



Rocking Horse Review

Rocking Horse Academy

Editor-in-chief
Linda Ashness



Dear Families,

Summer is coming to a close and we have just a few more weeks before “school” starts back up. I would like to begin by welcoming our new families to Rocking Horse. We have been open for eight years now! And to those of our families that have been with us for a while now, welcome back to another great year.

Rocking Horse Academy prides itself on providing a higher level of education to our young children. Our staff is well-trained, educated and experienced. They have developed an amazing working relationship with each other, and their teamwork shows in what your children have learned while in our care. Our teachers are committed to providing a warm and loving environment where your child (ren) is/ are allowed to explore and question life around them.

Our curriculum is developed around the students we have in our class at the time. Many students enjoy books and songs, some enjoy learning through play, others learn by experiences. Our teachers pay attention to your child's likes and dislikes while trying to incorporate that into the lessons we are trying to teach. Each classroom has a set of benchmarks we use as a foundation.

Rocking Horse Academy is dedicated to building a love of reading. That is why we try to tie each theme to several books that correspond to our lessons. Literature is a fundamental subject that has no boundaries. Please take the time to check with your child's teachers, the posted lesson plans and the newsletters for upcoming events. The more enthusiasm and involvement you show your child, the more he/she will succeed and enjoy him/herself in the process.

RHA is a wonderful outlet in which to offer your skills, volunteer for field trips, collect donations for your child's class, and so much more.

This past May we introduced our eco-friendly fundraiser from Mixed Bag Designs. It was our most successful yet! We were able to raise just over \$4000. WOW!! The monies so graciously raised were spent on resurfacing our atrium floor covering, the amazing Texas Hill country mural and some new playground toys. With all this good news did come some bad though. Unfortunately the turf installed didn't have enough drainage holes built-in to withstand a heavy rain storm and water came into our building on a couple of different occasions. Mr. George, our maintenance man (and employee of the month for June), has stepped in to help. He has created multiple drainage

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Library News

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paths and installed several grates to deter any further flooding. Soon the installers will be back and reinstall the turf and then the atrium will be open and available to our toddlers again!!! Thanks to all for your help!

(Psst. New fall bags and designs have been sent and they are amazing!! Including insulated grocery bags and boys lunch bags with stainless steel water bottles.)

As a reminder RHA will be closed September 6th for Labor Day and Columbus Day, Oct. 11th, for an intense in-house teacher in-service training. (This is an important time that allows us to concentrate on areas for improvement and discuss new teaching techniques and activities.)

Be sure to come to our Back to School Night and Parent Orientation, September 21st starting at 5:00pm. We use the first few weeks of our new school year to get to know you and your family, and then we open

our doors to you. You can spend time getting to know your children's teachers. Your children will have lots to share and do. Please plan to spend the extra time with us.

Once again, I would like to welcome all of our families to Rocking Horse Academy. We are excited to get to know you and your family even better. Have a great time getting to know your child's teacher and we look forward to another adventurous year.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Comments and suggestions are always welcomed.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Eichen

Director

(Hint- If you refer a new student to our school, we will credit your family acct. \$25!)

Be sure to check our August and September calendars.

What a wonderful summer we've had at Rocking Horse Academy this year! Our summer campers really had fun playing games on the computers, putting together puzzles, and choosing books for their daily Reading Challenge. However now it's time to go back to school, which means it's time for me to begin my annual clean-up and reorganization of the Library. The library and computer lab will be closed from August 23rd until August 30th while I clean, shelve, and repair books and computer equipment to gear up for the new school year. Please take this opportunity to return any books you or your children have checked out so I may re-shelve them. I will be back in business as of August 30th, so please feel free to drop by.

Happy Reading!

Maria Matts

Assistant Director



Parent Date Nights

August 21st
September 18th
October 16th



6:30 pm till Midnight

Academy Child \$30/\$15 second child

Non Academy Child \$35/\$20 second child

Employee Child \$15/\$5 second

Tuition Due Dates

August 9th, 21st
September 6th, 20th
October 4th, 18th



Dates To Remember

August 10th-CPR/FIRST

AID @ 6:30 \$25.00

August 23rd

H.C.I.S.D Begins

September 6th -RHA/

H.C.I.S.D. closed

September 21st -RHA's
Back To School Night 5:30
p.m.

Class/Group Portraits –
TBD

October 11th -RHA
Closed/Staff Development

FOALS I

It is August and that means back to school. August themes are *Back to School and Me and My Five Senses*. Our Spanish words are August--Agosto, hear--oir, see--mirar, taste--probar, touch--tocar, smell--oler. Music for August is "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and "All the Children of the World". We will listen to the chimes and talk about smells when we eat. Our reading time includes *Max's First Works, Little Alphabet and David Smells*. The homework for August is to practice scooting and crawling.

