



Rocking Horse *review*

THERE'S A LOT OF EXCITEMENT AHEAD OF US, INCLUDING, NEW BOOKS TO READ, NEW FRIENDS TO MEET AND NEW SKILLS TO MASTER.

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again – the beginning of a new school year. Welcome to the back-to-school issue of the Rocking Horse Academy newsletter!

A Glimpse Ahead...

In September we highlight, Back to School Night. This night is a great opportunity to meet & connect with your child's teacher and get a better picture of what and how your child is learning and interacting in their classroom. This year's Back to School Night will be on September 11th between 5:30pm – 6:30 pm. Our Lead Teachers look forward to visiting with parents and answering questions about the classroom and you also have the opportunity to say hello to your child's former and future teachers.

October is Fire Safety month but we focus on practicing safety measures year round at RHA. 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.

512 Portrait Company, will be back again this month to work their magic. They truly capture moments beyond the typical studio portraits. Picture dates will be October 16-18. Keep an eye out for reminder signs and appointment forms.

On Halloween, we will have our annual costume parade. The children love getting to parade around the school, showing their Halloween costumes to other classrooms. We encourage the children to wear comfortable costumes and bring a change of clothing for after the parade. Remember, November 1st, the day after Halloween, will be PJ day. Come in your favorite jammies.

Our Thanksgiving, Family Feast tradition continues this year on November 16th.. Each year our staff prepares the entrée and drinks and our families bring the sides and desserts. Sign-up sheets will be posted closer to the date. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, all are welcome to celebrate the family spirit at our joyful gathering.

December is always a busy month for everyone so we are glad to offer Shop 'til You Drop day. December 8th RHA will be open from 12pm — Midnight for childcare. Parents can use this time to shop, gift-wrap, clean house or treat yourself to some "me " time., while knowing your children are lovingly cared for. (Continued on page 2)

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Important dates

TUITION DUE:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| SEPTEMBER | 10 th & 24 th |
| OCTOBER | 9 th & 22 nd |
| NOVEMBER | 5 th & 19 th |
| DECEMBER | 3 rd & 17 th |

| RHA CLOSED | | HCISD CLOSED | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| September | 3 rd | September | 3 rd |
| October | 8 th | October | 8 th |
| November | 22, 23 | November | 19 — 23 |
| December | 24, 25, 26 | December | 24 — 31 |
| January | 1 st | January | 1 — 8 |

DATE NIGHT

(SHOP TIL' YOU DROP)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | 15th |
| October | 20th |
| November | 10th |
| December | 8th (SHOP TIL' YOU DROP) (12PM –MIDNIGHT) |



512 PORTRAITS:
October 16,17,18

(Continued from page 1)

In December we will also celebrate Children Around the World. Your child's classroom will select a country and the children in that room learn about the food, dress, culture, and geography of that country. If you are from another country or culture or have lived in a different place, please let your teachers know you would like to help teach our children about that part of the world. This experience helps RHA students learn about diversity and respect for all citizens of the world.

A few general reminders—

Please remember to label water bottles. Both lid and bottle should have your child's name on it. We 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 look through our Lost and Found box regularly. We have so many items left by our students without name tags. Anything left in the box will be donated to the Kyle Thrift Store at the end of December.

We are all so grateful for your continued support of 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.



Time
Change
Nov 4



Fall
Back!!

REMINDER:

CHECK SANTA'S SCHEDULE

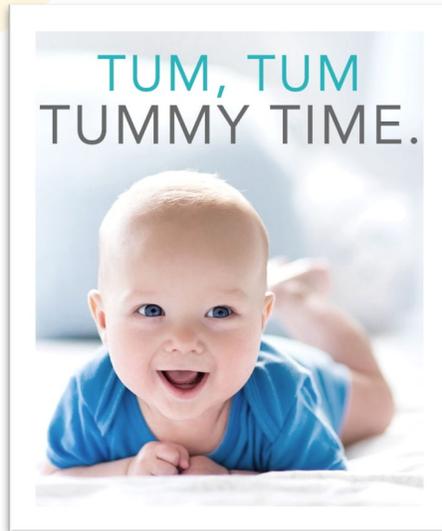
<http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/santas-arrival-tree-lighting-ceremony>



FOALS 1

Wow! I can't believe that summer is almost over. We have made many new friends, and our older friends move on to Foals 2.

