



Rocking Horse Review

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



Director's Corner

RHA in Review September:

On September 4th the City of Kyle Council voted to create a "No Parking" zone in front of our school from 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Officers have been patrolling the area and will be writing tickets, so please park in our lot, on the Negley side of the building on Dickens or across the street.

Thank you to all of our parents and teachers who made our annual Back to School Night, on September 11th, such a big success. It was not only informative but also fun. It really gave us a chance to meet each other and to get an idea of who we are and what you are looking for in these next few precious years. We also had the opportunity to review our emergency preparedness plan. If you missed any of this, please be sure to come by the front desk so that we may share this information with you. Please be sure to keep our school updated with your current contact information. I enjoyed talking with all of you and thank you for continuing to support our efforts in your school.

If you missed ordering your

child's group class pictures taken on the 12th, it's still not too late! Please contact Ms. Rebecca in order to receive our photographer's direct contact information.

Maria Matts, our Asst. Director, and I received great information regarding our community's commitment to education at the Kyle Chamber of Commerce luncheon, on the 25th, sponsored by the Hays CISD Education Foundation.

Rocking Horse Academy donated its building to AgriLife, an extension office of A&M University, in order to host a county-wide training for approximately 140 child-care providers from our region. Maria and I worked for months with this organization to help organize and facilitate the training held on the 29th of Sept. and are looking forward to preparing for another AgriLife training event this Spring.

October:

Maria and I continued our very busy schedules... We took a road trip into Austin where we spent the day attending the Reach Out and Read Summit. It was very informative and we were able

to bring a lot of what we learned back home to our teachers for our own in-service training.

I am pleased to share that the in-house training we provided on October 8th was a complete success. We focused on Playground Safety & Supervision, Child Health, Fitness & Nutrition, Communication, and Stress Management. It was extremely informative and very helpful.

On a personal note, I can't begin to express my appreciation for all of you who joined our staff and me on October 21st to refresh our large, beautiful playground and deep clean the school. We had 43 Fraternity and Sorority members, 14 RHA staff or family members and 3 RHA parents volunteer to help scrub furniture and toys, steam clean carpets and organize our attic. We also managed to move 110 cubic yards of mulch from our parking lot to spread out evenly over the entire play area in order to continue to make your child's playground and school a safer one. Yeah Sigma Chi, Sigma Delta Lambda and Gamma Phi Beta!!! I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the RHA staff, their family mem-

Winter 2012



November, December, January

How Many People Does It Take?



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bers and to those RHA parents for taking the time away from your already busy schedules to lend us a helping hand. We could not have done it without you!!

We completed our 5th annual fall fundraiser and were able to raise \$700 selling first aid kits to go towards the shades on our playgrounds and the replacement of our 16 infant cribs. The Bronco classroom raised the most, and won the classroom pizza/popsicle party. Congratulations Broncos! Barbara Sybrant and Marlee Schiesler were our two top-selling individuals and won a free first aid kit. Many special thanks go out to those families that worked so hard in collecting orders and helping to support our school. THANK YOU!

This month, RHA students also enjoyed meeting with and talking to our very own local fire fighters. They reviewed safety rules and tips on how kids can practice being safe. I would also like to extend a very big "Thank You" to those family members and our very own parents representing various law enforcement agencies in the area who volunteered to talk to our children about stranger danger and basic safety tips. Consistent reminders and practice is key to helping our children learn to use these tips in case of an emergency.

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

Reminders and Head-ups

November 4th 3 a.m. Daylight Saving Ends (fall back 1 hour)
November 5th-6th View Fall School Portraits (Be sure to pick up your free gift!)
November 8th Your child's art work fundraiser catalogs distributed
November 16th Family Feast Lunch-

eon with your child
November 17th *Parent Date Night
November 19th-23rd HCISD
Closed for Thanksgiving
November 22nd-23rd RHA
Closed for Thanksgiving
November 28th Kyle's Tree Lighting Ceremony
December 14th Your child's personalized art products delivered
December 15th *Shop 'til You Drop (12 p.m. – 12 a.m.)
December 19th 11th Annual International Children Around the World Festival
Dec. 20th-Jan. 4th HSICD
Closed
December 24th&25th RHA
Closed
Dec. 31st – Jan 1st RHA Closed

January 21st MLK
(RHA closed for in-house staff training)

* First Aid and CPR Classes & Parent Date Nights are offered throughout the year.

Come check it out!

November

With the change of weather and daylight saving time, it is time to refresh your child(ren)'s extra clothes. Please stop by your child's cubby and make sure there are at least two sets of clothes for both warmer weather and for the cooler weather. Layers work great for this. ***Please don't forget to label everything.***

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

Please join us and your child for lunch, November 16th for our Family Thanksgiving Feast.

