



ROCKING HORSE REVIEW

September 2016

Editor-In-Chief

Linda Ashness



Inside this issue:

Foals I	2
Foals II	3
Colts	4
Chargers I	5
Chargers II	6
Pintos	7
Wranglers	8
Mustangs	9
Trotters	10
Broncos	11
Corral Kids	12

DATE NIGHT

September 17th

October 15th

November 19th

December 10th

Shop Til You Drop

Noon-Midnight

(By Reservation)

Tuition Due Dates

September 12 November 7

September 26 November 21

October 11 December 5

October 24 December 19

H.C.I.S.D. CLOSURE DATES

October 10

November 21-25

December 19-30 J January 2-4

RHA CLOSURE DATES

September 5

October 10

November 24, 25

December 23, 26, 30 January 2

Bob Roberts Class Pictures
September 15th
9:30 AM



RHA
Back To
School Night
September 13th
5:30-6:30



512 Portraits
October 18, 19, 20



November 18th
Family Feast
11am & 12am

FOALS I

We had an amazing fun summer in our classroom. We were busy learning many things to do on our own. As we sit on the floor with our babies, we want to encourage their development by helping them learn to;

- * roll from front to back and vice versa.
- * Open and close their fingers
- * Reach and grasp objects
- * Pass a toy from one hand to another
- * Turn head to noise
- * Follow objects with our eyes
- * Make eye contact and respond to smiling and sounds

As the end of year is approaching, we have many fun themes and activities to do in our classroom.

The exciting themes for September are: 5 Senses, Back to School, My School, My Classroom, and My Friends. We offer soft and harder toys and use our words to teach words like "soft" or "cold" or "hard" or "warm". As we feed them, we might talk about the foods they are tasting. "This are yummy sweet potatoes, or tangy green beans." We use the names of our friends as babies learn to see and recognize other babies in the room. And we play with colors and teach them the difference between blue and red. Spanish words are September-Septiembre, Back to school-regreso ala escuela, taste-probar, touch-tocar, and smell-oler. We will sing "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes", "If You Are Happy and You Know It". And "Itsy Bitsy Spider." While we sit

with the baby's books, we will read "Good Night Moon", "A Color of His Own", and 'Favorite Things."

We encourage looking at small items during mat time or in the rocking chairs. Items of interest may be buttons on a shirt, colored finger nails, a stuffed animal or a baby rattle. This helps the infant develop eye coordination and focus.

The school-wide themes for October are Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers, and Fantasy. We practice fire drills every month. We have 2 emergency evacuation cribs and an emergency backpack all ready to clear the room in under 2 minutes. The theme we focus on the most is Fantasy. It's fun to read some of the more classic stories during this month. Spanish words are: October-October, fire-fuego, and fantasy-fantasia. Songs we will have fun singing are "5 Little Pumpkins", and "I am a Little Teapot." Reading is so important and the books we will read are: Lulla's Perfect Pumpkin", "Nursery Rhymes", and "Mickey Mouse Favorite Things."

Infants' Benchmarks of development we look for as our babies grow and get ready to transition to Foals 2:

- * Moves legs and arms off of surface when excited
- * Uses vision to follow black and white or brightly colored objects
- * Is able to bring hands to mouth
- * Is to be on tummy for longer

bursts of time in preparation for crawling.

For the month of November, we will learn about Fall Foods, Weather, Holidays, Family and Home, and Forest Animals. For music we will sing "Honey Bear, Come Cuddle with Me", "Patty Cake Song", and "One, Two Buckle Your Shoe." For story time we will read: "Hugs and Kisses", "You are My Sunshine", "At Home", and "Helping Hands." Our Family Feast is in November. Please feel free to come and join us and invite your parents/aunts/special relatives to join us to celebrate families.