Our themes for September are *Getting to Know You, Manners and I am Special*. The Spanish words are September--Septiembre, thank you--gracias, please--por favor, my name is--mi nombre es.

Fun music will be "If You're Happy and You Know It" and "I'm H-A-P-P-Y". Our books to read are: *A Color of His Own, Minding Your Manners and Furry Friends*. Repeat a few things for your baby to do for homework such as: clapping hands, holding hands out and clicking your tongue.

The themes for October are *Stranger Danger, Fire Prevention, Fantasy, and Fall Pumpkins and Apples*. Spanish words are October--Octubre, stranger danger--peligroso, fire--fuego, pumpkin--calabaza, apples--manzanas. We will sing "Five Little Pumpkins and "I'm a Little Teapot". Touching fall leaves will be discovery and listening to nursery rhymes will be the technology. Reading time will include *Julius' Candy Corn, Hey*

Diddle Diddle and Nursery Rhymes. The homework is to hold a toy in one hand and then the other hand. Our special activity will be to watch the fall parade of children at Rocking Horse Academy.

We look forward to the cooler days of fall. Please help us by checking your child's drawer to be sure the extra clothes are weather appropriate and still fit your growing child. It also helps to have extra formula or breast milk for emergencies. All bottles and food must be labeled with your child's name.

Thank you for your confidence in us. Questions and comments are always welcome.

Foals I Staff

FOALS II

Welcome to Foals 2!

Our class is looking forward to the start of a new school year with new, fun and exciting challenges just waiting for our class to discover. As always, we work on physical development that is appropriate for this age group. Each child is in a different stage, so all lesson plans are planned with this in mind. Both English and Spanish are spoken in the class to the children throughout the day, with some sign language during the day as well. We read books everyday and sing songs to develop our brains.

August themes: *5 Senses, Back to School, School and Me, and School Rules*. We will discover our senses with fun ingredients, and paint with Jell-O and pudding to name a couple. We will also explore the many types of textures with sand paper, corduroy and shaving cream. Babies will paint with apples, oranges and blocks. A few of our story time books include *You Can't Smell a Pickle with your Ear, David Smells and Bubbles, Bub-*

bles Everywhere. Our Spanish words are red-rojo, apple-mazana, and school-escuela.

September themes: *Getting to Know You, Manners, I Am Special*. We are going to have a blast with our art projects. A few of our story time books include *Excuse Me, Emily's Everyday Manners, and Please and Thank You*. Our Spanish words are corn-maiz and orange-arananjado.

October themes: *Fire Prevention, Stranger Danger, Fantasy and Fall Harvest *Pumpkins *Apples*. Soon we will see all the beautiful colors that the fall season brings. We will also touch different types of autumn leaves. A few books we will read include, *Fire Safety, Goodnight Moon, Fall Colors and 5 Little Pumpkins*. Our Spanish words are dog-pero, cat-gato, and brown-cafe/moreno.

The weather will soon start changing, so please refill your child's drawer with weather appropriate clothing: pants,

shirts, socks, and sooner then you know it we will need a jacket or sweater for those cool mornings. Also, please remember to label everything... some of our babies may have the same outfit! Labeling will prevent loss that could include jar food, snacks, bottles and sippy cups! We look forward to all the new things this school year will bring. Your comments, concerns and questions are always welcomed.

Foals 2 Staff

Michelle 6:30-1:00
Stephanie 1:00-6:30
Christina 7:00-1:30
Meagan 1:30-6:30



Colts

Good-bye summer and hello fall! I want to first welcome all the new families to the Colt room. We are excited for the new school year to be here. We will have fun with art, crafts, music, and reading adventures.

August is a very busy month. The themes for this month are *5 senses*, *Back to School*, *School and Me*, and *School Rules*. The first week, we will paint with our fingers for touch. We will listen to music by using our ears to hear. We will smell different scents by using our noses. At the end of the week we will have a taste test that will include the following: sweet, sour, salty and plain foods. We will read books on our senses, and we will also watch *Baby Einstein* video on what body parts we use for our senses. The second week, we will enjoy our unit on Back to School. We will sing songs about school and read *Dora the Explorer Goes to School*. We will make a backpack. We will also go over what items we use in the classroom. We are going to start learning colors, numbers, and shapes. We will make a school bus out of an egg carton. The third week will reinforce our class rules. We will practice

our soft touches with our friends. We will also work on listening with our ears. Our final week, we will talk about *School and Me*. We will take a tour around our school and we will look at our school bus. We will also meet all the teachers around the school, the principals, and the chef. During this month, we will learn the letter A and B, number 1 and 2, and the shapes triangle and oval.