September begins fall and the promise of cooler weather. In our classroom we will learn about our 5 Senses, what it means to go Back To School, and our Friends. Did you know that the only one of the 5 senses that is fully developed at birth is the inner ear—hearing. That's why talking, singing, listening to music is so important to the infant development. Babies can't taste salty foods until 4 months or so. And newborns can't really see very well. Their vision may only be 20/400 early on, but by 6 months, most babies are 20/20. Newborns can't see colors at first; black and red are easiest for them. And within days of birth, a newborn can differentiate the different diameters of a bristle brush, so their touch develops more quickly than their sight. We like to include Spanish vocabulary and ASL to help with communication and learning. Mi clase is my class and mis amigos is my friends. We will sing *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Muffin Man* this month and read *Mother Goose*, *The Lucy Cousins Book of Nursery Rhymes*, and *Global Babies*. The themes for **October** are Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers, and Fantasy. Separation anxiety is very common with infants. We work very hard to develop trust and caring so that your infant feels secure in our surroundings. It helps give them the confidence to explore the room eventually. When we feed our babies, we hold them. Sometimes we read a story; sometimes we sing a song—in Spanish or



TUMMY TIME IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL INFANTS, BUT IT CAN TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO. TRY PLACING BABY ONTO YOUR CHEST AND TALK TO HIM OR SING SONGS. WHEN YOUR VOICE ENCOURAGES HIM TO LIFT HIS HEAD, HE'LL BE REWARDED WITH A GLANCE AT YOUR SMILE. THE PHYSICAL CONTACT AND CLOSENESS CAN MAKE

English; or sometimes we just talk about the weather. The sound of our voices is calming and reassuring. Babies will continue to cry when handed to a stranger and that's a good thing. We read stories throughout the day to start that process of imagination and learning. Learning words to help us like Police or polecia is important to teach children.

Fun themes for **November** are Fall, Foods, Weather, Holidays, Family, and Home. November is a time to give thanks and a time for family. We will read *Are You My Mother?* and talk about families. Did you know that according to research, human babies are the only primates that smile at their parents? Or that A baby can recognize the smell and voice of its mother at birth. It takes a few weeks before a baby

can see the difference between its mother and other adults. Mother Nature has an amazing way to create that family bond from day one.

Two new songs this month are *Six Little Ducks*, and *Apples and Bananas*. The new books we will read are *Corn Candy*, *Holidays*, and *Fall*.

As we end the year with a bang our exciting themes for **December** are Holiday Traditions, Children and Cultures from Around the World. Our research tells us that New babies prefer looking at a drawing of a face rather than a random pattern, and they prefer smiling faces to grumpy ones. This month we will use our pictures to show to the babies during our story reading. We like to post family pictures in our cribs, too. During the holidays we like to play a variety of festive music from different genres and cultures. It helps broaden the listening experience to hear classical, country and popular music. We enjoy using our singing voices as we sing *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer*, and *Jingle Bells*. Fun books we will read are *Santa Workshop*, *T'was the Night Before Christmas*, and *Flying with Santa*.

Please help us by checking your child's drawer routinely to make sure he/she has extra clothes and they are weather appropriate. Also, please make sure to label everything with his/her name. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask.

Thanks

- Foals 1 Staff

FOALS 2

Fall brings a change in the air, colorful swirling leaves and joyous holiday celebrations. Along with the changing of the seasons, in Foals 2 we are excited about the fun activities to come over the next few

months and look forward to welcoming our new little friends and their families to our room. September kicks off with **Back-to-School** baby style. We may not have pencils, desks or tests in Foals 2, but we keep the learning

flowing as we discover our school, classroom and friends through play. A tour around the school will allow us to become familiar with different classrooms as well as meet new friends from other classes. *Wheels on the Bus* and *Tickity Tock* will be the songs we focus on to encourage music and movement. Together, we will learn the Spanish words for the month which are: amigos – friends and libro – book. The last two weeks, we will learn about ourselves focusing on our **5 senses**. Listening to music with our ears, tasting our foods with our taste buds (mouth), smelling different scents in our classroom and touching different textures around the room will not only encourage us in using all of our senses to learn, but also introduce our little ones to new sensations.

