

Rocking Horse Review

Up Coming Events!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LINDA ASHNESS



Dessert fund-raiser items will be delivered on 11/11
One day pickup only!

Teddy Bear Portraits
Nov. 11th-13th

Sign up for family time slots at the front desk . Check with your class for its scheduled time.

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Holiday Closings

November 26-27

December 24,25,31

Happy New Year!

RHA IS CLOSED
ON JANUARY 1st

HELP!

Volunteers are needed to spread mulch on November 14th ! So far we have no parents signed up! We are desperate for your help!

Family Feast

November 20th

Foals I-II, Colts, Ponies will eat in their rooms unless accompanied by an adult.

First seating is at 11 a.m.

Chargers I-II, Pintos

Second seating is at 12 noon

Mustangs, Trotters, Broncos

December 12th
12p.m.-12-a.m.

Don't forget "Shop Til You Drop" This is an opportunity to leave your children with staff they already know and love, as well as have time to... clean house, shop and/or wrap gifts without the kids, or even treat yourself to a "me" day. Check the front desk for more details.

Date Nights

November 14th, December 12th, January 16th

Director's Corner

RHA in Review

September:

Thank you to all of our parents and teachers who made our Back to School Night such a big success. It was not only informative but also

fun. It really gave us a chance to meet each other and to get an idea of who we are and what you are looking for in these next few precious years. I enjoyed talking with all of you and thank you for continuing to support our efforts in your school.

If you missed ordering your child's group class pictures, it's still not too late! Please contact Ms. Rebecca in order to receive our photographers direct contact information.

We completed our 3rd annual fall fundraiser and were

able to collect \$2176 to go towards mulch for the playground. We did not collect enough for a new walkie-talkie system so that will remain on our wish list. The Mustang classroom raised a total of \$948 and won the classroom pizza party. Congratulations Kim and Yuri! A special thanks goes to the family of Lane Burch who sold \$434 worth of desserts. That's incredible!!! Many special thanks go out to those families that worked so hard in collecting orders and helping to support our school. THANK YOU!

October:

Maria Matts, our Asst. Director, and I have been quite busy this month.

We took a road trip to San Marcos where we spent the morning attending a Tx Dept of Family and Protective Services training. It was very informative, and we were able to bring a lot of what we learned back home to our teachers for their own in-service training.

I am pleased to share that the in-house training we provided on October 12th was a complete success. We focused on teaching/behavior techniques, school policies & procedures, and room/center germ control. It was extremely informative and very helpful.

This month, RHA students also enjoyed meeting with and talking to our very own local fire fighters. They reviewed safety rules and tips on how kids can practice being safe. Our students even got hands-on opportunities to demonstrate all the equipment they need and use. Even our toddlers enjoyed checking out the big fire trucks from the playground. **With a loud and gracious "THANK YOU!" we appreciate all that you do.**

I would also like to extend a very big "Thank You" to those family members and our very own parents representing various law enforcement agencies in the area who volunteered to talk to our children about stranger danger and basic safety tips. Consistent reminders and

practice is key to helping our children learn to use these tips in case of an emergency.

Hats off to all of you who help to make our community better!

With the change of weather and daylight saving time, it is time to refresh your child(ren)'s extra clothes. Please stop by your child's cubby and make sure there are at least two sets of clothes for both warmer weather and for the cooler weather. Layers work great for this.

Please don't forget to label everything.

On that note, don't forget to also check the lost and found box frequently for lost items.

Reminders and Heads-ups

November 11th

Fundraiser Food Delivered

November 11-13th

Fall School Portraits

November 14th

VOLUNTEER DAY – Parents and Teachers - Spread Mulch

November 14th

*Parent Date Night

November 20th

Family Feast Luncheon with your child

November 23-27th

HCISD Closed for Thanksgiving

November 26-27th

RHA Closed for Thanksgiving

December 3rd

Kyle's Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 12th

*Shop 'til You Drop (12 p.m. – 12 a.m.)

December 16th

7th Annual International Children

Around the World Festival

Dec. 21st – Jan. 5th

HSICD Closed

December 24th & 25th

RHA Closed

Dec. 31st – Jan 1st

RHA Closed

January 16th

Parent Date Night

January 19th

MLK (RHA closed for in-house staff training)

*** First Aid and CPR Classes & Parent**

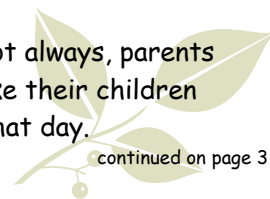
**Date Nights are offer once a month.
Come check it out!**

On a personal note, I can't begin to express my appreciation for all of you who joined our staff and me the last time we gathered to refresh our large, beautiful playground and deep clean the school. We had 34 total volunteers show-up to do everything from dusting fans, cleaning windows, power-washing buildings and equipment, to scrubbing furniture and toys. We also managed to move 110 cubic yards of mulch and 20 cu yd of sand from our parking lot to spread out evenly over the entire play area and sand box. On November 14th we will do it all over again. If you own a bobcat and/or shovels, rakes, wheel barrows and more, please come by for a couple of hours to help make your child's playground and school a safer one. I would like to extend my deepest thanks for taking the time away from your already busy schedules to lend us a helping hand. We cannot do it without you!!

