



Rocking Horse Review

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



Happy 10th Anniversary!!!



Twelve years ago, both of my daughters came to me with the best news of my life; I was going to be a grandmother. I was thrilled. We immediately started looking for quality childcare in the Austin/Buda area. There wasn't much and everyone had a waiting list.

I had taught high school for 28 years and was "ready" to retire, but I didn't want to stay at home and rear my grandchildren. Rebecca was completing her degree in early childhood education at Southwest Texas State University. One evening over dinner, we hatched a plan; we'd just build our own school.



Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) is an accreditation division of AdvancEd and a non-profit membership organization dedicated to improving the quality of services available to children and families. This organization has accredited

We opened August 2, 2002 with approximately 70 students and a staff of 25 employees. Several of those employees are still with us today: Maria Matts, Mary Martha Wiegand, Erica Davis, and Laura Oborski. And now 10 years later, we're still going strong. It's more like 200 students and a staff of 65. Wow!

Emily and Nicholas start Barton Middle School this year. They are officially "too old" for my school. And their little sisters Sydney and Kaitlyn are doing well at Negley Elementary. I still get to see them all nearly every day, which was my goal. I love going to events at Ne-

gley and other local schools and seeing our "babies" all doing so well. After 10 years of business, some of our original PreK students are now in high school and are way taller than Rebecca or me.

I want to personally thank all of our families (past and present) for a wonderful 10 years. It has been a privilege to teach your children and to share in their upbringing. I want to thank my wonderful staff who make this the best school in Texas.

We're looking forward to another generation of Rocking Horse Academy Students.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

universities, private schools, and entire school districts. Some school districts include Austin ISD, Dallas ISD, Fort-Worth ISD & Irving ISD, Houston ISD and even Hyde Park Baptist Schools. AdvancEd accredits over 13,000 schools and school systems throughout the United States and overseas. Today, Ad-

vancEd is the global leader in helping schools improve student learning through accreditation.

On May 6th and 7th we were visited by the SACS quality assurance team. They reviewed our policies and procedures, they examined our curriculum, they interviewed

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Fall 2012



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some of our families, and they observed and interviewed our staff. We are once again proud to announce that we received a glowing recommendation for our re-accreditation. Our school received the highest rating possible for five of the seven standards reviewed and the next highest rating for the other two standards, a near perfect score!

I would like to thank all the staff for working so hard to make this possible. I would also like to thank all our families for the time and commitment that you put forth to make us the best school in the

area. I would also like to give extra thanks to the following parents and staff for going above and beyond the call of duty.

The parents I would like to acknowledge are:

Cheryl Krhovjak, Stephanie Kramer, Jenny Peoples, Michelle Lane, Paul Bridges, Raquel McAfee and her mother I am very grateful for the extra time on a Sunday evening you took to spend with Dr. Short.

An extra special thanks to these staff members:

Barbara Sybrant, Estela Gouge, Zoila

Jaco, and Freddy Rivas

Without these staff members I could not have survived the visit!

A special "thank you" to Dr. Gary Short and John Purcell! I thank you for spending the time to visit with my staff and families and for being able to see all the amazing blessings we give thanks for everyday.

I have tried hard to remember all those that were instrumental in helping with this project. I apologize if I have missed anyone...I know I could not have done it without all of you!

Library News

It has been one hot summer, but so cool in the library! Our summer campers have had fun playing board games, challenging each other on the computers, putting together puzzles, and choosing books to read every day. But now it's time to go back to school, which also 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 in the mornings from August 27th until August 31st 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 September 4th so please drop by and see me!

Maria Matts
Assistant Director



Who's Cooking?

We would like to welcome Chef David Old to our RHA family. I have personally known David for more than forty years. He is an incredibly gifted chef. He's worked as a personal chef, Onion Creek Country Club's Executive Chef, the Balcones Research Center's executive chef and events manager, and he's owned his own restaurant in the tourist town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. He worked here at RHA about 4 years ago temporarily. Now he's back to bring us great nutritional meals for our children. His food really tastes good. You are invited to come by any day to have lunch with your child(ren). Just let Mr. David or your teacher know.

