are able to attend; keep a lookout for more information from our class and the school.

December: Hurray for the Holidays! This month, we will begin with Music and Movement as we listen to different types of music. The Ponies love to move to the beat, so we will have lots of fun with fast (rapido) and slow (lento). We will also be learning about children from around the world and their holiday traditions. How is Christmas celebrated in other countries, and what kind of food, music and dance do they have? Our class will focus on one country then have a Children Around the World Celebration in our classroom.

As the weather changes please remember to check your child's cubby and refill with weather appropriate clothing: pants, shirts, socks, etc. Soon we will need a jacket or a sweater for those cool autumn mornings.

Please remember to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! Labeling is vital to prevent the loss of your Pony's belongings. We try to keep a permanent marker next to our water bucket during drop-off each morning. Please double-check that your Pony's name has not washed off of his/her water cup before placing it in the bucket.

Thank you so much to all of the Pony parents! We are so appreciative for all of the support you give to us each and every day! We look forward to spending a wonderful autumn with you and your child! Please let us know if you have any questions!

Ms. Leslie



September 2015

CHARGERS I

Summer is almost gone and fall is around the corner, and we can't wait to explore our new adventures.

In **September** we will discuss our 5 senses and talk about how we use these on a daily basis and how they help us learn about the world all around us. We will also get back into the swing of really working hard on our shapes, colors, letters and numbers through recognition, small group activities, and hands-on experiences together as a class. We will work on tuning up our Gross and Fine Motor Skills through music and movement, gym time and holding our crayons and scissors correctly. We will work on potty training and teach the children to sit on the potty with confidence and encourage them to "try it" through little steps that will eventually turn into BIG results. If you have any questions or ideas as far as "potty training" please feel free to talk with us about it.

In **October** we begin Fire Awareness Week. The Kyle Fire Department will come for a visit so the children can see the fire truck, hear about fire safety,

and earn special badges. Let's not forget the stop, drop, and roll technique, if you ever have your clothes catch on fire. It's a good time to organize a fire drill at home, too. It's very important that you practice this often, so your child will know what to do in case of an emergency. We have a fire drill every month at RHA, so our children know exactly where to go and how to behave in case of an emergency. Stranger Danger is another topic we focus on during Safety month. Children must be taught to be careful when approached by a stranger. The other themes for October will include talking about Pumpkins and where they come from and what you can do with them. We will also end the month with a class party and parade around to school to "show off" all of our unique and fun costumes.

In **November** we will be talking about Forest Animals and what they eat, their habitat and look at pictures of them as well at group time. We will talk about the coming of fall and all of the beautiful changes around us. Some of our activities will include a leaf collage, leaf rubbings and apple prints. We will talk about our

families and how important they are to us. We will also ask the children to bring in pictures of family and share them with one another. At the end of the month, we celebrate our students and their families by hosting Rocking Horse Academy's annual family feast. Our parents are asked to bring a dish to share just as the Pilgrims did long ago. We have an exciting month filled with activities,

December

Every December, Rocking Horse Academy hosts the children around the world festival. This year, Chargers 1 has chosen Germany as our country. We will hear the German language, taste German food, and study pictures of German children and cultures. If anyone has been to Germany and has items to share, please feel free to help us with the project. We will also review our colors, shapes, letters and numbers and see how far we have come since the school year started. Please remember as the weather turns cooler, to change out your cubby of extra clothing and jackets. Also, LABEL everything, it will reduce the chances of it being misplaced or lost.

Non-toxic Finger Paint and Homemade Bubble Solution

- * 2 cups of corn starch
- * 1 cup of cold water
- * 4.5 cups of boiling water
- * Liquid food coloring

Mix the corn starch with the cold water and stir together. Pour in the boiling water and stir between each cup. The texture is really strange (you are basically mixing a hot goop) but keep stirring and it literally seems to "melt" into a wonderful, custard-like consistency. Then separated it into individual small containers before adding coloring.

Some people have found that the paint remains liquid and doesn't thicken up as it should.