October is always an adventurous month, we will be focusing on **Community Helpers/Stranger Danger and Fantasy**. Learning about Stranger Danger will help both parents and baby understand the importance of boundaries and familiarity. This theme will also encourage babies to become more famil-

iar with their teachers, family members, and friends and understand it's ok to cry or stay away if a "stranger" is present. This will also transition us into learning about our community helpers around our town. The books



Babies are considered self-aware when in front of a mirror they touch their body and not the reflection.

we will read during this week are "That's Not My Truck" and "Little Peoples, What Do You Do?". Our hands and feet may get a bit colorful as we delve into finger-paints to create a police badge, a chef's hat, and an apple for a teacher; teaching us about creative expression while introducing different types of community helpers. Finally, we will complete our month learning about Fantasy. This adventurous theme will be filled with fun and games. We will play Hide 'n Seek with infant toys, and read nursery rhymes and fairytales. Some art for this week, will include, painting a crown, and a star. We will also focus on cognitive development by building castles with blocks and knocking them down, exploring the concept of cause and effect.

Looking forward to the month of November we will concentrate on **Forest Animals**, and a Foals 2 favorite, **Family & Home**. Learning about Forest Animals, will take place in our first 2 weeks of November. To encourage our language development, we will read the books: "In the Forest" and "Little Red Riding Hood". The babies will learn about the different animals that live in the forest, and we will do some finger plays about forest animals to reinforce our theme and improve fine motor skills. The second

half of the month we will learn about Family and Home. We will sing *Daddy Finger, Daddy Finger, Where Are You?* and *Where is Mommy?* Books about mommies, daddies, siblings and other members of the family will be read to encourage language and introduce babies to diverse family dynamics. We will finger-paint a house and make a family out of their hands.

December is always a fun and exciting month at Rocking Horse Academy. The themes for this month focus on diversity as we learn about **Children & Cultures from Around the World** and **Holiday Traditions**. Starting the month, we will learn about the cultures of children in different countries by seeing pictures of how they dress and what kind of foods they eat. We will also listen to different kinds of music from around the world and learn to say hello in different languages. We will round out the year by introducing holiday traditions, with creative expression, by finger-painting an evergreen tree, making a reindeer out of babies' hands and feet and making ornaments for our evergreen trees. The babies will work on their gross motor skills by learning to climb our soft stair and also to use their arms to pull up on the shelves. Playing with musical instruments and singing holiday songs with our friends will strengthen social development.

Foals 2 curriculum works on many areas of development which are appropriate for this age group. Each child may be in a different stage of development so all of our lesson plans are created with this in mind to encourage growth at every level.

We are grateful to be part of your baby's development and welcome any questions comments or concerns.

- Ms. Bianca , Ms. Chelsi,
Ms. Kaiulani, Ms. Sarai

COLTS

Welcome Colts! We are excited about the start of the new school year. Each month we will explore our themes through art work, song and dance, and literature. We will also introduce the children to colors, shapes, Spanish words, and American Sign Language. Our weekly lesson plans and monthly calendar are posted in the room for your convenience.

The themes for **September** are the **5 senses** and **Back to School**. The colors of the month are blue and red. The shape of the month is the circle. Some of our work will include a school bus, apple paintings, and a collage of colors. Some hints for you to do at home: Look for different shapes and colors. Make it a game with your little one. They catch on faster than you think.

In our lesson plans, we will work on learning the signs and Spanish words for circle (circulo), red (rojo), and blue (azul).

Some of the books will read are *I Touch, I Hear, I Can* by Helen Oxenbury. Back to school books include *Biscuit Loves School* and *If You Take a Mouse to School*. We will sign "The Wheels on the Bus" and "The More We get Together."

School wide themes for **October** are: **Fire-safety, Community Helpers, Stranger Danger, and Fantasy**. The colors for the

month are black and orange. The shape for the month is a square. Some of our art projects will be making fire hoses, black cats, pumpkins, and owls. We will read *I Love You Little Pumpkin, I am a Fire Truck*, and many others associated with our themes. At the end of the month, we will have a party to celebrate the fall season. If you have time, take your child to visit the fire station.

November will be a busy month for RHA and the Colts. The school wide themes are: **Fall, Family & Home, and Forest Animals**.