Ms. Jane



Parent Date Nights

August 18th, 2012
September 15th, 2012
October 20th, 2012

6:30 pm til Midnight

Academy Child \$30/\$15 second child

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

Employee Child \$15/\$5 second child

Tuition Due Dates

August 6th & 20th
September 3rd & 17th
October 1st & 15th & 29th

Dates To Remember

RHA Closed

August 10th- *for Training*

Sept. 3rd -RHA Closed Labor Day

October 8th Closed *for Training*

CPR/First Aid Schedule

August 2nd CPR/1st Aid 6:30 p.m.

Sept.27th CPR/1st Aid 6:30 p.m.

Events To Remember

August 23rd- Negley Meet the Teachers
August 27th H.C.I.S.D. School Starts

Sept.11th- RHA Back to School Night
Sept.12th Classroom Pictures
Sept. 23rd Set Sail in the Park

October 8th H.C.I.S.D. Closed

October 6th Plum Creek Garage Sales

October 24-26th Teddy Bear Portraits

October 30th Happy Halloween



Foals I



It is August and that means back to school. August themes are **Back to School, Five Senses** and **Me**. 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 "The Counting Song". We will listen to the chimes and talk about smells when we eat. Our reading time includes *Toes, Ears, and Nose and Little Alphabet*. The homework for August is 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". Our books to read are: *A Color of His Own, Minding Your Manners* and *In Grandma's Arms*. Repeat a few things for your baby to do for homework: clapping hands, holding hands out and waving.

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, Lulla's Perfect*

Pumpkin 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. We also ask that we have extra formula or breast milk for emergencies. Please always label bottles and food.

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

Foals I Staff

Stroller Recall

Peg Perego USA Inc.

The recall involves two different older versions of the Peg Perego strollers, Venezia and Pliko-P3, about 223,000 products, manufactured between January 2004 and September 2007, in a variety of colors. They were manufactured prior to the existence of the January 2008 voluntary industry standard which addresses the height of the opening between the stroller's tray and the seat bottom. The voluntary standard requires larger stroller openings that prevent infant entrapment and strangulation hazards. Only strollers that have a child tray with one cup holder are part of this recall. Strollers with a bumper bar in front of the child or a tray with two cup holders are not included in this recall. The following Venezia and Pliko-P3 stroller model numbers that begin with the following numbers are included in this recall. The model number is printed on a white label on the back of the Pliko P-3's stroller seat and on the Venezia stroller's footboard.

IPFR28US34xxxxxxx, IPPF28NA32, IPFT28NA63, IPPF28NA57, IPFT28NA64, IPPF28NA65, IPP328MU10, IPPF28NA66, IPP328MU09, IPPF28NA67, IPP328US09, IPPF28NA68, IPP328US10, IPPO28US32, IPP329US10, IPPO28US34, IPPA28US32, IPPO28US62, IPPA28US33, IPPO28US69, IPPA28US34, IPPO28US70, IPPD28NA34, IPPO28US71

IPVA13MU09, IPVA13MU10, IPVA13US09, IPVA13US10, IPVA13US32, IPVA13US34, IPVC13NA32, IPVC13NA34

Sold At:

Various retailers nationwide, including Babies R Us and Buy Buy Baby from January 2004 through September 2010 for between \$270 and \$330 for the Pliko P-3 stroller and between \$350 and \$450 for the Venezia stroller. They were manufactured in Italy.

cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml/12/12232.html

What To Do:

Immediately stop using the recalled strollers and contact the firm for a free repair kit. Do not return the stroller to the retailers as they will not be able to provide the repair kit. Contact the company toll-free at (888) 734-6020 or visit pegperegousa.com.





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 Jello 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, Bubbles 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 Har-**

vest *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, Good-night 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. Sooner than you know it we will be needing 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 would include jar food, snacks, bottles and sippy cups!

Stroller Recall

Kolcraft Enterprises Inc.

The front wheel assembly can break, posing a fall hazard to the child in the stroller. In addition, for strollers manufactured in January and February 2012, the nuts that hold the stroller's basket support screws in place can detach. Detached nuts can pose a choking hazard to young children.

Kolcraft has received six reports of front caster wheels breaking and two reports of the basket's support screws and nuts detaching. No injuries have been reported.

This recall involves all (about 5,600) Contours Options LT tandem strollers with model number ZT012. The model number and date of manufacture are printed on a label found on the rear leg of the stroller. The dual-seat strollers have one mesh basket beneath both seats and were sold in two color schemes; black with red canopies and accents, and gray with yellow canopies and accents. "Options LT" is printed on a bar along the side of the stroller.