Try simply adding up to 1 more cup of cornstarch and see if that helps to thicken it.

OR

Try mixing the mixture in a pan on a medium heat instead of just in a bowl, as that will help to bring it together.

Bubbles....Bubbles

Materials to make bubbles:

Light corn syrup

Liquid dish soap (Dawn works best)

Use 3 tablespoons of light corn syrup for every 1 cup of Dawn dish soap.

Experiment using straws with openings of different sizes, such as the tiny ones used to stir coffee or the wide ones used for milk shakes.

To prevent the kids from inhaling instead of exhaling, simply puncture a tiny hole on the side of the straw. They won't be able to suck up the soap mixture.



September 2015

CHARGERS II

So long summer! We welcome cooler weather here at Rocking Horse Academy. It's time to get back on track and start the new school year with lots of new and exciting activities.

September brings up our theme of **Back to School**. We will start working on learning the letters of our names, number recognition, shapes and measuring out how big a "School Bus" actually is. We will talk about our friends and how we see them daily and interact with them. We will also talk about our Senses and how they work. We will do an experiment on our 5 senses and graph our results along with talking about them in small groups.

Our calendar gets very busy in October when we work on our themes of **Fire Prevention, Stranger Danger, Fantasy and Fall Harvest: pumpkins and apples**. Two of our planned activities include apple tasting and carving our class pumpkin where we will also roast the seeds. Once Halloween is over, the children will find out how "Jack" becomes a

tasty treat when pumpkin pies are made. Our stories will focus on "Big Pumpkin" and "Jungle Halloween".

The children look forward to this time of the year when they can wear their Halloween costumes to school and have a parade around the building. They also love to see the older children pass by in their costumes and cheer and clap for them.

We will work on the skills for **Fire Safety and Stranger Danger**. We will learn to Stop, Drop and Roll and also make fire hats. The skills we learn will be fun but also helpful to the children.

In November we will talk about **family and togetherness**. We will make paper bag turkeys, sort and count acorns, talk about our families and have a wonderful feast here at school (stay tuned for details). We will talk about the weather, the leaves changing and build a scarecrow. We will also explore **Forest animals** and their habitats, go on an "animal hunt" and make animal masks.

Then December will be with us, and we will do many fun and exciting holiday activities including our "**Children around the World**" and learn about Ireland and all of its traditions during the holiday season. We will talk about traditions that our families do together and have a holiday party to celebrate this special time of year with family and friends. We will review our numbers, letters and shapes and see how far we have come with recognition of what we've learned in the previous few months.

In closing, please do not forget to have a FULL set of weather appropriate clothes--Labeled in your child's cubby at all times. Please also make sure that their water bottles and jackets are labeled with their name. And only fresh water in the water bottles please.

Thanks for all that you do, you are all simply amazing!!!!

Science

Fill two jars with colored water. Connect the jars into a third jar with paper towels (fold into a strip). Watch the water 'walk' and spill into the empty jar. Supplies: three clear jars, water, food coloring, paper towels or toilet paper

Fizzy experiment! Drop colored vinegar into a tray of baking soda using eye droppers or turkey basters. Supplies: vinegar, baking soda, food coloring, eye droppers, turkey baster, baking sheet or tray

Discovery

Make a lava lamp.

Fill a bottle 2/3 with water and 1/3 with oil. Add food coloring. Add spoonful's of salt and watch it bubble up!

Supplies: clear jar, water, vegetable (or other clear) oil, salt, food coloring

Activities

Recipe for Cloud Dough

2 cups corn starch
1/3 to 1/2 of a cup vegetable oil
3-4 tablespoons silver glitter

This recipe creates a small amount of cloud, just enough to cover the base of a bowl by about 2 inches. If you want more for a larger scale sensory tub, then increase the quantities accordingly. It comes out soft and crumbly but moldable.