Please join us and your child for lunch, November 20th for our Family Thanksgiving Feast.

Every year since we opened, we have held a school-wide Thanksgiving luncheon for our families. This is an opportunity for you to come and have lunch with your child(ren) and enjoy some one-on-one time. It is also a great time to learn more about your child's friends and their families and build an even stronger connection with our teachers. The school will provide the main dish and we ask that parents and staff bring sides to accompany it. Sign up sheets will be distributed closer to the feast. Often, but not always, parents choose to take their children home early that day.

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Some families may not be able to leave with their children or some of you may not be able to take the time off. We will be extra sensitive to this and prepare activities or assign another parent to sit next to your child to help redirect their attention.

In an ongoing commitment to give back to families in need, RHA would like to host a community-wide food and coat drive, so that we can make a large donation of canned goods, non-perishable foods, everyday toilet-

ries, children's coats and pet supplies.

Canned meats or veggies
Peanut butter
Toothpaste or brushes
Breakfast bars
Water
Shampoo/Conditioner
Soap
Nuts
Deodorant
Sanitary Products
Diapers
Towels
Leashes
Pet Food
Pet Toys

Donations will be divided between the Local Food Bank, Red Cross, Coats for Kids and PAWS.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to work with your children during such an amazing time in their precious lives.

We truly appreciate you and your children!

What's for Dinner?

Personal Pizzas

By: Vanessa Greaves

How do you feed a pack of picky eaters? Give them exactly what they want with do-it-yourself pizzas.

You can't please all of the people all of the time, although you could come close when you let the people please themselves. Want to test this theory on the kids? Set them up with pizza dough and all kinds of toppings, and stand aside while they create self-serve solutions.

What You'll Need:

Pizza crust
Pizza sauce
Bite-size and shredded toppings
Round or rectangular pans (optional)
Pizza stone (optional)

One For All

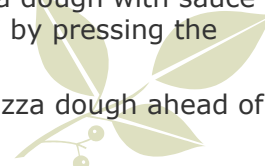
Divide pizza dough into single-size portions or take a whole pizza crust and designate a section for each kid.

An efficient way to make a lot of individual pizzas: pat most of the dough into a large rectangle and make a grid pattern with strips of remaining dough. Let kids fill the grids with the toppings of their choice. When the pizza is baked, use a pizza wheel or large knife to cut along the grid lines.

Explore other pizza shapes. How about hearts, flowers, bears, fish or even kid-shaped pizzas?

Make individual pizza pockets--or calzones--by spreading half a round of raw pizza dough with sauce and toppings, leaving a 1-inch border. Fold the other half over and seal the edges by pressing the dough together with a fork. Brush with olive oil and bake.

For a quick and easy pizza night, start with pre-baked pizza crust or make your pizza dough ahead of time.



Foals I

Fall is in the air and our thermometers are finally dropping. You may want to add a sweater or jacket to your drawer for cooler days. When we have the opportunity, we like to take walks in our strollers if the weather allows.

Family and home, Native Americans and Pilgrims are the themes for November. Our Spanish words include November-*Noviembre*, family-*familia*, home-*casa*, brown-. We will sing the finger play song "Where is the Family" and read Hugs and Kisses, Guess What I Eat and Little Quack. The discovery time will be to shake a bottle with corn and beans, count the people in our family will be our math and for physical activity we will roll a pumpkin. The homework for November is to practice drinking from a cup.

December themes are **Music, Holiday Traditions and Children around the World**. December-*Diciembre*, Christmas-*Navidad*, red-*rojo*, green-*verde*, music-*musica*, children-*niños* are the Spanish words. Our songs included "Oh Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bells". We will wash our hands to stay healthy and read Here Comes Santa and The Night Before Christmas. The homework for December is to practice sitting up.

New Year's, Winter and Arctic Animals are the themes for January. Spanish words are January-*Enero*, New Year's-*Año Nuevo*, white-*blanco*, winter-*invierno*, snow-*nieve*, cold-*frio*. For story time we will read Snowflake the Snowman and Baby Donald Makes a Snowfriend. A fun song to sing is "Be Kind to your Fur Footed

Friends". The babies will touch cold things for sensory and play peek-a-boo with the snowflake scarf for physical development. The homework assignment is to practice rolling over.

Parent reminders: Please remember to label everything you bring including bottles, lids, pacifiers and food. Thanks for your help. Also please sign your baby in and out with the time and your initials. These are requests from administration. Questions and comments are always welcome. We appreciate the opportunity to care for your baby. Please note that Rocking Horse Academy will be closed Nov. 26 & 27, Dec. 24, 25 & 31 and Jan. 1, 2010.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season by keeping your family healthy and happy.