Burlington Coat Factory and juvenile product specialty stores nationwide and online at Amazon.com, Target.com and other online retailers between February 2012 and July 2012 for about \$250.

Immediately stop using the product and contact the company to receive free replacement wheels. Consumers with strollers manufactured in January and February 2012 will also receive replacement nuts for the basket support screws. Contact the company toll-free at (800) 453-7673 or visit kolcraft.com.

cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml/12/12233.html





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 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 3rd we will be closed for Labor Day.

October is an exciting month. We will talk about **Fire Prevention**. We will practice a fire drill and to Stop, Drop and Roll. We

will read *Stop, Drop and, Roll*. We will sing *Hurry, Hurry Drive the Fire Truck*. The next week will be a fun one. Fall Harvest will have many activities as we welcome the fall season. We will clean out a pumpkin and count its seeds. We will also paint apples and make an apple tree. On October 30th we will have a harvest party. You may dress up, 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
- * bring blankets and sheets on Mondays and take home Fridays
- * diaper bags on Mondays and Fridays only
- * water cups

Want to wish Ms. Theresa Happy Birthday in September.

Ms. Erica
Ms. Lydia
Ms. Theresa
Ms. Jocelyn

Product Recall



This recall involves about 8,000 trampolines. The product is a small, toddler-sized trampoline with a yellow and blue colored handlebar over the top of the trampoline for toddlers to hold on to while jumping. The trampoline has a blue mat and orange pads with different colored circles printed onto the pads, yellow legs and blue feet. A white label is sewn into the underside of the orange pads which has "786X Little Jumpers Trampoline" printed above the bar code. This recall involves trampolines with the codes 21011-P0003070, 21011-P0003246, 25511-P0003071, 27811-P0003372, 29811-P0003373 and 34211-P0003375. This code is printed underneath the barcode. Sold at Independent specialty toy and retail stores from January through March 2012 for about \$100.

Immediately stop using the product and contact the firm for instructions on receiving a replacement trampoline. Contact the company toll-free at (800) 666-2539 or visit alextoys.com/safety.





Ponies



Hello from the Ponies! We are so excited that autumn is right around the corner and we are looking forward to enjoying some cooler weather. 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 be reviewing our shapes, learning our colors, and focusing on various letters of the alphabet. In our everyday activities, we find opportunities to count from 1 to 10. Mom and Dad can help too by counting to ten each time we brush our teeth or when we wash our hands. Children learn so much faster by doing activities over and over; repetition is key! We will continue practicing Spanish and sign language as well and will be working on the following words over the next few months: *sit down (sientate)*, *more (mas)*, *eat (comer-come)*, *please (por favor)*, and *sleep (dormir)*.

We will begin the month of August by exploring 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'll use our eyes by looking at books and searching for hidden items around the room. We will use our sense of smell to sniff oranges, vanilla, and maybe even some vinegar. Finally, we'll taste various foods to experience sweet, salty, and sour. By the end of the month we'll talk about school and how we should behave. We plan to sing '*The Wheels on the Bus*' and '*Look Who Came to School Today*', read *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey

Penn, and make our own school buses during this month.

All children love crayons, markers, paint, 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 through the hallway like big boys and girls with "bubbles" in our mouths while wearing our "duck tails". We encourage children to communicate their feelings using words and not with aggression. "Soft touches only" and "Use your words" are key phrases that we use often in class.

September delves into the themes of **Getting to Know You, Manners, and I Am Special**. In Getting to Know You, we want to find out what your Pony's favorite color, animal, bedtime story, and family activity is. We'll ask parents to bring in pictures and help us make a poster of our favorite things. We always promote using good manners in the Pony Room and encourage children to share with friends. During this month, we will focus on saying, "Excuse me" when asking a friend to move over and will continue to practice saying and signing, "Please" and "Thank you" during our mealtimes. During Circle Time, we will read a poem about manners and sing '*Share Your Toys*' and '*The Thank You Tune*'. During I Am Special, we plan to focus on building self-esteem. Self-esteem is fundamentally important to acceptable social behavior and lifelong happiness. If the child believes that he/she is important and successful then he/she is more likely to be happy and successful as an adult. It's never too early to help each child find success.