The shape of the month is the triangle and the colors are yellow and orange. We will make a family quilt this month and ask that each family bring in photos that can be used for this project. This is the month that we gather for a fall feast. Keep an eye out for information related to this delicious gathering. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special occasion. Some of our art projects include making placemats, making turkeys, painting with leaves and feathers. Books for the month include *5 Silly Turkeys, Fletcher and the Falling Leaves*, and *Ten Apples on Top*. Ideas for home: make special decorations for your use or family gatherings. People love to see what new accomplishments little ones make.

In **December** our themes are **Holiday Tra-**

ditions and Children and Cultures Around the World. The shape of the month is the rectangle and the colors are red and green. In art we will make a special gift for our parents. During story time, we will read *Llama, Llama Jingle Bells, Mouse's First Christmas*, and many stories about the holiday season. The Colts will focus on one country during RHA's Children Around the World celebration. Look for our display outside of our classroom. If you have holiday traditions at home, include your child in them. Remember they are little sponges and catch on quickly to new things.

A FEW REMINDERS: Make sure your child has weather-appropriate clothing in his/her cubby hole. Don't forget to label clothing, bags, bedding and water cup with your child's name and initial of last name, and your diapers. Morning times can get a little hectic and we want the appropriate items go to the correct child.

Please refer to the Tadpole app for all daily communications. We mark it with any supplies that are needed, how your child's day was, and any information pertaining to your child or RHA. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call during our nap hours (12:00-2:00). You may also leave us notes via the Tadpole app or on our classroom e-mail (colts@rockinghorseacademy.com)

Thank you for allowing RHA and the Colts to care for and nurture your child.

- Ms. Barbara & Colts Teachers



1ST TOOTH to 3 YEARS OLD

Starting around 6 months and up until about 12 to 14 months, your baby's first tooth will push through the gums.

BEST SMILE TIP!

Once your child's teeth begin to show, brush them twice a day (morning and night). Use a baby toothbrush and a smear of fluoride toothpaste the size of a grain of rice. Start cleaning between teeth daily as soon as your child has two teeth that touch.

HEALTHY HABITS:

Take your child to the dentist for a first checkup after the first tooth appears or by the time your child turns 1. Do not let your child sip all day on drinks with sugar.

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 (dormer/dorme).

September themes delve into our 5 Senses, Back to School; My School, My Classroom, My Friends. We would also like to get 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 will learn about our 5 senses by having some fun activities that allow our Ponies to put their senses to use. We will then discuss and

take a tour of our school, Rocking Horse Academy. We take time to learn about our new friends during circle time and discover fun things in our Pony Classroom. We LOVE making new friends! ☐

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,

DIFFERENCES IN THE SIZE OF
CHILDREN'S VOCABULARY
FIRST APPEAR AT ABOUT
18 MONTHS



too. You might want to schedule a fire drill in your home, 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. The Ponies also love to wait and watch at the window as the yellow school buses go by! What does each of these helpers do and whom do they help? At the end of the month, we plan to dress up in fantasy outfits and have a party to celebrate the fall season! So FUN!

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. We will discuss forest animals that might be seen during the fall month.

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 can attend; keep a lookout for more information from our class and the school. We look forward to seeing you!

December: Hurray for the Holidays! This month, we will be learning about children from around the world and their holiday traditions. Our class will focus on one country then have a Children Around the World Celebration in our classroom. We will look at many pictures of other countries and even some Santas! We will end the month with a review of basics: letters, numbers, colors, and shapes.

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 his/her water cup before placing it in the bucket. We are so appreciative for all the support you give to us each day! We look forward to spending a wonderful autumn with you and your child! Please let us know if you have any questions! PONY PARENTS ROCK!

- Ms. Leslie, Ms. Monica,
Ms. Stacey, Ms. Adriana

CHARGERS 1

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 daily, 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 habi-

tat and look at pictures of them as well at group time. We will talk about the coming of **fall** and all 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 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 Mexico as our country. We will hear the Mexican music, taste Mexican foods, and study pictures of Mexican children and cultures. If anyone has been to Mexico 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.

Thank you Chargers 1

- Ms. Laurie & Ms. Theresa



CHARGERS 2

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!!!!