In the month of September, we will talk about *Getting to Know You*, *Manners*, and *I am Special*. During these units, we will talk about what makes us special. We will make an *All About Me* book. This will include handprint, footprint, weight, height, and a drawing. We will work on our manners by using *please*, *thank you*, *you're welcome* in English, Spanish, and sign language. (Por favor, gracias, de nada) We will work on our gross motor skills by running, kicking and catching balls and climbing stairs. We will also sing *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* (*Estrellita*) in Spanish. We will continue to study letters, numbers, and shapes. September 6th we will be closed for Labor Day,

October is an exciting month. We will

talk about Fire Prevention. We will practice a fire drill and to Stop, Drop and Roll. We will read *Stop, Drop and, Roll*. We will sing *Hurry, Hurry Drive the Fire Truck*. The next week will be a fun one. Fall Harvest will have many activities as we welcome the fall season. We will clean out a pumpkin and count its seeds. We will also paint apples and make an apple tree. On October 29th we will have a harvest party. You may dress up, but please no scary costumes. We will also make a wand and a crown for our fantasy week.

Just a few reminders:

- * please label everything with first and last name
- * blankets and sheets on Mondays
- * diaper bags on Mondays and Fridays only
- * water cups

Ms. Erica

Ms. Lydia

Ponies

Hello from the Ponies! We are so excited that fall is right around the corner.

The Ponies 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.

For the next three months we will review our shapes: square, circle, triangle, and rectangle, plus the colors red, blue, yellow, green, white, and black. 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.

August begins our exploration into our five senses: taste, touch, smell, sound, and sight. Along with that we will add the names of our body parts such as tongue, fingers, nose, ears, and eyes. We will talk about which sounds are louder and which are softer. We will touch warm and cold items, rough surfaces and velvety smooth surfaces, as well as hard items and soft items. We will use our eyes by looking at magazines and books. We will use our sense of smell to sniff oranges, vanilla, and maybe even some vinegar. By the end of the month we will talk about school and how we should behave. We will sing *The Wheels On The Bus* and color our own school buses.

All children love crayons and Play-Doh, so we will have many art activities to

keep their hands busy and their minds learning. Students enjoy games, puzzles, and finger plays that help them learn their fine motor skills and visual perceptions. At this age, we encourage the children to use their words and learn to share. We will practice walking down the hallway like big boys and girls with our hands clasped carrying "bumble bees" or wearing our "duck tails" and with "bubbles" in our mouths. We encourage children to communicate their feelings with their words and not with aggression. "Soft touches" and, "Use your words" are going to be key phrases that we will use in class.

September delves into the themes "Getting to know you" and "I am spe-

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Ponies

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cial". We would like to dedicate this theme to building self-esteem. Self-esteem is fundamentally important to acceptable social behavior and life-long happiness. If the child believes that he/she is important and successful, he/she is more likely to be happy and successful as an adult. It's never too early to help each child find success. In getting to know you, we want to find out what your Pony's favorite color, animal, bedtime story, and family activity is. We'll ask parents to help us make a book of our favorite things.

Our Spanish and Sign language words we will be working on for the next few months are *sit down (sientate)*, *more*

(mas), *eat (comer-come)*, *please (por favor)*, and *sleep (dormir)*.

October has us all fired up about Safety and Fire Prevention. Of course, we practice our fire drills every month at RHA, but we want to give extra time to teach our ponies to stop, drop, and roll. We will talk about safety in our kitchens and bathrooms, too. You might want to schedule a fire drill in your house so your little ones would know what to do in case of an emergency. Stranger Danger is another topic we work on ALL year, but especially during October.

We will learn our fall colors: *red (rojo)*, *brown (café)*, *orange (anaranjado)*, and *yellow (amarillo)* in English and Spanish. Some of our art projects will include apple prints, leaf rubbings, and nature walks. We will also be having a party to

celebrate fall!

As the weather changes 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 cool mornings. Please remember to label everything! Sometimes when different parents pickup than drop off, they don't always know what their child wore to school that day. In addition, some of us shop at the same stores and buy the same jackets and clothes. Labeling is vital to prevent the loss of your Pony's belongings.

Thank you so much to all of the parents! The Pony teachers are so appreciative of all the support you give us!

We look forward to a great year with you!

Chargers I

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

August themes: *5 Senses*, *Back to School*, *School and Me*, *School rules*. We will read stories like *Brown Bear*, *Brown Bear What Do You See!*, *Polar Bear*, *Polar Bear What Do You Hear!* To explore our taste and touch, we'll cook up a special treat.