Foals I Staff

American Academy Of Pediatrics

Why do newborns need hearing screening?

Although most babies can hear normally, 2 to 3 of every 1,000 babies are born with some degree of hearing loss. Without newborn hearing screening, it can be difficult to detect hearing loss in the important first months and years of your baby's life. About half of the children with hearing loss have no risk factors for it. Newborn hearing screening can detect possible hearing loss in the first days of a baby's life. If a possible hearing loss is

found, further tests will be done to confirm the results. If a hearing loss is confirmed, treatment and early intervention can start promptly. Early intervention helps babies with hearing loss and their families learn important communication skills. That is why the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all babies receive newborn hearing screening before they go home from the hospital.

Importance of good hearing

Babies learn from the time they are born.

One of the ways they learn is through hearing. If they have problems with hearing and do not receive the right treatment and early intervention services, babies will have trouble with language development. For some babies early intervention services may include the use of sign language and/or hearing aids. Studies show that children with hearing loss who receive appropriate early intervention services by age 6 months usually develop good language and learning skills.

More at:

http://www.aap.org/publiced/BR_HearingScreen.htm

Foals II

Foals 2 is looking forward to colorful swirling leaves and a change in the air, plump pumpkins and crisp apples. We're also anticipating a joyful holiday season in the coming months. The next few months hold many new and exciting activities for us.

Our November themes are "Family", "Neighborhood", and "Community Helpers". We will spend a lot of time looking at pictures of our families and talking about them as well. If there are any new photos you'd like to share, we would love to see them. We will also play house with play dishes, pots, & pans. We will continue to work on our Spanish words: thank you- *gracioso*, please- *por favor*, family-*familia*, and home-*casa*. Books for the November are: "*One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*" by Dr. Suess & Theodor Suess Gersal; "*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*" by Eric Carle; "*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?*" by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle.

November dates to remember:

Nov. 1st-Daylight Savings Time (turn clock 1 hour back)

Nov. 11th thru 13th Teddy Bear Portraits

Nov. 20th Family Feast First Seating @ 11

Second seating @ noon

Nov. 26th & 27th RHA Closed -

Happy Thanksgiving

Our theme for December is Music and Movement and we will learn how to move with music. We will spend time listening to "*Kids Sing Songs Around the World*", and "*Dance Baby Dance!*". If there is a favorite CD or tape you'd to share, feel free to bring it by. Another thing we have in December is Children/Culture Around the World. Foals 2 has chosen Ireland as our country. We will explore the Irish culture with music, pictures, books and art projects. Our Spanish words for December are *red-rojo*, and *green-verde*. Book for the month of December are "*Love You Forever*" by Robert N. Munsch & Sheila McGraw; "*Toes, Ears, & Nose!*" by Marion Dane Bauer; & "*Couduroy*" by Don Freeman.

December dates to remember:

Dec. 12th Shop till you drop 12 p.m. till 12 a.m.

Dec. 16th Children around the World Festival

Dec. 24th & 25th RHA Closed - Merry Christmas

Dec. 31st RHA Closed - New Years Eve - Happy New Year!

For January, we will explore Winter and Arctic animals. We will read short stories and look at picture books of Arctic animals, and touch ice cubes. Spanish

words for January are *cold-frio*, *amor-love*. Books for January: "*Dear Zoo*" by Rod Campbell; "*Guess How Much I Love You*" by Sam McBratney & Anita Jerman; & "*No Hitting*" by Karen Katz.

January dates to remember:

Jan.1st RHA Closed - New Year's Day - Happy 2010!

We will introduce Foals 2 to a Fall Flannel Board. Science will be all about sensory with leaves, large rocks, and soft toys. A few books we will be reading are "*I am Special*", "*All the Children of the World*" and "*Ruly's Rainy Day*". Our movement and music includes, "*Fall Fun*", "*Scarecrow, Scarecrow*", and some circle time activities include reach and feel, fall finger plays.

Our class curriculum works on many areas of activities and physical development that is appropriate for this age group. Each child is in a different stage, so all the lesson plans are planned with this in mind.

We enjoy being a part of your baby's. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,
Foals 2 Staff



Colts

Hello Winter, Good-Bye Fall! We want to welcome our new families to the Colt room. These next 3 months are going to be fun-filled learning experience. We would like to welcome Ms. Sam to the Colt room.

In the month of November, we will talk about *Family and Home, Neighborhoods and Community Helpers*. 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.

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 Mexico. We will make a Mexican flag, dress-up in Mexican clothes and listen to Spanish music from Mexico.

In the month of January, we will learn about *Winter, Arctic animals and Time and Calendar*. The first two weeks, we will talk

about winter and Arctic animals. We will play with ice for our sensory lesson. We will try to make an igloo and color a polar bear as examples of some art activities. Then the last two weeks, we will explore the world of Time. We will make clocks, talk about each other's birthdays and other time and calendar activities. We will read "*A Clock goes Tick Tock*".