September 2015

PINTOS

We have learned so much in the last few months. The children have practiced all their pre-reading and pre-writing skills. I offer one of each every day in many different ways. During circle time is one of the best times of day to introduce new concepts to the children. The Pintos circle time is usually at 9:45 – 10:00 each morning. I use this time to teach the children about the theme for the week giving them new information incorporating letter recognition, number recognition, shapes and colors, even sign language and Spanish. The children get a chance to share his/her ideas with his/her peers and teacher during circle time. Giving the children this opportunity gives them a sense of pride and an outlet to be a part of the Pinto family.

We will kick off the month of **September** with the theme “five senses” tasting different type of foods like sweet, salty and sour. We will have scent jars with different smells in each set of jars, using our sense of smell to figure out the smells and matching up the jars that smell the same. We will also have a “can u find it” bottle in our room for the children to find hidden items in. Playing a game of “I Spy” to see who can find things in the room the quickest using our sense of sight is always fun. When you can’t see the object, can you still recognize what it is by just touching it? The Pintos are going to find out using our feel and touch box. Later in the month, we will read books on going to school such as *Pete The Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*, *Pete The Cat I Love My White Shoes*, and *Pete The Cat Rocking in My School Shoes*. These books teach us about color, counting, number recognition, and self-confidence. We will finish off this month by reviewing the school rules in our classroom. Also in these upcoming months, we will focus on the children learning the letters and their names: how to spell their name and how to write it.

In **October** we will discuss and learn about our community helpers. It is fire safety month, so learning about firefighters is a must. With Halloween it is a time to learn about safety around strangers. I will read a few books about this subject, but what will make the information really sink in are the real life scenarios that are played out with props. Another theme in this month is fantasy. I will be asking the children to tell me a story, and then I will write it down and share it with their friends. This activity gives the children a great deal of pride. We will also pick out one of our favorite books and act out the story. This gives the children a better understanding of story sequencing.

November we will reflect on how important our families are. The children will share pictures of their families and family pets with their friends. I will also pass out a family information sheet to be filled out and returned. Children get so much out of bringing their home lives into the school room setting. This is also a great opportunity to point out the differences and similarities of our families. A great book that illustrates this concept to children so beautifully is *Everyone is Different, Everyone is The Same*. November is also a gorgeous fall month. We will be learning about the season of fall and all the different aspects of fall, like the foods, weather, animals and holiday.

December is a fun and busy month. We dedicate the entire month to learning about children in other parts of the world. We learn about their homes, family traditions, holidays, foods and music. We get to cook food that comes from that country. We will dance to their music and even dress up in clothes that the people from that country wear. There will also be a festival with booths from all the classrooms sharing the information they have gathered about the country they studied. This festival is for all the children and their families to enjoy to-

gether.

Right around the age of three is a great time to learn about the world, all the different types of people and how to accept differences through understanding. December will be a very exciting month for everyone!

When children get to know each other, the children are more likely pair up in same gender groups to play. They do a lot of gender identity at this time, saying things like, “only boys can do this,” most of the time the children's presumptions are incorrect. I make sure to point out all the different things that both boys and girls can do. So don't be surprised if some of those conversations start to come up. As the children start to play in small groups, they also might start excluding others from their play. My job is to help the child who is trying to join in do so successfully or find another group to join. I do this by giving them phrases like, “I can be the brother.” “I can help you build that tower.” “Which toy can I use?” This way you are not giving the children the obvious opportunity to say, “No.” Phrases like, “Can I play?” usually come back with the no response. Excluding at this age is not personal or as hurtful as you might think. The children are only trying out a new social skill to see how it works. They are all still really good friends; the teachers always make sure everyone is safe, both emotionally as well as physically.

Gentle reminders: Check the behavior charts and cubby each day to help stay better informed about what is happening at school. Take water bottles home daily to clean them and refill with fresh, cold water. Please label, label, label everything that belongs to your child that is brought to school. We look forward to a year full of adventure and learning with our friends.

Every day is a day to learn in the Pintos.