Every year since we opened, we have held a school-wide Thanksgiving luncheon for our families. This is an opportunity for you to come and have lunch with your child(ren) and enjoy some one-on-one time. It is also a great time to learn more about your child's friends and their families and build an even stronger connection with our teachers. The school will provide the main dish and we ask that parents and staff bring sides to accompany it. Sign up sheets will be distributed closer to the feast.

Often, but not always, parents choose to take their children home early that day. Some families may not be able to leave with their children or some of you may not be able to take the time off. We will be extra sensitive to this and prepare activities or assign another parent to sit next to your child as to help redirect their attention.

December

Don't forget Shop Til You Drop on Dec. 15th!!! This is an opportunity to leave your children with staff they already know and love, as well as have time to... clean house, shop for or wrap gifts; without the kids, or even treat yourself to a "me" day. Check the front desk for more details.

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

We truly appreciate you and your children!



RHA Fall Cleanup



How many people does it take to.....



Spread Mulch

Steam Clean Carpets & Rugs

Clean Tables and Chairs

And Organize An Attic



**Thanks to our staff and their families, center parents,
the Sigma Chi's, Sigma Delta Lambda's, Gamma Phi Beta's**





FOALS I

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

Family and home, Neighborhood and Community Helpers are the themes for November. Our Spanish words include November-*Noviembre*, family-*familia*, home-*casa*, father-*padre*, mother-*madre* and brown-*cafe*. We will sing the finger play song "Where is the Family" and read *Hugs and Kisses*, *Emergency* and *Cuddly Baby*. The discovery time will be to shake a bottle with corn and beans, count the people in our family will be our math and for physical activity, we will roll a pumpkin. The homework for November is to practice drinking from a cup. December themes are **Music, Holiday Traditions** and **Children around the**

World. December-*Diciembre*, Christmas-*Navidad*, red-rojo, green-verde, music-*musica*, children-*niños* are the Spanish words. Our songs include the German rhyme "Backe, Backe Kuchen" and "Jingle Bells". We will wash our hands to stay healthy and read *Here Comes Santa* and *The Night before Christmas*. The homework for December is to practice sitting up.

New Year's, winter and **Arctic Animals** are the themes for January. Spanish words are January-*Enero*, New Year's-*Año Nuevo*, white-*blanco*, winter-*invierno*, snow-*nieve*, cold-*frio*, time-*tiempo*. For story time we will read *Biscuit's Snowy Day*, *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See* and *Good Night Moon*. A fun song to sing is "Be Kind to Your Fur Footed Friends". For sensory stimulation, we will touch ice cubes to feel something cold. Physical develop-

ment will be to play peek-a-boo with the snowflake scarf. The homework assignment is to practice rolling over.

Parent reminders: Please remember to label everything you bring including bottles, lids, pacifiers, bibs and food. Thanks for your help. Also, please sign your baby in and out on the roster with the time and your initials. These are requests from administration. Questions and comments are always welcome. We appreciate the opportunity to care for your baby.

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

Foals I Staff

Mary Martha and Sonia AM Staff
Michelle and Lauren PM Staff

FOALS II

Foals II is looking forward to colorful swirling leaves and a change in the air, plump pumpkins and crisp apples. We're also anticipating a joyful holiday season in the coming months. The next few months hold many new and exciting activities for us. Our November themes are "**Family**", "**Neighborhood**", "**Community Helpers**" and "**Family Feast**". We will spend a lot of time looking at pictures of our families and talking about them as well. If there are any new photos you'd like to share,

we would love to see them. We will also play house with play dishes, pots, & pans. We will continue to work on our Spanish words: *thank you- gracias*, *please- por favor*, family-*familia*, and home-*casa*. Books for November are: "*One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*" by Dr. Seuss; "*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*" by Eric Carle; "*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?*" by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle. Our themes for December are "**Music and Movement**", "**Holiday Traditions**", "**Children/Culture**

Around the World". We will learn how to move with music. We will spend time listening to "*Kids Sing Songs Around the World*", and "*Dance Baby Dance!*" If there is a favorite CD or tape you'd like to share, feel free to bring in and share with our class. Our Spanish words for December are *red-rojo*, and *green-verde*. Books for the month of December are "*Love You Forever*" by Robert N. Munsch & Sheila McGraw; "*Toes, Ears, & Nose!*" by Marion Dane Bauer; & "*Corduroy*" by Don Freeman.