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.

Colts Staff



American Academy Of Pediatrics

WHEN TO SUSPECT AN ALLERGY

Here are some common clues that could lead you to suspect your child may have an allergy:

- Repeated or chronic cold-like symptoms - that last more than a week or two, or develop at about the same time every year. These could include a runny nose, nasal stuffiness, sneezing, throat clearing, and itchy, watery eyes.
- Recurrent coughing, wheezing,

chest tightness, difficulty breathing, and other respiratory symptoms may be a sign of asthma. Coughing may be an isolated symptom; increases at night or with exercise are suspicious for asthma.

- Recurrent red, itchy, dry, sometime scaly rashes in the creases of the elbows and/or knees, or on the back of the neck, buttocks, wrists, or ankles.
- Symptoms that occur repeatedly after eating a particular food

that may include hives, swelling, gagging, coughing or wheezing, vomiting or significant abdominal pain. Itching or tingling sensations in the mouth, throat and/or ears during certain times of year or after eating certain foods.

More at:

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/septallergy.cfm>

Ponies

We are so excited that the holidays are almost here! Hurray for fall! Please remember to send your Pony to school with a labeled water cup, even though it's time for cooler weather it is still very important to keep your Pony hydrated. Also please be sure to check your child's clothing cubby to make sure that weather appropriate clothing is available for your Pony. Don't forget to label EVERYTHING!!!!

You can expect to see each week's theme, shape, color, and letter or number posted on the parent board outside of the Ponies classroom. Feel free to take a copy of the lesson plan so that you can encourage your little one to practice at home what they have learned at school.

November:

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? This lesson plan will include a video, "Elmo Goes to the Doctor" and books about encounters with the various helpers around town. The Bernstein Bears and Dr. Seuss books highlight these lessons. Also this month we will discuss our homes and families as well as our neighborhoods and what makes them special! Who lives with you? Do you have any pets

or siblings? This will require some parent involvement since moms and dads will be the source of the information we need to discuss each Pony's family.

Don't forget our RHA Thanksgiving Family Feast on November 20th !

December:

Hurray for the holidays! This month we will be learning about how Winter holidays are celebrated in other countries. Some countries may not even call it Christmas; what do they call it? What do the children in other countries look like? What type of music do they listen to? What kind of food do they eat? The Ponies will be learning about one specific country and about the traditions that make their children and their holiday unique for the Children Around the World Festival! These special lessons will include food, music, and dance!

January:

Brrr! January is still cold in most parts of the world so we will discover the animals that live in the cold Arctic. Also, since January means a New Year is coming, your Pony will learn all about time and the calendar and how it changes when the New Year comes around. Lessons will include: the days of the week, the months of the year, what year is it, and what does a clock do? This month we will learn the sign language for the

different animals that we study as well as continue learning our Spanish.

Every day in our circle time your child will discuss the weather outside, and further explore colors, shapes, numbers, and sign language. We also love learning through song so expect your Pony to be humming new tunes. We are still potty training our Ponies and encourage you to do the same at home! We are proud of what big boys and girls our Ponies are becoming! Don't hesitate to call us during our naptime hours (1:00-2:00) if you have any questions or want to check in on your Pony during the day. We are looking forward to the fall and all of the wonderful things that we will learn!

Reminders:

Oct 30th is our Halloween Parade – no scary costumes please.

RHA will be closed November 26th and 27th to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

RHA will be closed December 24th and 25th to observe the Winter holiday.

RHA will be closed December 31st and January 1st to observe the New Year.

Ponies Staff



Chargers!

Welcome to Chargers1

We promise to be the best at having fun while creating the perfect learning environment. Every interaction is an experience and an opportunity to build a trusting relationship with children and their families. We encourage each child everyday with one-on-one, positive guidance, role playing, reinforcing the concept of sharing and being social with his/her classmates. We introduce potty-training by providing a sturdy step stool to encourage self-help with independent hand-washing.

In February these are the following units we will explore: Feelings -- no matter what they are. We will use puppets to help us with scenarios to help us make the right choices when dealing with frustration. Black History week will include stories about our African American hero's from today and yesterday, like Oprah and George Washington Caver. We hope to reinforce the need to respect and love all of our friends. During the remaining weeks, we will discover the names of our body parts and practice making more healthful choices in what we eat like vegetables and milk and drinking plenty water. We want students to begin to understand the importance of grooming their bodies and brushing their teeth and hair, washing their faces and

hands. And we will exercise by taking walks and doing aerobics during our PE period.

Our theme for March is farm life and farm animals. Children love to make the sounds that our farm friends make. We'll sing *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* to help us learn all of the animal noises. We want to teach the students what the name of baby animals are, too, such as calf or puppies or ducklings.