- Chargers 2 Teachers



GETTING DRESSED — HAVE A FUN TIME GETTING CLOTHES ON YOUR 2-YEAR-OLD. TALK ABOUT BODY PARTS AND GIVE LITTLE TICKLES. SCRUNCH UP THE ARMS AND LEGS OF CLOTHES AND PEEK AT YOUR TODDLER THROUGH THEM. MAKE SILLY SOUNDS. NOT ALL TODDLERS ARE INTERESTED IN PICKING OUT THEIR OWN CLOTHES, YET, BUT IF YOURS IS THAT'S A GREAT WAY TO HAND OVER SOME CHOICES. USE THIS EVERY-

PINTOS

“Every day is a day to learn in the Pintos.”

We have learned so much in the last few months. The children have practiced a lot of their pre-reading and pre-writing skills. For example, being able to retell a favorite story or predict what will come next in a story are important pre-reading activities. Some important pre-writing activities include manipulating putty to strengthen their hand muscles so that they are able to properly hold a pencil and drawing with crayons instead of markers so that they have to push down more to make a mark. I offer these types of activities every day in many different and fun 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 10:00 – 10:15 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.

Summer is over and with that the new school year arrives. We will kick off the month of September with the theme “five senses.” Tasting different type of foods like sweet, salty and sour will be a fun way to try out our tongues. 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. 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? 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 to help keep everyone safe and teach respect for others.

October opens lots of opportunities for us to discuss and learn about our community helpers. Some of our most familiar community helpers are the different staff members of Rocking Horse. Introducing the children to what Ms. Rebecca or Mr. George does helps them better understand how people’s jobs help our community. It is also fire safety month, so learning about firefighters, police officers and ambulance crews are a must. With the upcoming fun-filled holiday of Halloween, it is very important to learn about how to be safe around strangers. I will read a few



books about stranger danger and precautions to take, but what will make the information really sink in are the real-life scenarios that are played out with props. 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. October is a great month to stretch and grow the children’s already great imaginations and bring them to life.

Some of the fun aspects of fall are the changes of the weather, having to wear warmer clothing, the yummy food and watching all of the different animals get ready for winter. November is a time for everyone to reflect on how important our families and our traditions are. The children love to share pictures of their families and family pets with their friends. Being able to share a part of their own personal lives with the other important people in their lives is so rewarding. 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*.

December is a fun and busy month. We will be 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. Right around the age of three is when children start to realize they are not the entire center of the universe and can have an affect on the people around them. This 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! While we are learning about other countries holiday traditions, we get to share our own holiday traditions in many different ways.

Now that the children have gotten to know each other, they naturally pair up and play in small groups. They do a lot of gender identity at this time, saying things like, “only boys can do this,” and 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. 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.

WRANGLERS

Summer is coming to an end, but we are excited to start the next school year! First off, I would like to welcome Ms. Carlie into our classroom. Many of you know her from Chargers 1. She loves our classroom and is eager to see what kinds of things the new group of Wranglers will learn. 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**. Some of the fun things we will do to learn about the senses is a taste test to distinguish sweet and salty & a listening activity playing bingo to see if we can recognize every day sounds. It will be lots of fun, and we will be sure to take pictures! In the past month, we welcomed many new faces into our class. We are encouraging the Wranglers to use their words with friends when they are trying to express their feelings or wants. Another focus this month will be on class rules and responsibilities. Once each child is comfortable in the classroom and understands the rules, each child will get a "job". They range from line leader to door holder, to naptime helper, to teacher helper. Another thing I will do is plan 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. One of the fun things we will do is put out a "fire". We will draw flames on the sidewalk with chalk and the children will take turns putting it out with a spray bottle. I will demonstrate what they would do in case of a fire at home and at school (such as *stop,*

drop and roll). Another thing we will learn is Stranger Danger. If a stranger approaches them, we talk about what to do, who to tell and the "safe people" to find in case they are out in public such as a community helper. 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 types 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 Ms. Tina or Ms. Jada know if you would like to come by and speak to the class. We will be ending this month with fantasy. We will talk about what is real, what is not and fairytales. We will also be decorating little pumpkins for everyone to take home. One thing that the kids love doing is cutting into large pumpkins and getting to take all the pumpkin guts out! Their faces are priceless! For the month of November, we will start with **forest animals and weather**. One of my favorite books to read is *The Mitten* as we try to figure out how all those animals were able to fit in there! We will learn about what animals hibernate and what they eat.