September 2015

WRANGLER

Summertime is closely coming to an end. We started this summer with several new friends joining the Wranglers. Let's welcome Hailey, Campbell, Ethan, and Nicolas to our class. We are excited you have joined us. As we said a bitter sweet goodbye to Ms. Amanda, who will be missed, we gave a warm welcome to Ms. Valerie and Ms. Kaylie. Thank you, parents for all the support and dedication you put in your child. To see them grow everyday into little individuals is such privilege.

For the month of **September** we will learn about our five senses. We will discuss the difference between a carrot stick and a cheese stick. We will walk on bubble wrap to feel the texture with our feet. We will be working on our fine motor skills by stringing beads onto string. We will also see how many pennies will sink a toy boat in a tub of water. We will continue to work on communication with friends. We are encouraging the Wranglers to use their words with friends when they are trying to express their feelings or wants. Grandparent's day is around the corner. There will be a sign-up sheet for grandparents if they would like to come and eat lunch with their grandchild. Another focus this month will be on class rules and responsibilities. I will be doing small group activities and observations to target areas of strengths and weakness to better meet the needs of each child.

In **October**, we will begin with fire safety at home, school, and in the community. We will create a safety book. Students will be asked to give examples of safe practices, and I will transcribe their answers in their books. I will demonstrate what they would do in case of a fire at home (such as stop, drop and roll). If a stranger approaches them, we talk about what to do. The purpose for these lessons is to ensure that our children are equipped with the knowledge, so that they will be confident to respond to these type of situations. We will also discuss community helpers and why they are so important to the community. If you would like to join us and share with the class what you do for the community, please feel free to join us. Please let Mrs. Angie or Ms. Valerie know if you would like to come by and speak to the class. We will be ending this month with fantasy. The Wranglers will participate in a pumpkin carving event and will see and feel the inside of a pumpkin. We will also roast the pumpkin seeds and eat them.

For the month of **November** we will start with forest animals and weather. Weather will be discussed daily. I will invite a different friend to tell the class what the weather will be like for that day. They will work on a mini book on the different types of weathers. Wranglers will learn about Thanksgiving traditions. I will ask that each child take a feather home to decorate with his/her family and bring

back to school. It will be displayed on our classroom bulletin board and at the big Thanksgiving Turkey at the Family Feast.

December will be a fun-filled month because we will talk about how each child celebrates Christmas. We will also celebrate Children Around the World. We will study the food, clothing, and traditions of children from Peru. I am very excited to learn and teach the Wranglers about this different culture. Please feel free to provide some information on how your family celebrates this time of year.

Reminder:

Please continue to sign your child in and out. Remember, Wranglers should be here no later by 10 a.m. With the weather changing in the next couple months, please make sure he/she has weather appropriate clothing. Also, check your child's folders daily for important information and art work.


We are looking forward to an awesome time of learning over the next few months. Please don't hesitate to come to us if you have any comments, concerns or suggestions.

Thank you Mrs. Angie, Ms. Valerie, Ms. Kaylie

Will you remember me in 2 minutes? Yes.

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Hey, you didn't remember me!





September 2015

TROTTER

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone. A new school year is quickly approaching, and the Trotters can't wait. This fall, Rocking Horse Academy is continuing their participation in the Ready Set Teach program with Hays CISD. Our Pre-K curriculum is aligned with the district's programs to better prepare students entering public schools next year. As we settle into our school routine, we will begin to implement our Scholastic curriculum.

The first "official" day of school is Monday August 24th. The first few weeks in September will be spent getting to know you, your Trotter, as well as the Trotter teachers. In the classroom we will take the time to participate in a number of activities, games, and dramatic role playing under our "Back to School" theme. This will not only help the students get to know one another but for the teachers to get to know their students better, too.

A great way for the Trotter parents to get involved is to attend our Back to School Night on **September 15th** at 5:30p.m. I will have more information on our curriculum available for you then. There will be a short orientation in the gym for new families and those wishing to have a refresher course on RHA. Please take advantage of this evening, as you will get to tour your child's classroom and meet his/her teachers.

Also, in September we will cover school rules and making good choices. It is important that we all reinforce good manners and following rules as part of learning our social skills. September 17th: Class Group Pictures (MWF Children are encouraged to come for the photo—

times will be posted).