COLTS

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

In the month of November, we will talk about **Family and Home, Neighborhoods and Community Helpers**. To help us enjoy our Family Feast, we will make our own placemats and create a family collage to help us learn about relatives and relationships. We will build a Colt family tree with pictures of our family members and pets. We will play with ears of corn and gourds to see how they feel in our hands. Please plan on joining us on November 16th for our annual Family Thanksgiving Feast. Parents are asked to bring side dishes to share with the school. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the room soon.

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

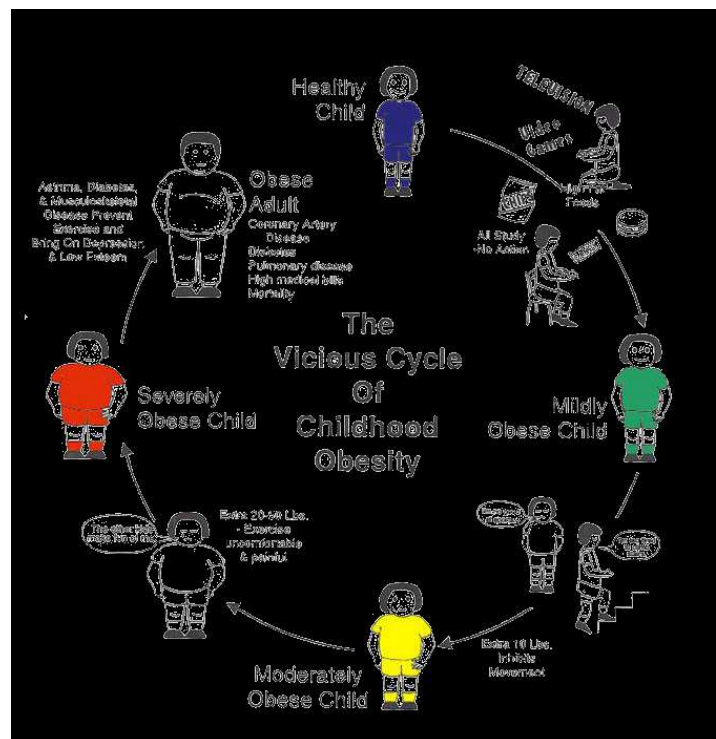
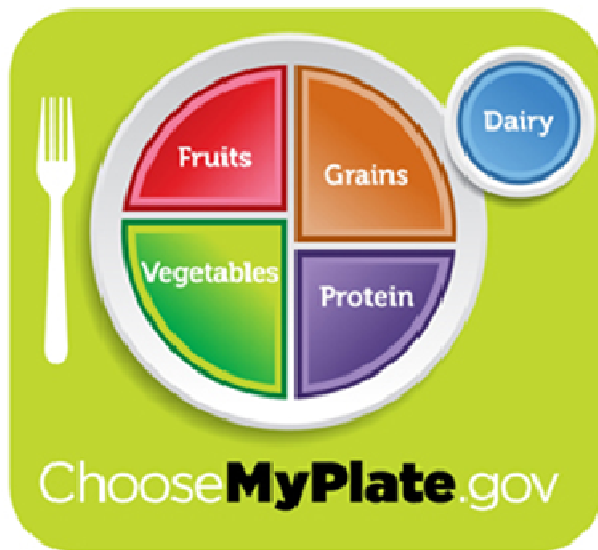
In the month of January, we will learn about **Winter, Arctic animals and Time and Calendar**. The first two weeks, we will talk about winter and Arctic animals. We will play with ice for our sensory lesson. We will try to make an igloo and color a polar bear as examples of some

art activities. Then the last two weeks, we will explore the world of Time. We will make clocks, talk about each other's birthdays and other time and calendar activities. We will read *A Clock goes Tick Tock*.

As the weather gets colder, remember to bring jackets, scarves, gloves/mittens, and caps for the head so we can continue to go outside and play. Be sure to LABEL everything so nothing gets lost. Double check clothing when you pick up so you don't mistakenly take someone else's jacket or hat. Many of us shop at Target or WalMart and purchase the same cute coat.

As always please feel free to call us during naptime—1:00 – 2:00. We'll be happy to visit with you then.

Colt Staff





PONIES

Hello from the Ponies! Autumn is here and the holidays are right around the corner! There is a lot to do and learn as we dive right into one of the busiest and most fun seasons of the year. In our class your child is practicing fine motor skills with lots of painting, coloring and pre-writing activities. Colors, shapes, letters/numbers and learning concepts (large, small, up, down, etc.) are the foundation of Circle Time. We are working on our speech and vocabulary with seasonal songs and books. We ask you to encourage your little one to verbalize as much as possible; we love to hear chattering and applaud when the chatter turns to words! All children develop at different speeds, so please be assured we love your Pony without reservations. As always we are using our Spanish and Sign Language whenever possible! Please welcome Ms. Theresa to the Pony Room. She will be our new afternoon teacher along with Ms. Cici. Although we will miss Ms. Alyssa, we are happy for her in her new position here at Rocking Horse.