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 also 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 winter holidays. We will also celebrate Children Around the World. We will study the food, clothing, and traditions of how children from a different country celebrate Christmas. We are 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.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, concerns please do not hesitate to ask any of the Wrangler teachers and we will gladly help to the best of our ability. Thank you for trusting us with your little ones! Thank you!

– Wrangler Teachers

Did You Know...

When Parents are Involved, Children

- Get better grades and test scores.
- Graduate from high school at higher rates.
- Are more likely to go to college.
- Are better behaved.
- Have a more positive outlook on life.



Knock, knock
Who's there?
Police
Police who?
Police (please) may I come in?

MUSTANGS

Time flies when you're having fun and we've had a summer full of fun in the Mustang room! We said goodbye to the last of the summer Mustangs who turned 4 and made the transition into Pre-K and have welcomed several new students into our class.

Ms. Katie and I are excited to really start getting to know our Mustang students. We look forward to our year together and hope it is one full of growth and learning as we prepare them for Pre-K next summer. We will begin with an informal assessment to see what areas we need to focus on and what skills have already been mastered. To kick off our **back-to-school** unit, we will talk all about ourselves: our school, class and friends. We will decorate our hallway bulletin board with fun facts and family pictures for each of our Mustangs. We, the teachers, hope to include our own information so that you can get to know us better as well.

Speaking of families, we are excited to continue our traditional Grandparent's Day Luncheon on Friday, Sept. 7th. Our class lunchtime is from 11:30-12:00pm, and we hope to see lots of Mustang grandparents there! In addition, Rocking Horse Academy's annual Back-to-School night will be held on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 5:30-6:30pm. It is an excellent chance to come and talk with us outside of the normal drop-off and pick-up times. It is also a great opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers in your child's future classrooms and get a sense of the new skills they hope to teach them when they next transition. Later in the month, we will explore our senses. It is one of my favorite units as it gives us the opportunity to explore everyday items with our whole body. We will have a week of touch and taste where we will explore the textures of objects and food. We will stimulate our tactile sense with a

special sensory walk. The students will take turns walking through bins filled with different materials such as sand, rocks, grass, and water. We will discuss what the different materials feel like- wet, hard, bumpy, soft, etc. We will have a special snack day where we stimulate our palettes to discover the tastes of salty, sweet, sour and savory with different food items like lemon juice, chocolate chips, pretzels and marshmallows. The remaining senses, hearing, smell and sight will be covered another week and will include activities such as an outdoor I-spy scavenger hunt and guessing games with various scents and sounds. We'll read stories like, *I Can Hear a Pickle*, *My Five Senses* and *Horton Hears a Who!*

With October comes our safety units dealing with **fire safety, stranger danger and talking about various community helpers**. During circle time we will practice our parents' names, learn who to ask for help and who to call in an emergency. We will also role play what to do in situations of becoming lost/ separated from our parents and practice dialing 9-1-1 with a pretend phone.

For fire safety we will not only practice *stop, drop and rolling* but crawling through a home-made obstacle course of "smoke" to practice the method of "get low and go!" We will also become amateur firefighters ourselves with crafts and activities like making our own fire hats and putting out imaginary fires with spray bottles. As we move on to our community helpers' week we would love to have family participation. If you or someone you know are interested in coming to speak to the children about the ways in which you serve our community, we would be honored to have you. A sign-up sheet will be posted in advance. Reminders and more information will also be put into Tadpole. Please remember that we all have a part in helping our community and consider coming in to

share your time and talent with the children. Children are always so proud to show off their parents and relatives.

As October concludes and November begins, it is the start of the holiday season. Fall temperatures will be in the air as we talk with the Mustangs about the weather, food and holidays as well as family and home life. We will have many opportunities to practice our culinary skills by making different snacks and treats to help us learn about fall foods like apples and pumpkins. All the classes also work together to transform the outside gazebo into a mini pumpkin patch where we will take some fun fall photos of the kids.

Later in November we'll celebrate my favorite Rocking Horse Academy event, the Family Feast, a special potluck luncheon where families are invited to come and spend the afternoon eating with us. Before you know it, December will be here! We will spend some time reviewing basics (letters, numbers, shapes, etc.) as we prepare for individual assessments and parent-teacher conferences in January.