Our *Back to School* unit will start with getting to know or renewing friendships, and we can't forget some discussions about our class rules to ensure safety for all students. Of course, we want all children to love coming to school, so during our week on *School and Me*, we can talk about going to school while parents go to work, and we will read stories like *Don't Forget to Come Back*. In a special art project, supplies will be passed out for our parents-child project to make a family tree to show anybody and everybody in our beautiful family. Don't forget pets, grandparents, uncles and aunts,

cousins, godparents, or best friends. In September we discuss and work on *Manners* like "Yes, Please", and "No, Thank you." Of course we model these every day, but we will pay special attention to them in September by discussing the importance of good manners every day. We will watch the video *Pooh Learns His Manners* to help children understand. Another September theme is *I am Special*, which we will introduce by reading stories like "The Color of Me", that teaches us that there is always beauty within us all.

In October we begin Fire Awareness Week. The Kyle Fire Department will come for a visit so the children can visit 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 include *Fall Harvest*, *Pumpkins*, and *Apples*. We will explore the beauty around us as the weather changes: the fall leaves and orange pumpkins. Some of our art activities will include a leaf collage, leaf rubbings, and apple prints.

Please remember as the weather turns cooler, to change out your cubby supply of extra clothing and jackets. Also, LABEL everything. If a substitute teacher is in the class or someone else has to pick up your child, she might not know which jacket is yours and we frequently shop at the same stores and buy the same cute sweater or jacket. Labeling will reduce the chance of loss.

Thank you Chargers 1

Chargers II

For those who have not met me yet, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Patti Simoneaux-Geho, and I am the new teacher in the Charger II class. For the past twenty-two years I have taught in Louisiana mainly in Jefferson Parish, which is located outside of New Orleans. The last sixteen years I have taught Adapted Physical Education. I taught gross motor skills to children with disabilities from the ages of three to twenty-two years old. I was also involved with Special Olympics Louisiana as a certified coach for Bocce, bowling and athletics as well as the Area Director for the East Bank of Jefferson Parish. I have a Master's Degree in Education and have teaching certifications in Louisiana and Texas. I have worked for the past year in the Del Valle ISD system and have worked as a substitute teacher at the DVISD Child Development Center in the three year old and the four-five year old class.

My family moved to Kyle area two years ago. My husband is an IT contractor in the Austin area. My son is a junior at Lehman High School and participates in marching band and is a yearbook photographer. He is also working to complete his Boy Scout Eagle rank. We are also the proud parents of four four-legged children.

I am excited to have this opportunity to work with the children in the Chargers II class and to make new friends with the staff and families at Rocking Horse Academy. It is nice to have a place to call my own instead of bouncing around to various schools.

We are having a wonderful summer in Chargers II. The children have been very accepting of having a new teacher in the room. Ms. Nina, Ms. Jordan and I have been collaborating to make sure that the children feel safe and happy in a caring, educational setting. We would like to invite family and staff to stop by and say "Hi." We have been very busy working in our new classroom and fun centers.

The children have been introduced to

new centers which include the following: Manipulative-blocks and building, Puzzles, Handwriting, Dramatic Play, House-keeping/Kitchen, Library, and the Science Center. A Social Studies center is being developed at this time and will be introduced soon. The centers are set up to be child friendly. New items have been introduced for each center including actual food boxes for the kitchen and magnifying glasses for the Science Center. The mini magnet aquarium has been a very popular item in Science center. While the children are working in their centers, they are monitored by the teachers to learn to share, cooperative play, and to be a good citizen in the classroom. They are also doing a good job of helping to clean up when it is time for Circle/Calendar Time.

The children are learning to recognize their names by finding their nametags on the carpet. They are able to see what letters are in their name, which will help when we begin to work more on handwriting and alphabet recognition. During Circle/Calendar Time, the children are learning about the months of the year, days of the week, the date and the seasons. The children also assist in the weather forecast and help to dress Weather Bear in appropriate clothes for the day. The children work on counting from one to ten on the number line and review letters and sounds as well as a color. The children are beginning to assist Ms. Patti in the various activities for Circle/Calendar Time. They will have class helper jobs after the Transition Week is completed.

We are currently completing our book *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* The children have been able to recognize the book and the title plus name a majority of the animals that Baby Bear has seen. They are finishing up art projects based on several characters from the story using fingerprint painting, tissue paper, feathers, sponge painting which working on the fine motor skills and sensory activities. While small groups are completing their art projects, the other

children are working on manipulative and fine motor skills with blocks, large Legos, stringing beads, puzzles, and handwriting.

Music has been an important part of the room. When the children arrive in the morning, they are greeted with fun, lively music, which is age-appropriate. They are working on a song to begin Circle/Calendar Time called "Good Morning" and one for the months of the year and numbers. During their rest time, soothing music is playing to remind them it is time to give their bodies a break.