November: Welcome Fall! Your Pony will begin the month by learning all about **community helpers**. **Police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and teachers** are among some of the people in our community that make a difference. What does each of these helpers do and who in particular do they help? This month we will also talk about our homes (casas) and

families (familias). What kinds of homes are there for people? How many people live in your home? Do you have pets, or siblings? Moms and Dads will be asked to bring this information in for us, so be ready for some questionnaires! In November we will use the Thanksgiving Feast to bring together the themes of family and community as our Rocking Horse community gathers to eat together with family and friends. We hope you are able to attend; keep a lookout for more information from our class and the school.

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

January: Brrr! Winter is wonderful as we explore the **Arctic** and discover which animals live there and how they survive the cold temperatures. The Ponies love to growl like a polar bear (oso polar) and waddle like a penguin (pinguino) as we

read books and sing songs about animals. This month brings in a New Year so we will focus on calendars: days of the week, months of the year, and do you have a birthday every year? We will make our own clocks and sing "Hickory Dickory Dock" during Circle Time.

Even though the weather has finally cooled down, it is still important to keep your little one hydrated. Please send a labeled sippy cup with water every day and make sure the spare clothes in their cubby has been switched out for the cooler weather. We are always available if you have any questions or concerns. Don't hesitate to call during our naptime hours (1:00 to 2:00). Every day brings new discoveries to a toddler and we do our best to introduce the information your child will be building on for the next several years of his/her development. Because toddlers are pre-verbal they get frustrated easily and it takes patience and understanding to work through some of the phases they go through. We have a parent board outside our classroom with handouts on various topics, so take a look! We are definitely looking forward to the next few months and we are excited about all the wonderful things we will learn!

Thank you from the Ponies Room

Thoughts On Food

No white at night (if you must have sugar and processed carbs, do it before 3 pm)

Limit juices (ALL juices – children DO NOT need juice – they need FRUIT)

Fat > 30% total intake

75% of what your body looks like is from your diet – not your workout





CHARGERS I

First off, we would like to say that we are very excited to be spending the fall/winter months with this wonderful group of Chargers! We are very excited for the weather change and are more excited to watch the leaves turning fall and winter colors! The air will be crisp and cool, so make sure to check your child's cubby for weather appropriate clothing. Also, be sure to bring in jackets or sweaters for the class's early morning recess. Since many of us shop at the same stores, and we don't want to send our kiddos home with the wrong clothes, make sure that their clothes are appropriately labeled before entering the classroom.

Chargers 1 lesson plans will be focused on our colors, numbers, and letters of the alphabet. Each month we use various themes in which we teach the kids about their world as well as their basic skills. In November we will be introducing **family, home, neighborhood, and community helpers**. We want to share pictures of family members such as parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandpar-

ents, pets, etc. helping out in our local communities. We will be exploring community helpers such as police officers, mail carriers, fire fighters, doctors, and teachers. At the end of the month, we celebrate our students and their families by hosting Rocking Horse Academy's annual family feast. Our parents are asked to bring a dish to share just as the Pilgrims did long ago. We have an exciting month filled with activities, so be sure to pick up a copy of our weekly newsletters and lesson plans.

December is right around the corner, and we will enjoy **music and holiday traditions**. We want to play country, opera, classical, and jazz music to give our students a sense of how music can be very diverse. If you have some favorite music, or movies please feel free to share with the class.

Every December, Rocking Horse Academy hosts the children around the world festival. This year, Chargers 1 has chosen Germany as our country. We will hear the German language, taste German food,

and study pictures of Germany's children and cultures. We will also be creating a booth for the festival. If anyone has been to Germany and has items to share, please feel free to help us with the project.

Entering the New Year in January, we will begin our **Arctic animals, dinosaurs, and the New Year time and calendar!** We will discuss the seasons, and colder temperatures. We will also study Arctic animals, talk about their habitats, what they eat, and how they survive in such cold climates.

Chargers 1 is so excited about our new themes and activities. There is so much to learn and discover! If you have any questions or concerns, Please feel free to call during our conference hours. Our conference period is scheduled from 12pm- 2:30pm.

Chargers 1 staff,
Laurie Munoz & Kaytlin Suarez



What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?

"Quack! Quack!"