October has us all fired up about **Safety and Fire Prevention**. Of course, we practice our fire drills every month at RHA, but we want to give extra time to teach our Ponies to stop, drop, and roll. We will talk about safety in our kitchens and bathrooms, too. You might want to schedule a fire drill in your house so your little ones know what to do in case of an emergency. Stranger Danger is another topic we work on ALL year, but especially during October. We will learn our fall colors: *red (rojo)*, *brown (marron)*, *orange (naranja)*, and *yellow (amarillo)* in English and Spanish. Some of our art projects will include apple prints, pumpkins, collecting fall leaves, and leaf rubbings. At the end of the month, we plan to dress up and have a party to celebrate the fall season!

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

Please remember to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! Some of us shop at the same stores and might buy the same cute jackets, clothing, water cups, lunch boxes, and linens. Labeling is vital to prevent the loss of your Pony's belongings. We try to keep a permanent marker next to our water bucket during drop-off each morning. Please double-check that your Pony's name has not washed off of his/her water cup before placing it in the bucket. J

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





Chargers I



Chargers One is ready to get back into the swing of things! We hope that everyone had an amazing summer. We have been learning so much and making new friends. Our goals for this classroom are to enhance *listening skills, social skills and language development*. We are always teaching and encouraging our children to *take turns, share and make choices for themselves*. Two years old will gain more confidence, become more independent and naturally become curious about their environment. We provided a consistent schedule to help with this important developmental process of learning new ideas, concepts, and getting familiar with a routine so every child knows what to expect on a daily basis.

In Chargers One we will continue potty training for all of the children. We provide a consistent potty schedule and routine every day. We will encourage your child to sit on the potty and become familiar and comfortable with the toilet so he/ she isn't intimidated by it. Chargers One is a bit different than the Ponies room in how we potty train. We change "diapers" standing up after the child has been on the potty. We don't remove their shorts or pants, so we prefer working with pull-ups that have the Velcro tabs to make diapering easier and quicker. Please keep in mind that we do not expect for a child to be fully potty trained while he/she is in our classroom. Potty training does take time and it helps

when our parents keep a consistent potty schedule at home as well.

Just some quick FYI'S

Please make sure that your child has appropriate change of clothes for the current season.

We do "Show-N-Tell" every Wednesday afternoon. Each child can bring a special item to show, but it must be able to fit in his/her cubby.

"Video Day" is every Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning. We will watch a 30 minute educational video according to our curriculum theme.

Curriculum Theme:

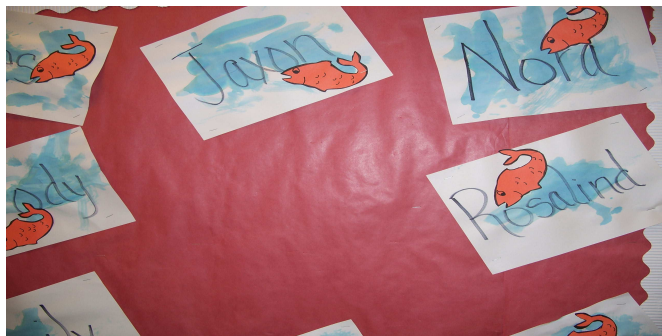
August- **Apples, Back to School, and Classroom Rules**: we will do development projects that use apples for art, science and cooking projects to stimulate your child's learning and curiosity. For back to school week we will focus on school related lessons involving bus safety, school safety, and becoming comfortable with our new friends, and new surroundings. Finally the Classroom Rules will be discussed and demonstrated among our students. We will learn about rewards and consequences when following and not following the classroom rules, as well as our school rules.

September- **Getting to know "You", 5 Senses, and Manners**: This month we will really focus on who we are as an individ-

ual and our families. Each family will be asked to create a poster with pictures of their child, family members and facts about themselves, so we can create a "Getting to know You" bulletin board for all of our families to see! We will learn about our five senses and the significance of each sense. We will do a sense-a-thon that week where we will have to use our senses for individual projects. Using our manners is important for social development. We will say "please" and "thank you", we will ask for help when we need it and try to verbalize our emotions.