As the weather warms, we plan to create our classroom garden. For our science unit we'll introduce the parts of the plant: stems, petals or leafs, roots. We plan to show and discuss our class plant "Jack", and we will also plant a new class plant. We will name our plant and let the class assist in caring and watching it grow. We will end the month with one of my favorite units: Bugs, caterpillars, bees, butterflies and more. Students can count the legs to learn the difference between insects and spiders. They will sort them depending on which ones crawl and which ones fly.

And April's theme will be Birds & Eggs: blue birds, crows, owls and cardinals. We will build a nest, paint eggs, chirp and fly around the room, and let's not forget about Pete's our class parakeet. Students will learn what our

feathered friends eat and where they sleep. Not all birds sleep in the tree's; Pete sleeps in his cage. We will also discuss which birds are winter or summer birds.

Space is our next unit as we introduce the moon and stars, planets, comets, and don't forget a shooting star (meteor). Naturally we'll sing songs like *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, and learn riddles like *Hey Diddle Diddle*.

We will end the month with Earth and Recycling. We will study the planet earth and about the geography: trees, mountain, volcanoes, and rivers, lakes & ocean that make our earth $\frac{3}{4}$ water. We will use earth as a transition into our recycling and environmental unit. It's vital that our children learn good ecological habit now if we want to keep America beautiful and have enough air, water, and food for their future. We also want to keep our centers clean, so we will encourage children to clean up, even if they did not make the mess. Be a good citizen of the class. We plan to create a recycling center so the students can practice recycling: aluminum cans, paper, newspaper, or a plastic bottle can get a new life to help better our circle of life.

Chargers I Staff



Every child is an artist. The problem is to remain an artist once they grow up.

Pablo Picasso

Chargers II

We're very excited to see the weather change and watch the leaves turn introducing late fall and winter. The air is crisp and cool now. Please be sure to change out your back-up outfits for more weather-appropriate ones. Also, be sure to bring a jacket or sweater for those early morning recesses. (Label, label, label)

All Chargers 2 lessons focus on learning our numbers, alphabet and days of the week as an important part of their group times. Each month uses various themes through which we teach those basic skills.

In November we will introduce Family, Home, Neighborhood, and Community helpers. We want to share pictures of family members and talk about relationships: aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc. We also explore that some people live in houses and others live in apartments. We also explore the world around us. Who helps us when we have an emergency? How and when do we call the police? What do teachers do? Who collects the trash we set out on the curb? We want the stu-

dents to understand the role our community helpers play in our lives. At the end of the month, we celebrate families by hosting the yearly family feast. Our parents are asked to bring food to share just like the Pilgrims did long ago. We have an exciting month filled with activities. Be sure to pick up a copy of our weekly lesson plans so that you can reinforce lessons at home.

December is right around the corner and we will enjoy Music and movement and Holiday traditions. We want to play Rock and Roll, Country, Opera, Classical, and Jazz to give students a sense of how music can be very diverse. If you have some favorites, please feel free to share.

Every December, RHA hosts the Children Around the World Festival. This year Chargers 2 has chosen Germany as our country. We will hear German language, taste German food, and look at pictures of German children and their native dress. We also will create a booth for the festival. If anyone has been to Germany and has items to share, please feel free to help us with this project

Entering the New Year in January,

we will begin with our winter themes: Arctic Animals, Dinosaurs and the New Year: Time and Calendar. We will discuss the winter season—snow and colder temperatures. We study Arctic animals and talk about their habitat and what they eat-how do they survive in the cold.

Chargers 2 is enthusiastic about our themes and the activities; there's so much to learn. We use art, circle time, centers, or simple role-playing to show the children their world. We are committed to your child's best interest and providing the best possible learning skills for your child to understand and grow. Most importantly we encourage fun with each lesson plan as well as your child's very own creativity in his/her work.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. We really do want to do the best job teaching all of the children.

Chargers 2 Staff



Ways to Make Life with a Toddler Easier

An article from BabyCenter.com

The morning rush

Waking up

"Mornings can be tough for everyone with children. I've found that if I take five to ten minutes with my 2-year-old when he first wakes up to snuggle and talk quietly about the day, the whole morning goes much more smoothly. If I slow down, he's able to speed up. If I try to rush him, he usually stops or slows way down." -- Rebecca

What a very busy time of year for everyone! The Pintos will be just as busy learning and sharing ideas. All the children have become such good friends and their imaginations have gone wild. It is so wonderful seeing them pretend with each other and even assign roles to each other. "You are the mom and I am the baby." I hear those words often. It is so important for children to pretend play for so many different reasons. The children get to practice the very important skill of negotiation when something isn't going their way. They need to act out familiar scenes from their personal lives to better understand how the world works.

November

In November we learn about how important our families are and how there are several different types of families. We also celebrate all the families together. We really get into learning the definition of community. I like to take this opportunity to have the children learn a little something about each of the other classrooms to get a closer connection to their school community.