CHARGERS II

Goodbye summer, hello fall! We are finally getting cooler temperatures and some rain in our forecast. The leaves are changing colors and falling down to the ground. It's time to dust off those jackets and sweaters.

Our biggest accomplishment yet is seeing the entire Chargers 2 class move closer and closer to being fully potty trained! We are so proud of all of our students that are sitting and going potty in the toilet! Diapers and pull-ups are a thing of the past! It makes us very happy when we see a child's transition from diapers to underwear because the children are so proud of this new concept and feeling that we can actually see a little stride in their step!

The children are continuing to work on alphabet recognition, color recognition and name recognition. During circle time, they are learning the days of the week, counting the days on our calendar and identifying different shapes.

In November we will talk about **Family and Home**. We will discuss the members of our family and extended family. We will talk about different activities that

families like to do together and different types of homes that families live in. To help us learn about our families and home, the class will read *When We're Together* to show how a family interacts with each other. We will also learn about *Community Helpers* and our *Neighborhood*. We will learn about different helpers and how they help our community as well as why they are important. *What Do You Do?* will illustrate different community helpers and explain their roles. We will have lots of fun dressing up and pretending to act like some of our community helpers. With the holiday season just around the corner, we want to focus on our families and spending time with them.

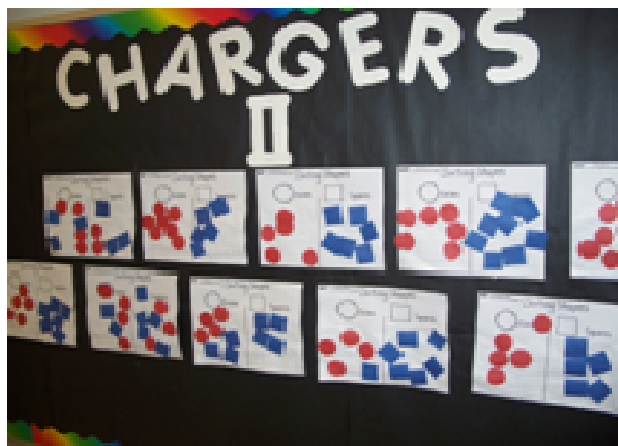
In December our topics will be on **Holiday Traditions from all around the World, Children and Culture, and Music and Movement**. This year, Chargers 2 will learn about our neighbors south of the border, Mexico. We will sing traditional Mexican holiday songs, help make a traditional Mexican dish and celebrate the holiday season with Feliz Navidad. Several activities will be based off of traditional holiday themed books such as *The*

Night Before Christmas and *The Nutcracker*.

We will ring in 2013 with the themes of **New Years, Winter and Arctic Animals**. We will discuss the change of seasons and what winter brings. *Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You See?* will help illustrate different Arctic animals and show them in their environment. We will study penguins and polar bears and learn about what they eat and where they live. We will keep busy by learning about *Time and Calendars*. We will discuss what a clock does and label different parts of a clock. Chargers 2 will learn about calendars and how to tell what the date is and the days of the week as well as what today, tomorrow and yesterday was.

Please remember to bring a change of weather-appropriate clothes, especially during the potty training process. Label all personal items and check daily sheets for any important information or reminders. Thank you so much.

Chargers 2 Teachers



Why did they let the turkey join the band?



Because he had the drumsticks!



PINTOS

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

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

We will start practicing our writing more often as we write letters to Rocking Horse helpers around the school, telling them how thankful we are for the jobs they do. This activity not only gives the people at school a sense of appreciation but an opportunity for the children to become aware of all the different jobs that are needed to run our school. This will be a fun and exciting month learning about everyone around us and how they help each other out.

December is dedicated to learning about children in other parts of the world. We learn about their homes, family traditions, holidays, foods and music. We get to cook food that comes from that country. We will dance to their music and even dress up in clothes that the people from

that country wear. This year we have chosen to learn about Spain. There will also be a festival with booths from all the classrooms sharing the information they have gathered about the country they studied. This festival is for all the children and their families to enjoy together.

Around the age of three is when children start to realize they are not the entire center of the universe and can have an effect on the people around them. This is a great time to learn about the world, all the different types of people, and how to accept differences through understanding. This will be a very exciting month for everyone!

January- We will study the season of winter and all the wonders it brings. We will do this through observations when we go on nature walks, conduct science experiments with ice and water, and, of course, read several different books.

The Pintos will also learn about all the different types of Arctic animals. We will study their homes they live in, the food they eat, and why they are equipped to live in the cold Arctic weather. Polar bears, penguins, seals and walrus are some of the animals that the children will be learning about.

The children are getting some concepts of time at this age. They understand about tomorrow, yesterday and of course, "stay home days." I will help expand their knowledge to include weeks, months and years.