Our themes for the end of the year in December are: Holiday Traditions, Children and Cultures from Around the World, and Review basics: letters, numbers, etc. Spanish words are: December-Diciembre, children-ninos, red-rojo, green-verde, and music-musica. The books we will enjoy reading are: "Time for Bed", "Santa's Workshop", "Biscuit's Snowy Day", and "Flying with Santa." Songs we will sing are "Jingle Bells", "Frosty the Snowman" and "Santa Clause Is Coming to Town."

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

Thanks
Foals 1 Staff

FOALS II

Good-bye, summer. Hello, fall! I want to welcome all our new little friends and their families to Foals 2. We are so excited for you to join us.

The month of September themes are **My 5 Senses and Back to School**. We will learn about our friends, our school and about our supplies that we use every day. We will go on a tour of our school. We will sing *Wheels on the Bus* and *Tickity Tock*. Our Spanish words for this month are: *friends-amigos and book-libro*. For art and sensory development, we will make a school bus with our feet, and we will finger paint a school house. The last two weeks, we will learn about our 5 senses. We will learn how each of our 5 senses work. We will listen to music with our ears, taste our foods with our taste buds (mouth), smell different scents in our classroom and touch different textures around the room.

The month of October, we will learn about: **Fire Safety, Stranger, Community Helpers and Fantasy**. The first week we will learn about Fire Safety. We will learn how to do Stop, Drop and Roll infant style. We will paint a picture of a firefighter's hat, make a firefighter with our hands and make a fire truck with

our feet. We will sing *Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck*. The second week we will learn about our community helpers around our town. The books we will read during this week are *"That's Not My Truck"* and *"Little Peoples, What Do You Do?"*. We will paint a police badge, a chef's hat, and an apple for a teacher.

The last 2 weeks we will learn about Fantasy. This theme will be filled with fun and games. We will play Hide 'n Seek with infant toys. We will read nursery rhymes and fairytales. Our songs for this theme are *Humpty Dumpty, Hey Diddle, Diddle and Princess and the Pea*. Art for this week, we will paint a crown, a star and make a cow with our hands. Here are a few dates to remember:

In the month of November will learn about **Family & Home and Forest Animals**. Learning about Forest Animals, will take place in our first 2 weeks of November. The books we will read are: *"In the Forest"* and *"Little Red Riding Hood"*. The babies will learn about the different animals that live in the forest. We will do some finger plays about forest animals. Our art projects will include painting a bear and making a tree out of the baby's arm

and hand. Our last full 2 weeks will be about Family and Home. We will sing *Daddy Finger, Daddy Finger Where Are You?* and *Where is Mommy?* We will read books about mommies, daddies, siblings and other members of the family. We will paint a house and make a family out of their hands. This month we will learn the ASL signs for mom, dad, sister and brother and grandparents.

December will be a fun and exciting month. The themes for this month are **Holiday Traditions** and **Children Around the World**. The first 2 weeks will learn about the children in different countries. We will see pictures of how they dress and what kind of foods they eat. We will also listen to different kinds of music from around the world.

The last 2 weeks will finger paint an evergreen tree, make a reindeer out of their hands and feet and make an ornament. The babies will work on their gross motor skills by learning to climb our soft stair and also to use their arms to pull up on the shelves. We will play with musical instruments and sing songs.

Hearing voices in your head is normal. Listening to them is quite common. Arguing with them – acceptable. It is only when you lose that argument that you get in real trouble.

COLTS

Welcome Colts! We are excited for the start of the new school year. Each month we will explore several themes through art, literature and music. We will also introduce your child to colors, shapes, letters, numbers, Spanish and American Sign Language. Our posted Monthly Calendar and Weekly Lesson Plans will inform you of class activities and the Daily Sheets will focus on your child's special day.

In **September** our themes will be: *Our 5 Senses and Back to School (My School, My Classroom, My Friends)*. The colors of the month are *red* and *blue*. The shape of the month is a *circle*. We will focus on the letters A and B and the number 1. In art we will paint a rocking horse and a school bus, make a picture collage with our school friends and do some apple stamping.