The children are working on their gross motor skills along with appropriate play skills on the playground. They are able to run, jump, climb, slide, and ride tricycles during their time outside. We will focus on other gross motor skills and activities when we return to the gym in the next few weeks.

We will add new activities and centers over the next few weeks. Look for the introduction of more handwriting activities, art projects, and a Class Pet. We would like to add more costumes and items in our Dramatic Play center. The items we are interested in include: dresses and skirts (teen or pre-teen sizes), flat shoes, costume jewelry (bracelets and necklaces with no sharp edges or small loose pieces), gloves (clean work gloves, or old dress gloves), belts, purses, wallets (men's and women's), hats, and vests.

We are also looking for small notebooks, old journals, notepads that the children may use in the writing center.

These are just a few changes that have been made. We will continue our focus on the theme for July, which includes summer and ocean life. In August we will set our focus on returning to school, which will focus on school rules. We will also work on the Five Senses. September brings up our theme of Getting to Know You, I Am Special along with Man-

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ners.

We are continuing to work with each child on toileting skills and have been filling out daily information sheet about how he/she is doing. Most have really been trying to move away from the pull-ups while some are just not

ready. If you have any questions about what we are doing or how your child is doing, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please remember to check your child's folder for artwork or information.

Don't forget water bottles and a change of clothes to be kept in your child's cubby.

Remember to apply sunscreen on your child in the morning and fill out a signed permission form if you have not already done so) so that we may apply sunscreen in the afternoon. Take home your water bottles daily and refill with fresh water.

Please label everything!

When you are dealing with a child, keep all your wits about you, and sit on the floor.
-Austin O'Malley

Pintos

Summer is almost over and with that the new school year arrives. We will kick off the month of August off with the theme "five senses" tasting different types of foods like sweet, salty and sour. We will have scent jars with different aromas in each set of jars. We will use our noses to figure out the smells and match up the jars that smell the same. We will also have a "can u find it" bottle in our room for the children to find hidden items in. Last, we will have a game of "I Spy" to see who can find things in the room the quickest using our sense of sight. Later in the month we will read books on going to school such as *My First Day of School*, *I Love School*, and *If You Take a Mouse to School* and many more. We will discuss what we like to do most at Rocking Horse Academy. We will finish off this month by reviewing the school rules in our classroom. Also in these upcoming months we will focus on the children learning the letters and their names, how to spell their name and how to write it.

In September we are going to focus on the theme "Getting to know you" by

making family trees! The children will get a chance to share who they live with, what they do at home and some of their favorite things. The teachers will also share about their families and favorite things to do. Next we will move onto "manners"; we will encourage the children to use their manners during meal times, while talking to each other and teachers, and while playing cooperatively. Special friends will help along the way in learning that using our manners is very beneficiary to all like Barney in the book *Sharing is Caring*, Clifford in *Clifford's Big Deeds* and Winnie the Pooh in *Be Patient*, *Pooh* just to mention some. We will finish off this month by pointing out how special everyone is by creating a full body tracing of each child and have him/her decorate it his/her own way.

In the month of October comes our very first holiday as a new class which is Halloween and with that the themes "Fantasy" and "Stranger danger" are a must. The children will watch the movie *Stranger Safety* to further enhance their vision of knowing what a stranger really is. Going over their addresses at this

time will be perfect way to incorporate math by learning to identify numbers. Learning about what is fantasy and what's not will help the children be the authors of their own fantasy story and letting their imaginations go wild. (I can't wait to hear their stories.) Fire prevention is another theme for this month and that means practicing stop, drop and roll as well as well as the numbers **911** in case of an emergency. The children will experiment with colors red and yellow to make flame hot orange. Last, but not least, we will have our fall harvest by taking a fieldtrip to the Pumpkin Patch and buying our own pumpkins. (\$1.50 - \$2.00) We will paint, carve, float and plant pumpkin seeds!

Gentle reminders: Check the behavior chart and cubby each day to help stay better informed about what is happening at school. Take water bottles home daily to better clean them and refill with fresh, cold water. Please label, label, label everything that belongs to your child that is brought to school. We hope this upcoming year is even better than last year.

I dream for a living.
Steven Spielberg

Mustangs

Wow! This summer has flown by. Now, it's time to get back into the swing of things and get in gear for the school year! (It's a rhyme!) J

During *August and September*, our first theme is *Back to School*. We will continue working on Mustang created classroom rules, our routines and procedures, and the alphabet, numbers, colors, and shapes. During *gym* we'll work on our gross motor skills, which include forward somersaults, balance beam, walking backwards and sideways, and throwing, catching, and kicking balls! During *computer time*, we'll learn the keyboard and how to operate the mouse (moving the cursor and clicking). How will we do this? By playing computer games!