Once we've completed our back to school theme by mid-September we will switch to our "Family" theme. This is just another step in helping build relationships with our students and their families. It should be said to expect a couple of projects to come home such as a family collage that we will display throughout the classroom and possibly in the hallways. We would love to see the uniqueness of every family.

By October we will shift into our "Community" theme. I would like to invite any family members that play a role in helping the community to join us to talk about your job. These jobs might entail postal work, police department, fire department, teacher, nurse or doctors, etc. I truly believe the children will enjoy having guest speakers especially if it's their family. This will benefit children in their social skills, curiosity, and make personal connections to our community. Further details will come as our community theme approaches. Thank you in advance for all your cooperation and contributions.

Another October treat is Halloween. Rocking Horse's traditional Halloween parade will continue to allow children to showcase their costumes. On the same day we will allow our students to enjoy the rest of the day in their pajamas.

Speaking of traditions, here comes **November**. We will take the week of the 10th to honor our Veterans and the following week will be dedicated to the history of Thanksgiving, which is aligned with our annual Thanksgiving Family Feast. Our Trotters will be learning and

discussing most of our military branches that have protected and served our country. The history of Thanksgiving will entail reading stories of the Pilgrims and Indians, arts and crafts, educational videos, and so much more.

Before we know it, Jack Frost will be nipping at our noses. I would like to call **December** our culture awareness month. This month we will explore our family traditions and celebrations as well as other countries' traditions and celebrations. This is another month where families can expect projects to be done at home and brought to class so we can expose our students to different traditions and customs. As a class we will be researching a different country to contribute to Rocking Horse's Children Around the World so be sure to come and check out our table in the lobby when that day comes.

In closing, continue to bring fresh water daily. Be sure to check behavior charts daily so you know how your child did that day. LABEL everything. As the season changes, many will begin coming in jackets and sweaters. Most of us shop at Target and Kohl's and buy similar items. And if different parents drop off than pick up, it makes it easier to keep items with rightful owners.

Welcome to the Trotter room. Please feel free to contact me during nap time 1:30 – 2:30 if you have questions. I look forward to a new school year full of adventure and learning.

Ms. Marcey

Q: Throw away the outside and cook the inside, then eat the outside and throw away the inside. What is it?

A: Corn on the cob, because you throw away the husk, cook and eat the kernels, and throw away the cob.



September 2015

BRONCO

Happy New School Year and welcome Bronco Class of 2016! I would like to be the first to welcome all of our new students, as well as our students who started with us in the summer. I would like to update you on the progress of our Bronco class and what to expect for the upcoming months.

I can see progress in every child's writing and numbers, as well as his/her letter and sound recognition. In our classroom, we have begun a sign-in binder for children to continually practice writing their name and monitor their progression. In the reading category, the children have started identifying and spelling various words they see around the classroom.

In the Bronco classroom, we are always polite. Children have shown great progress in using their table manners at snack and lunch time. We are still working on politeness with our peers; however, all of the Broncos show great respect and admiration for their morning and afternoon teachers.

As we move forward into the school year, there are many exciting dates to keep in mind. September we will be covering our Ready for School unit. As we learn, we will be making new friends, working to-

gether and discovering our 5 senses. Grandparent's Day will be September 11th. Keep a lookout for important news in our classroom about the special day. Our Back to School Night will be September 15th. I look forward to meeting with you all and showing you what the Broncos are all about!

October will be learning about fire safety, stranger danger, and Our Community unit. The Broncos will learn how to keep their families and themselves safe and also learn about all the community helpers who work in their neighborhoods. In addition, 512 Portrait Company will be coming to our school October 6-8 for individual portraits.

November will be covering everything Fall. The Broncos will learn about their families and how each family is unique. We want to explore all types of relationships: aunts, uncles and cousins, grandparents, step brothers, or godfathers... and even how pets are part of the family. We will also learn about Native Americans, the Pilgrims and how Thanksgiving originated. Do not forget the Annual Family Feast hosted by Rocking Horse Academy on November 20th. Come and enjoy a nice Feast with your Bronco.