October- **Fire Prevention, Stranger Danger, Fall Harvest, Pumpkins, and Halloween**: This month we will discuss fire safety and stranger danger. We will learn how to stop, drop, and roll and the difference between hot and cold. We will also talk about who strangers are and why they can be dangerous. We will end the month with plenty of special activities involving carving pumpkins, and painting pumpkins, fall leaves, and wonderful Halloween projects, such as making beautiful Halloween masks and face painting. Please remember that we have our lesson plans and weekly Newsletter posted outside of our door on our Parent Board for parents to take a copy home.

Charger's One Staff





Chargers II



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

In August we will set our focus on Back to School where we will work on School Rules and focus on **School and Me**. The children will work on activities to help them return to their regular routine which include favorite books for story time. One of my favorite books is *David Goes to School*. The children love to repeat the lines in the story, which is wonderful practice for language. Another favorite story the children love to hear and participate in activities is the *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* series. We will focus the lesson on the 123 book, which will help us to learn our numbers. *Click Clack Quackity Quack* is a fun way to introduce the alphabet through the silly antics of the farm animals.

The children will work on the **Five Senses** through the use of various odors, tastes as well as sound, sight and textures. They love being introduced to new information especially when they can tell us about what they have experienced.

September brings up our theme of **Getting to Know You, I Am Special** along with **Manners**. We must remember how

special each child is and the unique personalities of each one who enters the classroom each day. This is our time to focus on them and teach them about being proud of whom they are. We will use the book about *We are all Alike/We are all Different* to help them understand about themselves. Our projects will include working on their favorite activities which will include art and music but also gross motor activities. We will focus on getting to know each child better by finding out what are his/her favorite things through Show and Tell and family communication.

We will practice on sharing and manners with the books *Dot and Dash Learn to Share* and *A Splendid Friend Indeed*. We continue to remind the children about sharing especially with the classroom toys. We try to emphasize manners when someone would like more of something from snack or lunch and when they wish to play with a toy that another student is playing with.

Our calendar gets very busy in October when we work on our themes of **Fire Prevention, Stranger Danger, Fantasy and Fall Harvest: pumpkins and apples**. Two of our planned activities include making applesauce and carving our class pumpkin where we will also roast the

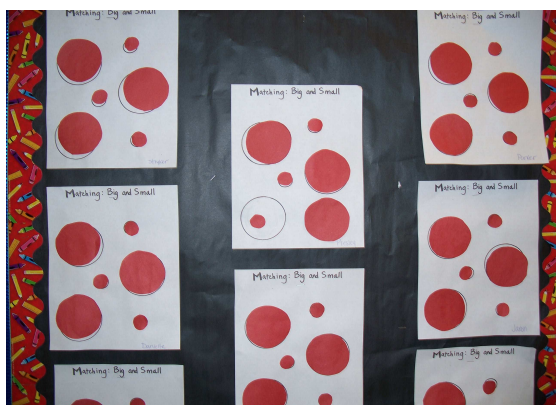
seeds. Once Halloween is over, the children will find out how "Jack" becomes a tasty treat when pumpkin pies are made. The children will also learn about the Charger II's Story of Jack. Our stories will focus on *Clifford's Pumpkin Patch* and *Fox Makes Friends*.

The children look forward to this time of the year when they can wear their Halloween costumes to school and go Trick or Treating (not candy) in the building. They also love to see the older children pass by in their costumes while the teachers hand out treats.

We will work on the skills for **Fire Safety and Stranger Danger**. These are two very important skills that children can use to help to keep them safe.

Please remember to bring your water bottles daily and to check your cubby for weather-appropriate clothing. We definitely need back up underwear, pants and socks in case of an accident. Be sure to LABEL all clothing and jackets and sweaters as our weather turns cooler. Many families shop at the same stores and buy the same cute jacket. It helps to avoid mix-up when clothing is labeled.

Thank you,
Chargers 2 Teachers





Pintos



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

We will kick off the month of August off with the theme **Five Senses**. The children will be learning that we learn new information all the time using our eyes, ears, nose, fingers and mouth. So to help teach these concepts to the children, we will taste different types of foods that are sweet, salty and sour. I will make scent jars with different odors in each set of jars. The children will then use their sense of smell to figure out each of the different smells. We will document our guesses of what is inside of each smell jar. Then the children get to look inside the jars to see if their guess was correct. To explore our sense of sight I will have a “can u find it” bottle in the Science Center for the children to find hidden items. Also, we will have a game of “I Spy” to see who can find items in the room the quickest using our sense of sight. To help explore the sense of touch, the children will put their hands in the feeling box and guess what they are holding. After the children make his/her guess he/she get to pull out the object to see if he/she was correct.