Within our Back to School unit, we'll *get to know each other*. We will introduce ourselves to each other, we will practice using our friends' names, and our names will be displayed in print, too. In learning about each other and our families, we will teach the children how to interact with one another. They will share each family's cultures and traditions throughout the year. Using language skills, we will learn about the children's

likes and differences. The focus of activities on awareness of others allows the children to learn acceptance of the diversity that makes up our world. It's important that children be taught respect, considerate behaviors, thoughtfulness, and tolerance. We will use books and songs to learn how special each and every child is.

Manners will be emphasized. The children will learn what manners are, how and when we use manners. We will say "please" and "thank you." We will practice saying, "no thank you" and "excuse me." As they put their manners to use in daily situations, they will develop understanding and kindness towards others.

The Back to School theme will conclude with activities that reinforce that *each child is special*. We'll build self-esteem and self awareness through our art activities, songs, poems, and books.

Parents are invited to Back to School Night, on September 21, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join us for a look into the day in the life of your child in the Mustang Room.

October is Fire Prevention and Stranger Danger month. We practice fire drills

every month, but during October we want to focus more on the important people in the community like police officers and fire fighters. The first two weeks in October will include lessons on how to prevent fires and what to do if there is a fire. We will practice "*Stop, Drop, and Roll*." Expect your child to come home and ask if the family could practice a fire drill! The Kyle Firefighters and Police Officers will be invited to come to the school to talk with the children, and we might even get to climb onto a big red fire truck!

Also during this month the children will learn what a stranger is and to never go anywhere with a stranger.

October ends with a fun unit on *Fantasy*! The children will have a great time listening to some wonderful fairy tales, but their favorite part will be when they get to act out some of them! Other projects and activities will demonstrate the difference between pretend and reality.

Every day is a learning day at Rocking Horse Academy! Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Q: What did the hamburger name its baby?



A: Patty

Trotters

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone. A new school year is quickly approaching and the Trotters can't wait. As we get settled into the August heat we will discover our five senses in a variety of ways. We will gain a sense of touch through sensory texture painting, a sense of taste through tongue tasting, a sense of smell through scented play dough, a sense of sight through reflections, and a sense of sound with a listening game. As we settle into our school

routine we will learn about our school, its rules, and the proper behavior expected of us. The first "official" day of school is August 23rd.

The first few weeks in September will be spent getting to know you, your Trotter, as well as the Trotter teachers. A great way for the Trotter parents to get involved in this is to attend our Back to School Night on September 21st at 5:30pm. 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. The rest of the month will be spent learning and perfecting our manners and learning how special we are. *Yes ma'am, no ma'am, yes sir, no sir, please and thank you* are just a few of the courtesies we will implement into our everyday

(Continued on page 9)



Congratulations to Mrs. Jessica on the birth of her daughter "Monroe" born 7/21/10!



(Continued from page 8)

routines and conversations. Please practice these good manners with your child as it will make this good habit stay.

October will be packed full of fun and learning. We start out with fire prevention and stranger danger. A visit from the fire department will be first on our agenda. They will teach us how to crawl out of a room full of smoke, stop, drop, and roll, and what a fireman will

look like when he is rescuing you from a fire. To learn even more about the fire department we will be allowed to crawl through a fire truck and look at all the gizmos and gadgets that make it work. As the middle of the month nears we will wonder into a land of fantasy. While in our fantasy world we will learn about point of view. The Three Little Pigs will be one of the stories we look at from different points of view. At the end of October we will have a Fall Harvest. We

will take a trip to the Pumpkin Patch where we will each pick out a pumpkin after we have a picnic in the park. Friday, October 29, will be our Halloween Costume Parade, please feel free to send your child to school in costume as we will trick or treat throughout the school. A great idea is to send them to school in last years costume so we don't get any rips or stains before they get to wear it for Halloween.

Reminder: Rocking Horse Back to School Night is September 21st from 5:30-6:30.

Broncos

Welcome New Broncos to a wonderful new school year. I am very excited about learning more about each Bronco as well as beginning our school year curriculum. This fall we will work on making sure that all Broncos know all about the alphabet. Recognizing, writing, and sounding out each letter of the alphabet in both upper case and lower case is a skill we want every child to have before leaving Per-K. This will be the foundation for learning to combine sounds and begin reading in the spring. Some other goals I have for the class are:

- Learn to recognize and write the numbers 1-20
- Count to 50
- Continue to build our fine motor skills with activities that involve cutting, coloring and manipulating small items such as beads.
- Categorize items based on multiple criteria
- Recognize and build patterns

The first two weeks of August we will be learning all about our 5 senses. This is always a fun theme which I know we will all enjoy. The third week in August we will begin welcoming new Broncos who

have been gone for the summer. We will spend a week learning and practicing the rules and procedures at school. For some Broncos the transition will be easy; for others it may take a little more practice. We encourage you to talk about the rules at home with your Bronco. The last week of August we will continue enforcing our rules and procedures as well as talking about what school means to each of us and make a family tree. We will need parents help to collect pictures. (More information to come.)