Social Play- Now that the children have gotten to know each other, they naturally pair up and play in small groups. At this stage in their development, the children will more likely pair up in same gender groups to play. They do a lot of gender identity at this time, saying things like, "only boys can do this," most of the time the children's presumptions are incorrect. I make sure to point out all the different

things that both boys and girls can do. So don't be surprised if some of those conversations start to come up. As the children start to play in small groups, they also might start excluding others from their play. My job is to help the child who is trying to join in do so successfully or find another group to join. I do this by giving them phrases like, "I can be the brother." "I can help you build that tower." "Which toy can I use?" This way you are not giving the children the obvious opportunity to say, "No." Phrases like, "Can I play?" usually come back with the no response.

Excluding at this age is not personal or as hurtful as you might think. The children are only trying out a new social skill to see how it works. They are all still really good friends; the teachers always make sure everyone is safe, both emotionally as well as physically.

ABC's and 1,2,3's- All of the children can recognize the first letter in their name when they see it in the environment. Most of the children can recognize their entire name in print. I will continue to work on these skills with all the children at group time as well as in small groups at the table. Learning about rhythm and patterns is an important pre-reading skill for young children. We will practice these concepts through clapping games and placing objects into simple patterns having the children finish the pattern.

Most of the children can count at least five objects successfully and many can count up to ten objects or more, pointing to each one as they count. We have been working a lot on this with simple finger plays and fun sorting toys. As the children start to master these skills we will do some simple addition and subtraction. One other skill that the children will be working on is the concept of more and less than with our math sorters and through small group activities.





WRANGLERS

Seasons come and go so quickly. Fall is just about to be a memory; winter is fast approaching. We had a great summer getting to know each other. Ms. Diana and I are really proud of our Wranglers; we observed them the whole summer during center time put into action what they had learned. We heard nice words, and we also saw them helping each other solving their disagreements with little or no help from either of us. Many of our parents informed us that they were even using the big words they learned like *responsibility and cooperation*. During this lesson topic, we also got some awesome feedback about how they were helping at home, especially with younger brothers and sisters. This encouraged us to add the topic **Celebrating Siblings**. The children seemed to really enjoy sharing their books from home and pictures of themselves with their siblings. Parents, we also had a really nice time learning more about your families. As I've said many times before, our lesson topics can always be adjusted. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there's something that you or your child is expressing interest about at home. We will have no problem adding it to our lesson topic list.

We will start the month of November off learning about bears. Our book of the week will be none other than *Going on a Bear Hunt*. We will also learn fun interactive songs and finger plays like *Five Little Bears* and *Ten Bears in the Bed*. During this week, we will be encouraging the children to bring in their favorite teddy bear for show and share. Our food experience project will include tasting one of the bear's favorite foods: honey. Then for the next two weeks of November we will learn more about community helpers. You all will be a big part of this lesson; we will request that all who can

come in and share with our class what your responsibilities are on your job. This lesson will flow right into our family feast and will end with us graphing some of the things that we're thankful for before celebrating Thanksgiving. The final week of November will be about money. It's never too early to learn the value of a dollar. Our focus will be on saving money. One of our art projects will be creating personal piggy banks; it's sure to be lots of fun.

The month of December will also be a fun-filled month starting with Music and Movement. We will request cultural music from home. It would be awesome if we had a brave soul to come in and teach us a cultural dance to go along with the music. Next will be *A Time to Rhyme* and one of our favorite holiday traditions: Children Around the World celebration. This year the Wranglers will study the food, clothing and traditions of children from China. The month of December will close with an unusual topic that we added: Things with Wings. Ms. Maria donated several National Wildlife Federation magazines to our classroom that opened up a wide range of topics to explore. Things with Wings will be a first for me during my career teaching. I look forward to not only teaching it but also learning from this topic.

The final month of this quarter will be the beginning of a brand new year January 2013 only 5 more months before our Wranglers graduate to Pre-K. My how quickly they grow. We have several great topics planned for January starting with Time and Calendar. We will introduce simple concepts such as how many hours are in a day. We will also create a giant count down to graduation wall in our classroom and make personal clocks and

a favorite time of the day chart. Our next topic will be Winter Weather. Our plan is to turn our room into a winter wonderland filled with snowflakes and icicles. We will also be asking you all to provide internet pictures of real life snow scenes. And even better, if your holiday vacation plans are in one of these areas, please take a picture to share with our class. Next, we will learn about Arctic animals. We will explore what it is like to live in Arctic areas and what animals need to survive there. Our final topic of the month will be Tell me a Tale. We have lots of fun activities planned during this lesson topic such as baking gingerbread man and recreating the three little pig's houses. We're looking forward to a wonderful time of fun and learning.