This month is also when all the bigger kids go back to school. This is a great op-

portunity to learn about our school environment. I 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 much more. Each child will share what he/she likes to do most at Rocking Horse Academy and what he/she thinks is special about the Pintos room. An important part of school is staying safe and being respectful to everyone not just their teachers, which is why we have classroom rules. I will observe the children following the rules and reward them. Everyone will help remind each other of the classroom rules.

One of the themes during the month of September is **Getting to Know You**. one of my favorite themes. I will ask each family to bring in pictures of their family and pets. The children will get a chance to share who they live with, what they do at home, and some of their favorite toys. Each child will make a biography book that we will read at circle time before he/she take them home. The teachers will also share about their families and favorite things to do with their families. Next, we will move on to **Manners**; we will help the children to use their manners during meal times, while talking to each other and teachers and while playing cooperatively. We will have a special lunch to help celebrate our accomplishments in table manners. The children will get to make a reward card that shares how they are being polite to their friends. Special friends will help along the way in learning that using our manners is very beneficial 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.

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. During the fantasy part of this month, the children get to express their creative talents. We will do “story webs” which allows each child to add in a piece to a story. I will write the stories down and read them to the children. This will help teach the children that stories have a beginning, middle and end. We will also make masks and props so that we can reenact our favorite books or fairytales. To introduce the “Stranger Danger” theme, the children will watch the movie “Stranger Safety” to help define who a stranger is. The book, *Never Talk to Strangers* describes possible situations and some simple clear rules to follow. Some of these rules; let an adult answer the door, let an adult answer the phone and stay with your parents or family member at all times when you are out in public. **Fire Prevention** is another theme for this month and that means the children get to practice **stop, drop and roll**. Talking about how a fire gets started, the importance of having a family fire plan, and how to get out of a fire is very important information for the children. The children will also practice Rocking Horse Academy's fire drill as we do every month. The children will experiment with colors red and yellow to make flame hot orange!

Gentle Reminders

Check the behavior charts and cubby each day to help stay better informed about what is happening at school.

Take water bottles home **daily** to better clean them and refill with fresh, cold water.

Please label, label, label everything that belongs to your child that is brought to school especially sweaters and jackets as weather gets cooler.

Please bring your child's bedding in a reusable labeled bag to make it easier to send home at the end of the week.





Wranglers



Summertime is almost over. It's been great. We started the summer with several new friends joining our Wrangler classroom. Welcome again to Avan, Chris, Darian and Luke, they adjusted very quickly. The second half of our Pre-K promotion is approaching soon, congratulations Yeshua, Kassiah, Caden, Isabella, Cooper and Diego, each of them will be missed.

On another note, what a difference a year makes. Who can remember the heat of last summer? How many triple figure days did we endure? We can appreciate the extra rain! Just a reminder, please make sure to replace your child's change of clothes. The next 3 months will be exciting.

The month of August will open up our **5 Senses**.

We will learn simple concepts such as, we learn things by using our 5 senses and our senses help us to enjoy life and the things around us.

One of the games we will play is called, What Sense is This? The children will be shown a variety of pictures of people and animals doing different things.

They will have to match the sense to the activity they see in the picture. Also during this lesson we will introduce simple sign language. We want the children to know that everyone may not be able to use their senses the same way.

Next our lesson topic will be **Back to School**.

Our focus will be on class rules and responsibilities, being responsible by choosing the right action. We will also discuss consequences, the result of our actions.

During this lesson we will be sending home a worksheet called My Duties and Me. We want the children to not only be responsible at school but also at home.

Assigning simple chores builds self-esteem and makes the children feel a part of the family's life. We reinforce this

by letting them know how much we appreciate them helping out.

Also during this lesson topic we will touch briefly on fairness and dealing with disappointments.

During the first week of September our focus will be on getting better acquainted. I will be doing small group activity observations to target areas of strengths and weaknesses to better meet the needs of each child. We also have several activities planned to work on co-operation.

One project will be a friendship collage; two children will have to share one piece of paper and a limited amount of collage materials to complete their project.