Some of the books we will read about our 5 Senses are Helen Oxenbury's *I Touch, I Hear, I See* and *I Can*. Back to school books will include *If You Take a Mouse to School*, *Biscuit Loves School* and *School Bus*. For those difficult morning drop offs we will read *I Love You All Day Long* and *Bye-Bye Time*. School friend books will be Gyo Fujikawa's *Our Best Friends* and *Let's Play*. We will sing "The More We Get Together" and "Wheels on the Bus".

The school-wide themes for the month of **October** are: Fire Safe-

ty, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers and Fantasy. The colors of the month are orange and black. The shape of the month is a square. We will focus on the letters C and D and the number 2. Our art projects will focus on fire engines, black cats, owls and pumpkins. We will read *I Am a Fire Truck*, *Llama Llama Trick or Treat*, *I Love You Little Pumpkin*, *Corduroy Goes to the Doctor* and Giovanni Caviezel's Community Helper Books. At the end of October, we will have a pajama party.

November will be a very busy month at RHA. Our themes are: Fall (Foods, Weather, Holidays), Family, Home and Forest Animals. The color of the month is yellow. The shape of the month is a triangle. We will focus on the letters E and F and the number 3. In art we will make a handprint turkey placemat for Thanksgiving and paint/color some fall leaves, turkeys, and forest animals.

Some of the books we will read are *When the Leaf Blew In*, *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*, *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves*, *Apples and Pumpkins*, *Ten Apples Up On Top!* and *Five Silly Turkeys*. We will gather for our Annual Family Thanksgiving Feast and hope you will join us. RHA is also planning a Silent Auction Fundraiser. For our part, the Colt Room will be making a Baby Basket. We will send you more information on both events

as we get closer to November.

In **December** our themes are: Holiday Traditions and Children & Cultures from Around the World. The colors of the month are red and green. The shape of the month is a rectangle. We will focus on the letters G and H and the number 4. In art we will make a special gift for our parents. During story time we will read *Mouse's First Christmas*, *Biscuit's Hanukkah*, *Where Is Baby's Dreidel?* and *Llama Llama Jingle Bells*. The Colts will focus on one country during RHA's Children Around the World celebration. Look for our poster in the lobby.

A FEW REMINDERS: Make sure your child has weather and size appropriate clothes in his/her cubby. Don't forget to label clothing, bed linens, food containers, cups and any supplies such as diapers and wipes.

Morning drop off is a busy time and we want to make sure these items get to the right child. Please remember to read your child's Daily Sheet. We mark if supplies are needed and attach important information for parents to read. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us during our nap hours (12:30-1:30).

Thank you!
Mrs. Jackie

I am in touch with my motivation. I saw it going by this morning, waving at me and winking.

short-funny.com

PONIES

Hello from the Ponies! We have been busy since our last newsletter. Not only are we reinforcing our academic knowledge, but we are increasing our verbal and social skills. Every day is a learning adventure! Students enjoy puzzles and finger plays that help them learn their fine motor skills and visual perceptions. Ponies also love exploring with shaving cream, using their hands as well as a paint brush. At this age, we encourage the children to use their words and learn to share. We will practice walking through the hallway like big boys and girls and look at all the artwork on the walls. We encourage children to communicate their feelings using words and not with aggression. "Soft touches only" and "Use your words" are key phrases that we use often in class.

Every month we review our shapes, learn our colors, and focus on various letters of the alphabet. In our everyday activities, we find opportunities to count from 1 to 10. Mom and Dad can help, too, by counting to ten each time we brush our teeth or when we wash our hands. Children learn so much faster by doing activities over and over; repetition is key! We will continue practicing Spanish and sign language as well and will be working on the following words over the next few months: *sit down* (sientate), *more* (mas), *eat* (comer-come), *please* (por favor), and *sleep* (dormer/dorme).