However, most of the month will be focused on learning about a different culture. Per RHA tradition we will pick a country and learn and explore as much as we can about its land, people, food, clothing and customs. We will also discuss how they celebrate the different winter holidays and later compare it to the holiday traditions of our class.

This year we look forward to learning all about Australia. With its location in the southern hemisphere, we are tickled at the thought of Christmas at a time of warmth and beach vacations but look forward to cranking up the heat and pretending to have a picnic "on the beach" inside our classroom.

Just as quickly as summer flew by we don't doubt that fall and winter will also come and go before we know it. As always thank you for entrusting your children to us. We are excited and grateful for another year to learn and grow with them .

- Mustang Teachers

CHILDREN
learn as they
PLAY.
Most importantly,
in PLAY
children LEARN
how to
LEARN.
- © Fred Donnellson

TROTTERS

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone. A new school year is quickly approaching, and the Trotters can't wait!

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.

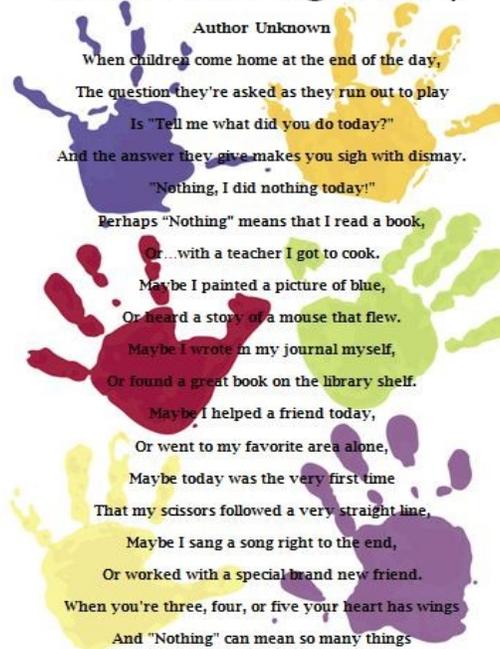
Some of our Trotters started in June, but our first "official" day of school is Monday, August 27th. With two new teachers in the classroom, it's a good time to start with getting to know the students and the parents, to get accustomed to our classroom rules and routines, as well as establish trusting relationships that will last all year. 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 variety 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 Thursday September 13th in the gymnasium. 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. Class Group Pictures will be during the second week of September, and we will have more information for you as that day draws near. Once we've completed our back to school theme by mid-September, we will switch to our "Family" theme. The Trotters are currently working on a giant family tree for our classroom. This is just another step in helping

build relationships with our students and their families. We want students to get a sense of heritage with grandparents and great grandparents and how our ancestors might have lived, too.

By October we will shift into our "Community"

I Did Nothing Today



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 any other job that helps others. I truly believe the children will enjoy having guest speakers, especially if it is 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. Another October treat is Halloween. Rocking Horse's traditional Halloween parade will continue to allow children to showcase their costumes.

Speaking of traditions, here comes November. We will use the first week of November to take a moment and notice the seasonal

changes. The following week will be dedicated to the history of Thanksgiving, which is aligned with our annual Thanksgiving Family Feast. The history of Thanksgiving will entail reading stories of the Pilgrims and Native Americans, arts and crafts, educational videos, and so much more. Then on Friday November 16th, Rocking Horse will open its doors and welcome all staff, students, family and friends to join in on our feast and traditions.

Before we know it, December will be upon us. I would like to call December our cultural 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 different countries to learn and embrace new cultures, traditions, and customs.

Also, with the weather changing please keep in mind of the extra clothing that is kept in children's cubbies is up-to-date with the seasonal change. I would also like to add, in the case of school closures or delays, RHA follows HCISD schedule or one could always check RHA's Facebook page.

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

Welcome to the Trotter room! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. I look forward to a new school year full of adventure and learning!

-Trotter Teachers

BRONCOS

Happy New School Year and welcome Bronco Class of 2019! We would like to be the first to welcome all our new students, as well as our students who started with us in the summer. As you have noticed there is no sign in sheet when you drop off/pick up. Teachers will sign in/out your child on Tadpoles. Here are a few things to look forward to in the upcoming months.