This is also a great project to lead into our next topic, **Manners**. We will discuss proper table manners, social manners and respect.

We will be reading two of my favorite books to enhance our lesson, *The Bernstein Bears*, *Forget Your Manners* and *Clifford Manners*.

We will close the month of September with, **I am Special!** This lesson topic will be full of self-esteem builders such as, *See Me*, *I Belong Here* and *My Personal Poster*.

We will also be creating a classroom quilt highlighting each child.

Then on to October, which will begin with **Safety First**. We will cover safety at home, safety at school and safety in our community. During this lesson topic, the children will be creating personal safety-first books.

They will be asked to give examples of safe practices. I will then transcribe their words into their books. We want to make sure they have a clear understanding of what being safe means. Our next two topics will be right along the same lines, **Fire Prevention and Stranger Danger**.

We plan to do as many fun projects as possible so that the children won't get

bored with us repeating things over and over.

Our purpose for these lessons is to ensure that our children are equipped with knowledge so that they will have the confidence to respond to situations that may be harmful or that they are uncomfortable with. We will be sending home simple worksheets as an extension of our lesson and to encourage parent participation.

We want our children to know that we are working together to keep them safe.

We will close the month with **Fantasy and The Signs of Fall**.

One project we have planned during this time is pumpkin carving, then roasting the seeds.

Parents, you are more than welcome to join us. And not only for this project but for any of our lesson topics.

We know that your schedules are sometimes tight, so let us know when you have some time and we will adjust our schedule to accommodate your request. Reminders; Please continue to sign your child in and out with initials.

Please, Please, Please bring in a fresh water bottle each day.

Again, please check your child's change of clothes. They should have a top, bottom, underwear or pull ups and socks. Also if your child uses pull ups, please make sure we have wipes to help them clean after accidents.

We are looking forward to an awesome time of learning over the next few months.

Please don't hesitate to come to us if you have comments or concerns.

Sincerely

Tammy Hornsby
Wrangler Lead Teacher





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.

This fall, Rocking Horse Academy is participating in a new program with Hays CISD. We are aligning our PreK Curriculum with the district's programs to better prepare students entering public schools next year. As we settle into our school routine, we will begin to implement our new Scholastic curriculum. Ms. Jessica

and Ms. Casey have been through numerous hours of training with district officials to prepare for the upcoming school year. The first "official" day of school is August 27th.

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 11th at 5:30p.m. I will have more information on our new curriculum available for you then. There will be a short orientation in the gym for new families and those wishing to have a refresher course on RHA. Please take advantage of this evening, as you will get to tour your child's classroom and meet his/her teachers.

In September we will also cover school rules and making good choices. It is important that we all reinforce good manners and following rules as part of learning our social skills, too.

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

September 12: Class Group Pictures (MWF Children are encouraged to come for the photo).

Egg-citing Summer





Broncos



Welcome 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 Pre-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

During the first two weeks of August, we will learn all about our **5 Senses**. This is always a fun theme which I know we will all enjoy. The second week in August we will welcome new Broncos who have just be joining us. 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. Please talk with your children about appropriate school behaviors. At this age it is sometimes hard for our children to understand that some behaviors that may be okay at home may not be appropriate at school. For example, it may be okay to wrestle and horseplay with a family member at home but it is never appropriate to do so at school. 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.)

Reminder: Rocking Horse Academy's Back to School Night is September 11th and begins at 5:30.