Reminders, please remember to sign your child in and out each day. Please provide a fresh water bottle each day. Please check your child's folder and cubbie each day. Also, we will leave a note written in red ink if your child had an accident. Soiled clothes will not be kept in your child's cubbie; they will be on his/her coat hook. Please remember to take them home. Please make sure that your child has the proper change of clothes. Not only has the weather changed, but they have also grown.

If for any reason you're not able to contact me during my workday, you may contact me via email.

My personal email address is phornsby64@yahoo.com.

Sincerely

Tammy Hornsby
Wrangler Lead Teacher





TROTTERS

Fall is here and the Trotters are ready for cooler weather. We will begin the month of November by wrapping up our unit on *Growing Up Healthy*. Our themes will be *Eating Well and Staying Safe*. During these themes, children will learn about their bodies and how to take care of themselves. The social-emotional focus will be self-awareness. Some of the books we will read during these week are, *The Beastly Family*, *Good Food*, *How Does Your Salad Grow?*, *Always Be Safe*, *Please Play Safe! Penguin's Guide to Playground Safety*, and *We Buckle Up*. As we continue to develop as emergent writers, we will practice writing our name and using complete sentences. In mathematics, we will learn strategies to share and divide.

As we move into our unit on our community, the children will learn about the role of the community in their lives and the importance of good citizenship. Our social emotional focus will be responsibility. We will review deleting a word from a compound word and practice simple maps and position words that describe

routes on maps.

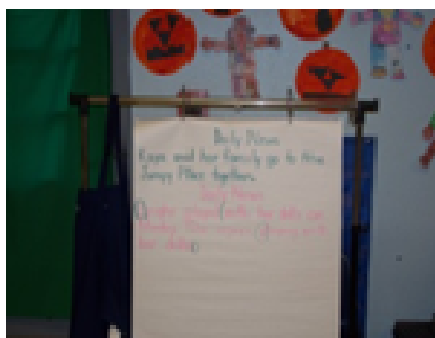
On November 16 RHA will hold its annual Family Feast. Just a reminder, parents are encouraged to come and enjoy a POTLUCK meal with their child. The Trotters will work hard to decorate for the feast, and we would love for all our parents to join in the festivities with us. In observation of Thanksgiving RHA will be closed on November 22 and 23.

As we move along through the month of December, we will talk about holiday traditions. If your child and family have any special traditions you would like to share with our class, please do not hesitate. The remainder of the month will be dedicated to Children around the World. The Trotters have chosen France as their country to study. As we indulge in French cuisine and learn to speak the language, we will also learn French holiday traditions. At the end of our French adventure, we will have our 6th annual grape stomp. Please be prepared to send a solid white t-shirt for your child to decorate at the grape stomp. Just as a re-

minder, RHA will be closed December 24 and 25.

As the ball drops on 2012, the Trotters will ring in 2013 with a variety of activities. We will learn how imagination and creativity shape our world. Our social-emotional focus will be Initiative. We will practice finding shapes in our environment, rhyming words, and exploring tools and their uses. Rocking Horse Academy will be closed for New Year's on December 31st and January 1st. Don't forget our mornings are beginning to get cooler, and we need jackets or sweaters to wear outside. (Label) You will need to change out our change of clothes in the cubbies as well. Please remember to check your behavior log every day and your cubby every day to take home notices and artwork. We will schedule our very important Parent Teacher conferences after the first of the year, and I will look forward to sharing with you your child's progress at that time.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to teach your child.



Why did Johnny get such low grades after Thanksgiving?

Because everything is marked down after the holidays!





BRONCOS

Now that we are well into our school year, I would like to update you on the progress of our Bronco class. I am seeing progress in every child's writing, letter and number recognition as well as fine motor skills. Broncos who are already writing their names will begin to write their names with a capital letter followed by lower case letters and some are ready to write their first and last name. Everyone is making noticeable progress. As far as pre-reading, the children have a strong concept of directional reading as well as writing and can identify some upper and lower case letters. We talk continually about when we see uppercase letters in writing versus when we see lowercase letters. We are also ready to start incorporating vocabulary from our literature on our letter wall and in our centers.

The Broncos are also showing progress in their interactions with their peers. We continue to work on using words and manners when interacting with peers as well as adults. The children are doing well using their manners with the teacher, but we still need to work on being polite to our peers.

I am so excited about the months ahead. November will consist of two units: Growing Up Healthy and Our Community.