As the holidays draw nearer, we will learn about the different cultural holidays that are celebrated in our country during the month of **December**. We will learn and sing holiday songs as well as have a Holiday Party for our class. We will also begin to study another country in preparation for our Children Around the World Festival. We will learn about the country's music, traditions, culture, and compare and contrast to our own. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know each of the Broncos and his/her family. I am delighted to have each of them in my class, and we are really coming together as a team to have one of the greatest school years yet! If you have any concerns or questions, I do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that I am supervising children, so if you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please feel free to call or let me know a time I can contact you. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at 405-3700. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

Ms. Carmen
Bronco Lead Teacher

Riddle Me This

Q: In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower— everything was pink!
What color were the stairs?

A: There weren't any stairs, it was a one story house!

Q: What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in one thousand years?

A: The letter M





September 2015

CORRAL KIDS

Welcome Back Corral Kids

Sadly SUMMER has come and gone but we went out with a BANG!! DJ Jeff had us dancing all the way *back to school*. It's always hard to see such a fun summer end but it's great to see our Corral Kids with so much excitement and anxiousness to start a new year.

September for Corral Kids in the beginning is adjusting to new schedules, teachers, curriculum and friends but we all quickly get comfortable and jump into making the 2015-2016 school year a huge success! Homework, art projects, science experiments, games and activities are just a few of the fun things Corral Kids will be engaged in this school year. We are excited to say **Welcome Back Corral Kids** (after all summer will be back soon enough).

RHA will be closed September 7, 2015

October is one of Corral Kids favorite months. It gives us the opportunity to celebrate everything that is fall including food, nature and *wild* imaginations. We

will get the chance to discover the in's and out's of pumpkins, discuss nature's changes in color, engage in science experiments and even compete in our best "toilet paper costume" contest! October ultimately gives us hope that we may finally get some **cooler** weather!

RHA will be closed October 12, 2015

Corral Kids will be giving thanks and celebrating family and friends this **November!** We will spend this month learning that even the smallest acts of kindness can be the greatest! Each grade will design an activity or craft for the entire group that will concentrate on spreading love, encouragement and thanks to whomever they want to celebrate! With the weather getting cooler Corral Kids will also be organizing and participating in "Coats for Kids". Keep your eye out for donation boxes throughout the school to donate your child's gently used coats!

*Corral Kids will have ALL-DAY CARE

available November 23-25th and closed November 26-27th*

Snow, cheer, holiday and celebration are just a few things we look forward to in December! While HCISD will be closed for "**Holiday Vacation**" RHA will be open! This gives us an amazing opportunity to expand our knowledge of cultures and traditions around the world. In groups the corral kids will research crafts, recipes, music, games, etc. from different countries and organize a day to teach each other about the activities they learned. We will also be taking a day to spread the Holiday cheer with the residents at New Haven Memory Care & Assisted Living. We will be singing carols, decorating cookies and playing their favorite game *Pictionary!* So much celebrating to be had during the holiday season!

*HCISD will be closed December 18th – January 4th and RHA will be closed December 31st – January 1st.

Corral Kids ALL-DAY Care will be available throughout the break*

Riddles

The Smith family is a very wealthy family that lives in a big, circular home. One morning, Mr. Smith woke up and saw a strawberry jam stain on his new carpet. He figured out that everyone who was there that morning had a jam sandwich. By reading the following excuses, figure out who spilled the jam.

Billy Smith: "I was outside playing basketball."

The Maid: "I was dusting the corners of the house."

Chef: "I was starting to make lunch for later."

Who is lying?

A: It was the maid. The house is circular, it has no corners.

Two fathers and two sons go on a fishing trip. They each catch a fish and bring it home. Why do they only bring 3 home?

A: The fishing trip consists of a grandfather, a father and a son.

Q: What starts with "P" and ends with "E" and has more than 1000 letters?

A: A post office!