As far as themes go, we will start off the month of September by continuing to get to know each other. The kids will be asked to bring in things from home that tell something about themselves or their family such as pictures, favorite book or favorite music. Please keep these in the cubbies until the appropriate time. Also, you may want to label books, CD's, etc. so that they do not get mixed up with other things. This week we will also make a special frame to keep our favorite family picture in. The second week in September is "I am Special" Week. We will be talking about what makes each of us different and special. To end the month of September we will work on

Manners. We ask that you talk about and try to reinforce good manners at home. It is sometimes hard for young children to distinguish between a particular action that may be acceptable at home but not at school.

As fall comes around, we will have several important themes in October. First, we will begin the month by talking about Fire Safety and Prevention. At this time we will have a firefighter come to speak with the class. This is always a big hit. This would be a great time for parents to discuss fire safety at

home as well as review a fire escape plan at home. After Fire Safety we will move into Stranger Danger. During this week we will talk about, as well as role-play how to deal with Strangers. We will also watch the *Safe Side*. Your children may have questions about this as we discuss it in class; parents could take this opportunity to talk with their children about safe adults that they can trust. The third week in October will be Fantasy week, followed by Fall Harvest, where we will learn about Pumpkins and Apples and how they are grown and har-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) Broncos

vested. To end the month we will have a costume party for Halloween.

I am very excited about getting started with the new school year and getting to know all the Broncos as well as Parents. I believe that when teachers and parents

have open communication and the same goals for their children that those children strive. I am available between 1:00 and 2:30 if you have questions, comments or concerns you would like to discuss. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at 405-3700 or email me at casey.hall@grandecom.net.

Mistakes are the portals of discovery.
-James Joyce

Corral Kids

Summer Time Fun

We have been having such an amazing time with Corral Kid Summer Camp it's hard to believe we have only six weeks left. Already we have had many fantastic guest performers/speakers including the River City Pops, Mr. Nick Smith, and the city of Kyle, Fire Department. We have also visited some fantastic places such as the McKenna Children's Museum, Fiesta Lanes Bowling Alley, Cinemark Theatre, and McNaughton Park for our Field Day event. Not to mention our weekly trips to the city of Kyle pool. In the next couple of weeks we will be visiting Aquarena Springs in San Marcos, the Blanton Art Museum and the Natural History Museum. We will also continue to have guest speakers and performers. We will even be bringing in a Rock Wall for the last week of camp. All field trip and camp information has been moved from the lobby windows to the bulletin board across from the front water fountain (I just could not bear to cover up our new beautiful Texas landscape mural). Also please feel free to stop by and visit me, Mary Foster CK/Summer Camp Program Supervisor, or email me at corralkids-rha@yahoo.com if you have any questions. We have lots more fun in store and I would like to take this chance to thank our CK families again for spending their summer with us

Corral Kids Fall 2010

We have had a great summer so far but fall is right around the corner and we are already having parents look into after school care. The last day of Summer Camp is Friday August 20th and the first day of Corral Kid before and after school care will begin on Monday August 23rd. Don't forget that even if you are currently enrolled in CK Summer Camp we will still need enrollment paperwork if you are interested in attending after school care for the Fall of 2010.

Paperwork is available at the front desk and online at our website, www.rockinghorseacademy.com. Registration fees will be waived for returning CK students. Currently Corral Kids has a bus service available for Blanco Vista and Kyle Elementary.

Summer Reading Challenge

Summer is a great time to be outside and splash around with some water fun but it's also a wonderful time to dive into a good book. Here are a few tips from the "Reading is Fundamental" website (www.rif.org) to help your entire family get involved in the Joy of Reading.

1. Read aloud with and to your child every day

Experts recommend 30 minutes a day
Pick books that are too long or difficult

Riddle- Hibernating when it is cold,
But when it is warm I become bold;
I light up the night,
For every child's delight.
Some people I might annoy
But to others I bring joy.