We will learn about Native Americans, the Pilgrims and how Thanksgiving originated. Do not forget the Annual Family Feast hosted by Rocking Horse Academy on Friday, November 16th. Come and enjoy a nice Feast with your Bronco. With Thanksgiving around the corner, do not forget that Rocking Horse Academy will be closed the 22nd and 23rd of November. So be sure to mark your calendars for a busy couple of months.

As December begins we will turn our studies to the country of Holland in preparation for our Children Around the World Festival, which will take place on Wednesday, December 19th. We will learn about Holland's music, traditions, culture, and compare and contrast to our own. But don't worry we will not forget about our own traditions. We will learn and sing holiday songs as well as have a Holiday Party for our class. Tentatively I would like to have the class Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 19th. Each child will need to bring a gender neutral book, wrapped, for the gift exchange that we will have that day. Once again Rocking Horse Academy will be closed Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas and also Monday, January 31st and Tuesday, January 1st for the New Year.

Finally, when we return in January for the New Year, we will begin our Imagine It, Make It unit. This unit consists of learning how to use our imagination to think outside the box, learning about different tools and their uses, construction and art all around us. In mathematics we will work on shapes, area, patterns, building and sorting by multiple criteria.

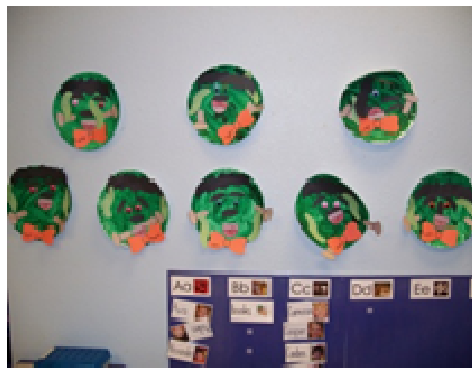
I have enjoyed getting to know each of the Broncos and their families. I am delighted to have each of them in my class, and we are really coming together as a team. Once again if you have any concerns or questions, I am available to discuss them between 1:00 – 2:30. I do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that I am supervising children, so if you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please call between 1 – 2:30 or set an appointment. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at 405-3700 or email me at casey.hall@mygrande.net.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

Mrs. Casey
Bronco Lead Teacher

What key has legs and
can't open doors?

A turkey!





CORRAL KIDS

Time flies when your having fun!

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

The Holidays are coming

Hays CISD will be closed November 19th thru the 23rd for Thanksgiving Break and December 20th to January 4th for the Winter Break. The Rocking Horse Academy will be closed on Thursday November 22nd & Friday November 23rd, Monday December 24th & Tuesday December 25th, and Monday December 31st & Tuesday January 1st. During the holidays other than our RHA days closed, Corral Kids will be offering full Corral Kid care from 6:30am to 6:30pm. There is an addition fee for full day care. More information about this service will be available as these dates draw closer.

We would love to hear from you!

Corral Kids email address is corralkids-rha@yahoo.com. This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you

may have. Please feel free to drop us a note any time and we will get back to you A.S.A.P.

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

As we all know, it is more than easy for our elementary age children to, shall we say, misplace a few items now and again. Hence our Corral Kids excellently stocked Lost and Found table is overflowing. Please take a moment and take a look; you just might find that Hello Kitty tee-shirt or Cars lunch box you have been searching for all this time. Any items not claimed by November 7th will be generously donated to the local Goodwill or Kyle Thrift Store.

Stand Up To Bullying In Five Simple Steps

Bullying happens more often than parents, or school principals, would like to admit. If your child is being bullied at school, don't ignore it. Let your school administrator or child's teacher know what's going on and then teach your child how to respond in a healthy, responsible way with these five tips.

Don't be a Loner. Bullies often pick on children who don't have friends to protect them at school. Friends give children physical and emotional support. Help your child make friends by exposing him to activities where he can find other kids that share his interests. Identify and correct bad habits he might be display-

ing that alienate him from others.

Avoid the Instigator. Tell your child to avoid the bully whenever possible. If he doesn't physically encounter the bully, the bully can't physically hurt him.

Find an Ally. Instruct your child to find a teacher or an older, influential or popular classmate if the bully becomes aggressive.

Be Strong. Crying excessively or playing up the victim role only attracts more attention from bullies. Teach your child to be confident and firm with a bully. By learning how to stand his ground, your child can discourage a bully from targeting him.

Seek Help. If your child is bullied frequently or excessively, or if he becomes severely anxious or depressed, seek professional help and continue to report the violent behavior to school officials.

Schools are supposed to have zero tolerance policies in place to deal with reports of bullying. If you don't see a change after alerting school administrators, you can contact your local school district office or school board.

Parenting.org