We will also start practicing our writing more often as we write letters to community helpers in the neighborhood, telling them how thankful we are for the jobs they do. We will learn how the mail system works, all about the garbage trucks, and the jobs our parents do for the community. This will be a fun and exciting month learning about everyone around us and how they help each other out.

December

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.

This year we have chosen to learn about Spain. 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 together.

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 effect 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. This will be a very exciting month for everyone!

January

This is where everyone is starting to slow down and things are getting back to normal. We will study the season of winter and all the wonders it brings. We will do this through observations when we go on nature walks, conduct science experiments with ice and water, and, of course, read several different books.

The Pintos will also learn about all the different types of Arctic animals. We will study their homes they live in, the food they eat, and why they are equipped to live in the cold Arctic weather.

Because everyone will be celebrating the New Year, so will we! The children are slowly getting some concepts of time at this age. They understand about tomorrow, yesterday and of course, "stay home days." I will help expand their knowledge to include weeks, months and years.

Now that the children have gotten to know each other, they naturally pair up and play in small groups. At this stage in their development, the children will 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.

All of the children can recognize the first letter in their name when they see it in the environment. Most of the children can recognize their entire name in print. We also have a couple of children writing their name on paper. So I will continue to work on these skills with all the children at group time as well as in small groups at the table.

Most of the children can count at least two objects successfully and many can count up to five objects, pointing to each one as they count. We have been working a lot on this with simple finger plays and fun sorting toys. As the children start to master these skills we will do some simple addition and subtraction.

Pinto's Staff

Mustangs

Fall is nearly over and winter is around the corner! It is hard to believe that we have already been together in the Mustang classroom for two months! We have had a great time getting to know each other, making some new friends, and continuing long established friendships. The Mustangs are a great group of kids with great imaginations!

In November we will be ready to fly into our November themes. We will start with learning about our families and homes. We will learn about each other's families and where we live. We are looking forward to the Family Feast; the children will prepare table decorations as well as place mats. They will also create some Pilgrim and Native American attire to wear to the feast. If you are able to attend, please join us for this special occasion. In November we will also talk about different community helpers and their roles in our lives.

In December we are going to get Rockin' and Rollin' in our Music and Movement theme. Get ready to hear music coming from the Mustang Room! We will also make our own instruments for some extra fun! Later in December we will celebrate the 7th annual Children Around the World Celebration. We will taste foods, listening to music, hearing the language, and seeing how children from

Austria live their lives from day to day. We will create and decorate a booth for the festival. To finish off 2009 we will have New Year's activities, talk about resolutions, and take a good look at the calendar.

In January we will start off looking at the season of winter. We will have lots of fun art projects that will help the children with their fine motor skills as well as their imagination. We will also discover all about Arctic and Antarctica animals and their habitats. We will study Arctic animals from the polar bear to the penguin. We will create a fun penguin craft using a toilet paper roll. We will continue to learn our letters and sounds, and we will begin to blend some of these sounds together to bring us one step closer to reading!

Reminders to parents... Please sign your child in and out every day. If we are on the playground when you arrive, walk out and sign your child in or out. It is very important for us to know when your child has arrived and when they have left. Also, please check your child's folder everyday; this folder contains lesson plans for the week, comments about your child's day, and all notes concerning accidents, boo-boos, illness, or behavior. Please talk to your child about how his or her day was and remind them to continue making good choices. For example, remind them to use their "big boy or big

girl" words rather than hurting their friends or screaming or crying.

It is getting colder outside; please remember to send LABELED jackets with your child, and replace their extra clothing with more weather-appropriate clothing. Also, the flu seems to have an early start this year. Please have your child wash his or her hands (with soap) and remind him or her to cover his or her mouth when sneezing and coughing. The CDC recommends that we wash our hands with soap and warm, running water for 20 seconds- sing the "Happy Birthday" song or the ABC's twice. Also, we are teaching children to cough into the crook (elbow) of the arm and not into our hands.

In November we will begin to have a Mustang "Star of the Week." Please look for the paper and have it filled out and returned by the following Friday so that I can have the information typed and displayed on Monday. I have been having lots of request for show and tell; so, in November we will begin having Show and Tell (Brown Bag) on Fridays. I will send home detailed rules for Brown Bag soon. It has been a true joy working with your children everyday. I thank you for the opportunity!

Mustangs Staff



Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play.

Heraclitus

Trotters

Fall is here and the Trotters are ready to jump into Family and Home. We will begin the month of November talking about our families and homes. We will send home a poster for you and your Trotter to make a family photo collage. We will then share our collages with the entire class and display them in our hall. As the month of November progresses we will take a closer look at Native Americans. We will make a Tee-Pee for our home center and bear Native American Vests decorated in native symbols. November 11th - 13th we will take our Individual School Pictures. You may want to send a change of clothes for your Trotter to wear after the pictures. On November 20 RHA will hold its annual Family Feast. Just a reminder, parents are encouraged to come and enjoy a POTLUCK meal with their child. The Trotters will work hard to decorate for the feast and we would love for all our parents to join in the festivities with us. In observation of Thanksgiving RHA will be closed on November 26 and

27.