What am I?
(Գող Գայլակեր / Կլեյմ)

for your child to read on his own

Choose genres that your child prefers

2. Create a print rich home environment

Include both books (and books on tape) and writing materials

Include newspapers and child-oriented versions of popular magazines (e.g., Time for Kids, National Geographic for Kids)

Set aside a special reading area in your home and make sure everyone uses it

3. Model reading and writing

Make use of the family reading area on your own

Let your child see you reading for work or to learn something

Let your child see you reading for pleasure

4. Read and write with your children in your home language

Let your child see you reading and writing in the language(s) which are most comfortable to you

Stock your home library with books in English and books in your home language

Let your child read at home for fun in whichever language she prefers

5. Cook with your child to develop literacy

(Continued on page 11)

Corral Kids

(Continued from page 10)

Read recipes together
Read the labels on ingredients together
Make a family cookbook of favorite recipes

6. Explore books together

Ask your child questions
Point out new vocabulary and ideas
Explore the characters motivations and relate them to your family's life

7. Tell stories together

Talk together about your family history and perhaps, do a genealogy chart
Look at old vacation photos and discuss your memories of the trip
Tape your storytelling

8. Write with your child

Provide lots of writing materials and papers
Encourage your child to draw and write on her own
Encourage your child to write thank you notes to grandparents, make to do lists, write signs such as Torsys room keep out! and the like

9. Communicate regularly with your child's teacher about his literacy development

Find out what is happening at school
Ask questions about your child and what you can do to support her
Volunteer and/or observe in your child's classroom

10. Visit the library often

Encourage your child to get her own

library card

Take advantage of library programs such as family book clubs

Find out who are your child's favorite authors and genres and go with him to the library in search of interesting books

Days to Note

-Friday August 20th, Last day of CK Summer Camp.

-Monday August 23rd First day of Hays C.I.S.D.

-Monday August 23rd First day of CK After School Care

- Monday September 6th Labor Day! RHA closed.
- Monday October 11th. Columbus Day. RHA closed for staff in-service.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS



Campus Bell Times:

Elementary: 7:40 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Middle school, 8:20 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

High school, 8:50 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blanco Vista Elementary School (Grades K-5)

(opened 2008)

2951 Blanco Vista Blvd.
San Marcos, Texas 78666
(512) 268-8506 - fax (512) 393-2082
Cynthia Davis, Principal
Suzy Erlanson, Assistant Principal
Shirley DeLeon, Secretary
Monica Bosma, RN, BSN - 268-8506, EXT. 2805

Kyle Elementary School (Grades K-5)

500 W. Blanco
Kyle, TX 78640
(512) 268-3311 - fax (512) 268-1417
Elaine Meyer, Principal
Ann Conlee, Assistant Principal
Jill Daughtery, Secretary
Kristal Matthews, RN - 268-3311, EXT. 6927

Negley Elementary (Grades K-5)

5940 McNaughton
Kyle, Texas 78640
(512) 268-8501 - fax (512) 268-8582
Will Webber, Principal
Michelle Rowley, Secretary
Doris Hollowell, RN - 268-8501, EXT. 7004

Hays CISD Administration	268-2141
Transportation Department	268-8476
Child Nutrition	268-1336
Communications	268-2141, ext. 6090
Volunteers/ Mentors	268-2141, ext. 6078
Special Ed. Department	268-8250
Impact Center	268-8473
Student Transfers	268-2141, ext. 6086
Personnel	268-2141, ext. 6025
Curriculum	268-2141, ext. 6058
Business Office	268-2141, ext. 6000
Maintenance & Operations	268-8442 , Emergency Number 1-888-363-6032
Technology Division	268-2141, ext. 6022
WELL Clinic	268-5218

2010-11

August

12 Official start day for staff
12-20 Staff Development/Staff Preparation
18 Convocation
19 Elementary Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m.
19 Middle School schedule pickup, noon-6:30 p.m.
23 First Day of School

September

6 Staff/Student Holiday

October

11 Student Holiday, Teacher Conferences for Elementary/Staff Development for Secondary

November

22-23 Staff Development Exchange Days
24-26 Thanksgiving

December

20-31 Christmas Break

January

3 Staff Development/Prep.
Student Holiday
17 Staff/Student Holiday

February

21 Early Release Day

March

1 TAKS
14-18 Spring Break

April

22 Staff/Student Holiday
26-29 TAKS

May

27 Last Day of School
30 Staff Holiday
31 Staff Preparation
Should one instructional day be lost to bad weather, April 22 would become the make-up day. If a second day is lost, we would make it up on May 31.

Calendar Days: 187

Instructional Days: 175

Staff Development Days: 8

Staff Preparation Days: 4

1st Reporting Period: 24 Days

2nd Reporting Period: 24 Days

M	TU	W	TH	F
July 2010				

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12	13	14	15	16
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M	TU	W	TH	F
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31				

February 2011				
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March 2011				
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April 2011				
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May 2011				
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June 2011				
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20	21	22	23	24
27	27	29	30	

Legend

[Start of Six Weeks Period		Staff/Student Holiday
]	End of Six Weeks Period		Student Holiday and Staff Development/Prep.
21	Early Release Day		

3rd Reporting Period: 30 Days

4th Reporting Period: 33 Days

5th Reporting Period: 30 Days

6th Reporting Period: 34 Days