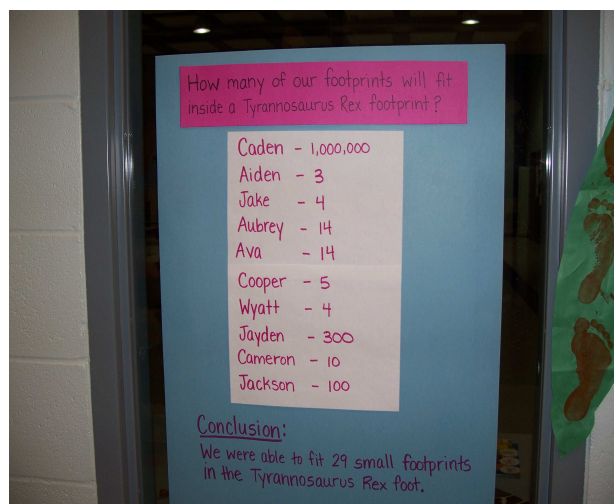
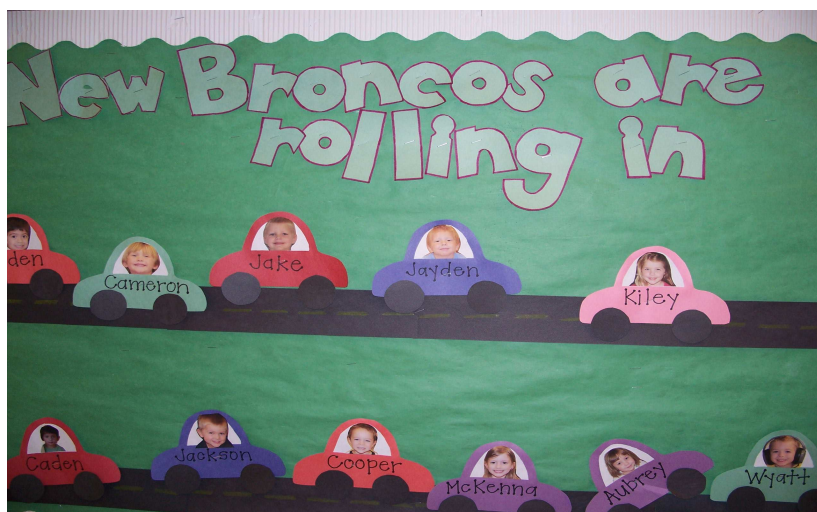
As September approaches we will begin our NEW school year curriculum. I am pleased to announce that the Rocking Horse Academy Pre-Kindergarten program has been accepted to participate in an early childhood grant through the Children's Learning Institute. This curriculum is in addition to a new Scholastic Curriculum that we will be using. The new curriculum is a combination of student centered activities aimed at 6 areas

of development.

1. Social and Emotional Development
2. Phonological Awareness
3. Written Expression
4. Language development
5. Letter knowledge
6. Mathematics

The grant also requires that each pre-kindergarten student be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the year, so be on the lookout for information about assessments in late September. It is a very exciting time to be at Rocking Horse Academy. Since this is a new curriculum we are still working out some of the thematic units and scheduling. So keep an eye out for more information as September approaches.

It will be a busy time as we get started with the new school year and new curriculum as well as get to know all the Broncos and their 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 ca-sey.hall@mygrande.net.





Corral Kids



What an amazing summer! Corral Kids have been having so much fun this summer that it is hard to believe we only have a few weeks left. So far this summer we have cooked together, played games, played miniature golf, watched the Silver Stars win a game at the AT&T center, and even observed and learned all about glass blowing from the wonderful people at Wimberley Glass Works. We've also loved our weekly trips to the Kyle pool. In the next couple weeks we will be having a Rock Wall, host a Home Depot demonstration, as well as a magician, guest speakers, and even a Penny Carnival. (We could also really use everyone's help in collecting all of those old happy meal toys, or any other little prize that could be given out at our end of the summer Penny Carnival.) We are definitely planning on ending this summer with a bang! Please feel free to continue to communicate with me if there is any-

thing I can help you with corralkids-rha@yahoo.com. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Corral Kid families for the warm welcomes I received as I took on this new position at the beginning of the summer. In the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to get to know all of your amazing children, all of which I adore. Thank you again, I am really enjoying being a part of their lives.

Summer is coming to a close, and fall is approaching quickly. The last day of summer camp is August 24th and the first day of Corral Kid before and after school care will begin on Monday August 27th. Don't forget that even if you are currently enrolled in our Corral Kid Summer Camp, we still need enrollment paperwork if you are interested in attending before or after school care for the new school year. Paperwork is available at

the front desk and online at our website, www.rockinghorseacademy.com. Registration fees will be waived for currently enrolled Corral Kid students and returning spring 2012 students. Rocking Horse Academy also provides a bus service for afterschool students from Blanco Vista and Kyle Elementary.

The teachers and I will be working together as a team to provide your child with a quality educational environment to complete his/her homework as well as discover and learn with many hands-on activities. We also want to provide your children with an atmosphere where they can have fun, make friends, and unwind afterschool. I am really looking forward to spending the upcoming school year with your children. Please feel free to let me know if there is anything I can help you with.