The month of December will be full of Music and Movement. We will introduce the five basic elements of movement - space, shape, force, flow and time. To help us learn these elements we will incorporate several activities that promote gross motor development, physical attention, and relaxation. A variety of activities will be utilized to explore and discover elements of music such as sound, rhythm and dynamics in our "environmental world" as well as our "musical world." As we move along through the month of December we will talk about holiday traditions. If your child and family have any special traditions you would like to share with our class, please do not hesitate. The remainder of the month will be dedicated to Children around the World. The Trotters have chosen Italy as their country to study. As we indulge in Italian cuisine and learn to speak the language; we

will also learn about their love for vineyards, opera, and Italian holiday traditions. At the end of our Italian adventure, we will have our 73rd annual grape stomp. Please be prepared to send a solid white t-shirt for your child to decorate at the grape stomp. Just as a reminder: RHA will be closed December 24 and 25.

As the ball drops on 2009 the Trotters will ring in 2010 with a variety of activities. We will start off in a winter wonderland. We will count snowflakes and have a Winter Waltz. We will even test our building abilities by make igloos out of sugar cubes. As we transition into arctic animals and dinosaurs, we will excavate the sand box on the playground for fossils. After we put the fossils together we will compare our size to the size of the dinosaurs. Rocking Horse Academy will be closed for New Year's on December 31st and January 1st.



Trotters Staff

American Academy Of Pediatrics

BULLYING

Bullying is when one child picks on another child repeatedly. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. It can happen at school, on the playground, on the school bus, in the neighborhood, or over the Internet.

When Your Child Is Bullied

- Help your child learn how to respond by teaching your child how to: 1. Look the bully in the eye. 2. Stand tall and stay calm in a difficult situation. 3. Walk away.
- Teach your child how to say in a firm voice. 1. "I don't like what you are doing." 2.

"Please do NOT talk to me like that." 3. "Why would you say that?"

- Teach your child when and how to ask for help.
 - Encourage your child to make friends with other children.
 - Support activities that interest your child.
 - Alert school officials to the problems and work with them on solutions.
- Make sure an adult who knows about the bullying can watch out for your child's safety and well-being when you cannot be there.

When Your Child Is the Bully

- Be sure your child knows that bullying is never OK.
 - Set firm and consistent limits on your child's aggressive behavior.
 - Be a positive role model. Show children they can get what they want without teasing, threatening or hurting someone.
 - Use effective, non-physical discipline, such as loss of privileges.
- Develop practical solutions with the school principal, teachers, counselors, and parents of the children your child has bullied.

Broncos

Now that we are well into our school year, I would like to update you on the progress of our Bronco class. I am seeing progress in every child's writing, letter and number recognition as well as fine motor skills. Broncos, who were already writing their names, are now beginning to write their names with a capital letter followed by lower case letters. Those who were not writing their names are now writing them. As far as pre reading, the children should know all five vowels and their short sounds and should show some ability to blend two to three letter sounds. We have started our word wall and are reviewing these words almost daily.

The Broncos are also showing progress in their interactions with their peers. We continue to work on using words and manners and also allowing others to help us. Example: Instead of getting upset and yelling at a friend who is trying to help us clean up we should say "Thank you, but I would like to clean this up on my own." The children are doing well using their manners with the teacher, but we still need to work on being polite to our peers.

We have begun some work on our math skills, including, counting to 50, recognizing shapes and numbers, building patterns, sorting and categorizing and very basic addition. We have just scratched the surface of addition, but will

focus on it more in the spring.

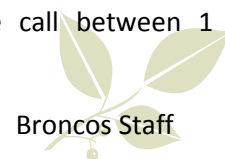
I am so excited about the months ahead. We will begin November by focusing on Community Helpers. Then with all the holidays approaching, we will study many traditions and cultures. In November we will learn about Native Americans, the Pilgrims and how Thanksgiving originated. This will be a time for your child to share their traditions with the class. Do not forget the Annual Family Feast hosted by Rocking Horse Academy on Friday, November 20th. Come enjoy a nice Feast with your Bronco. There will also be individual portraits by Teddy Bear Portraits November 11-13th. With Thanksgiving around the corner, do not forget that Rocking Horse Academy will be closed the 26th and 27th of November. So be sure to mark your calendars for a busy couple of months.

As December begins we will turn our studies to the country of China, in preparation for our Children Around the World Festival, which will take place on Wednesday, December 16th. We will learn about China's music, traditions, culture, and compare and contrast to our own. But don't worry we will not forget about our own traditions. We will learn and sing holiday songs as well as have a Holiday Party for our class. This will be sometime close to The Christmas Break and we will ask each child to bring some sort of

gift for a gift exchange. More information to come. Once again Rocking Horse Academy will be closed December 24th and 25th for Christmas and also December 31st and January 1st for the New Year.