During the summer we have been busy working on counting 0-50, holding a pencil correctly, writing our names, colors (English & Spanish), beginning letter sounds, and patterns. Broncos have done great adjusting to their new classroom and 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 together and discovering our 5 senses. Grandparent's Day will be September 7th; grandparents are more than welcome to come join us for lunch. Our Back to School Night will be September 13th. 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 learn about all the community helpers who work in their neighborhoods. If you work for

our community and would love to share what you do with our class, please let me know so we can set up a time and date for a special visit. I know that the children would love to meet and learn about a firefighter, doctor, librarian, nurse, construction worker, etc. In addition, 512 Portrait Company will be coming to our school October

Annual Family Feast hosted by Rocking Horse Academy on November 16. Come and enjoy a nice feast with your Broncos.

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 Broncos. 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.

We have greatly enjoyed getting to know each of the Broncos and his/

her family. We are delighted to have each of them in our 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 512-405-3700. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

-Bronco Teachers
Mrs. Norma,
& Ms. Alyssa

WHY PLAY IS ESSENTIAL IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION



When I PLAY and BUILD with BLOCKS - I am learning math concepts, hand eye coordination, colors, shapes and how things work.



When I COLOR & SCRIBBLE - I am learning pre-writing skills, developing fine motor skills, experimenting. My creative mind is working and I am making choices.



When I am engaged in DRAMATIC PLAY - I am practicing life skills, problem solving, language and communication skills, and socializing.



When I PLAY OUTSIDE - I am developing gross motor skills, learning about muscle control, my body and how it works.



When I am engaged with TABLE TOYS & MANIPULATIVES - I learn various math, language and problem solving skills. How to follow directions and work with others.



When I am involved with SCIENCE/SENSORY - I am learning about size, weight, balance and textures. I work with my senses and gain experience sorting & classifying different materials.

Play is natural and is practice for life. While playing, children learn how to problem solve and develop critical life skills. Play offers children time to experiment and learn, while teaching them responsibility and independence. It is not just play - it is so much more!

16-18 for individual portraits. Please make sure that your child is dressed in what you would like them to wear for the picture. We can change into play clothes later if you'd like.

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. As we discuss families, I will ask everyone to make a family tree to share with the class. We will also learn about Native Americans, the Pilgrims and how Thanksgiving originated. Do not forget the

CORRAL KIDS

September

SUMMER has come and gone but we went out with a bang at our End-of-Summer Bash. It's always hard to see such a fun summer end, but it's great to see new and old faces joining Corral Kids for another new school year! The beginning of school for Corral Kids is all about adjusting to new schedules, teachers, curriculum and friends...we are all excited to get the 2018-2019 school year started! Homework, art projects, science experiments, games and activities are just a few of the fun things Corral Kids have planned this school year. Needless to say we are excited to say **Welcome Back Corral Kids** (after all summer will be back soon enough).

Labor Day September 3rd – Enjoy the 3-Day Weekend!!!!

October

October is one of Corral Kids favorite months. It gives us the opportunity to celebrate everything that is fall...pumpkins,

leaves changing colors and *wild* imaginations. October ultimately gives us hope that we may finally get some **cooler** weather and extended outside time perfect for group games like kickball, soccer and baseball!!

Teacher In Service Training Day- Oct 8th

November

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 each week that will concentrate on spreading love, encouragement and thanks to whomever they want to celebrate! Rocking Horse Academy will be feeling the love!

Corral Kids will have ALL-DAY CARE available November 19th – 21st

December

Snow, cheer, holiday and celebration are

just a few things we look forward to in December! Don't forget to sign up for our Holiday Camp! Corral Kids will stay busy making ornaments, decorating cookies and learning carols. We will be spreading the holiday spirit at RHA as we sing carols to the pre-school classes. So much celebrating to be had during the holiday season!

Corral Kids ALL-DAY Care will be available December 17th – 21st and December 27th – 28th and 31st

We would love to hear from you!

You can reach Ms. Kimberly anytime during school hours at 512-405-3700 or by email at:

corralkids@rockinghorseacademy.com.

This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you may have.

Recess is important because:

- ✓it's fun!
- ✓it relieves stress
- ✓it gets you moving
- ✓it builds your imagination
- ✓it helps you concentrate better in Class