Finally, when we return in January for the New Year we will discuss time and the calendar as well as New Year traditions. Around the second or third week of January we will learn about winter as a season and how it is different in other parts of the country and world. To end the month of January we will learn about the habits, habitats, and appetites of Arctic animals and why some of these animals hibernate.

I have enjoyed getting to know each of the Broncos and their families. I am delighted to have each of them in my class and we are really coming together as a team. Once again if you have any concerns or questions, I am available to discuss them between 1:00 – 2:30. 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 call between 1 – 2:30



***To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.
Mother Teresa***



Time flies when your having fun!

We have been having such a fantastic time with Corral Kids we can hardly believe that it's already time for our Winter Newsletter!!! Already this year we have worked on countless projects exploring art, math, science, music, reading, movement, dramatic play, problem solving and community outreach. By constantly exploring new subjects and giving the students ownership in regards to group projects, we hope to stimulate *everyone's* imaginations and promote curiosity in all that we do. This winter we will also be exploring concepts dealing with community helpers, home & family, music & movement, different cultures and holiday traditions from around the world. It has been a dynamic year so far, and we look forward to what is yet to come.

The Holidays are coming

Hays CISD will be closed from November 23rd to the 27th for Thanksgiving Break and December 21st to January 5th for the Winter Break. The Rocking Horse Academy will be closed on Thursday November 26th & Friday November 27th, Thursday December 24th & Friday December 25th, and Thursday December 31st & Friday January 1st. During this time all other week days Corral Kids will be offering full day care from 6:30am to 6:30pm. More information about this service will be available on the Parent information table (located by the South Gym Entrance) as these dates draw closer.

We would love to hear from you!

Corral Kids has a new email address corralkidsrha@yahoo.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. Please feel free to drop us a note any time, and we will get back to you A.S.A.P.

I once was lost but now am found.....

As we all know, it is more than easy for our elementary age children to, shall we say, misplace a few items now and again. Hence our Corral Kids' excellently stocked and overloaded Lost and Found table. Please take a moment and take a look; you just might find that Star Wars tee-shirt or

Mario Cart lunch box you have been searching for all this time. Any items not claimed by November 6th will be generously donated to the local Goodwill.

Helping Children Succeed In School (from Parenting.org)

Children spend one-half of their waking hours in school or school- related activities. Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school than children whose parents are not involved. Parents' involvement in their children's education is a stronger indicator of their success in school than cultural background, socioeconomic level of the family, or natural individual level of academic capability.

Two activities parents can do to help their children succeed in school are:

- **Set up a study time at home** Completing homework helps children learn and retain new information. It improves understanding and enhances academic performance. Begin small and work towards the ideal setting. Some helpful suggestions:

- Establish a central location
- Keep area quiet and free of distractions
- Schedule time that best fits family routines
- Divide study time for children who have difficulty with concentration
- Have your child do their homework first before other activities

- **Communicate effectively with your child's school** This may not be easy to do but can be extremely helpful to your child's success. Some helpful suggestions:

- When attending school activities, prepare yourself with questions or concerns that you want to address.
 - Begin communication when things are going well with your child. Give compliments to the teacher through notes or phone conversations. When there are problems, share concerns while they are small. Ask how things are going.
- Parenting.org

Teaching Values To Our Children (from Parenting.org)

As parents, we want our children to be honest, decent, caring individuals. Simply hoping our children will naturally acquire these skills is not enough. They must see what it means to be honest, courteous and generous. After all, children learn what they live.

You are the best person in your child's life to teach values and model positive behavior. Here are a few everyday situations that provide opportunities to shape your child's character.

- **Household chores** - If you ask your child to perform certain household duties such as taking out the trash or cleaning his or her bedroom, show your child how to do it (the behavioral steps) and clearly explain your expectations. When children know how to complete a task and take care of their personal belongings, they learn what it means to act responsibly.

- **Nightly homework** - Study time at home should be part of your child's weekly routine. Set clear expectations for completing homework (assignments must be done before watching TV or playing a game). When children do what they are supposed to do, even when they don't feel like doing it, they develop character.

Meal time - Sitting around the dining table should involve much more than breaking bread. Whether you're reminiscing about your youth or your child is discussing the events of the day, family "table talk" is for sharing and relationship building. You'll be surprised at how many of the stories serve as metaphors about values, discipline and character. Point those lessons out to your children so they can relate true-life events to those abstract ideals.

As you see, the everyday moments of life offer opportunities for us to teach children positive values. However, all the teaching in the world can be undone if our kids watch us behave in ways that contradict everything we've said. If you want your children to learn honesty and sincerity, then be truthful and act kindly.

Parenting.org

Corral Kids Staff