September themes delve into our 5 Senses, *Back to School*; *My School*, *My Classroom*, *My Friends*. We would also like to get to know you, we want to find out what your Pony's favorite color, animal, bedtime story, and family activity is. We'll ask parents to bring in pictures and help us make a poster of our favorite things. We will learn about our 5 senses by having some fun activities that allow our ponies to put their senses to use. We

will then discuss and take a tour of our school, Rocking Horse Academy. We take time to learn about our new friends during circle time and discover fun things in our Pony Classroom.

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. Your Pony will learn all about community helpers. Police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and teachers are among some of the people in our community that make a difference. What does each of these helpers do and who in particular do they help?

At the end of the month, we plan to dress up in fantasy outfits and have a party to celebrate the fall season!

In November, autumn is in full swing and the holidays are right around the corner! There is a lot to do and learn as we dive right into one of the busiest and most fun seasons of the year. We will learn our fall colors: *red* (rojo), *brown* (marron), *orange* (naranja), and *yellow* (amarillo) in English and Spanish. Some of our art projects will include apple prints, pumpkins, collecting fall leaves, and leaf rubbings. We will discuss forest animals that might be seen during the fall month.

This month we will also talk about our *homes* (casas) and *families* (familias). What kinds of homes are there for people? How many people live in your home? Do you have pets, or

siblings? Moms and Dads will be asked to bring this information in for us, so be ready for some questionnaires! We will also be creating a family tree. 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 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 have a Children Around the World Celebration in our classroom. We will end the month with a review of basics: letters, numbers, colors, and shapes.

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

Please remember to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything! Labeling is vital to prevent the loss of your Pony's belongings. We try to keep a permanent marker next to our water bucket during drop-off each morning. Please double-check that your Pony's name has not washed off 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! Please let us know if you have any questions!

CHARGERS I

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

In **September** we will discuss our 5 senses and talk about how we use these on a daily basis and how they help us learn about the world all around us. We will also get back into the swing of really working hard on our shapes, colors, letters and numbers through recognition, small group activities, and hands-on experiences together as a class.

We will work on tuning up our Gross and Fine Motor Skills through music and movement, gym time and holding our crayons and scissors correctly. We will work on potty training and teach the children to sit on the potty with confidence and encourage them to "try it" through little steps that will eventually turn into BIG results. If you have any questions or ideas as far as "potty training" please feel free to talk with us about it.

In **October** we begin Fire Awareness Week. The Kyle Fire Department will come for a visit so the children can see the fire truck, hear about fire safety, and earn special badges. Let's not forget the stop, drop, and roll technique, if you ever have your

clothes catch on fire. It's a good time to organize a fire drill at home, too. It's very important that you practice this often, so your child will know what to do in case of an emergency. We have a fire drill every month at RHA, so our children know exactly where to go and how to behave in case of an emergency. Stranger Danger is another topic we focus on during Safety month. Children must be taught to be careful when approached by a stranger.

The other themes for October will include talking about Pumpkins and where they come from and what you can do with them. We will also end the month with a class party and parade around to school to "show off" all of our unique and fun costumes.

In **November** we will be talking about Forest Animals and what they eat, their habitat and look at pictures of them as well at group time. We will talk about the coming of fall and all of the beautiful changes around us.

Some of our activities will include a leaf collage, leaf rubbings and apple prints. We will talk about our families and how important they are to us. We will also ask the children to bring in pictures of family and share them

with one another.

At the end of the month, we celebrate our students and their families by hosting Rocking Horse Academy's annual family feast. Our parents are asked to bring a dish to share just as the Pilgrims did long ago. We have an exciting month filled with activities,

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 German children and cultures. If anyone has been to Germany and has items to share, please feel free to help us with the project.

We will also review our colors, shapes, letters and numbers and see how far we have come since the school year started.

Please remember as the weather turns cooler, to change out your cubby of extra clothing and jackets. Also, LABEL everything, it will reduce the chances of it being misplaced or lost.

Thank you Chargers 1
Ms. Laurie & Ms. Theresa

Egg and Cheese Mini Muffins

Ingredients

- 6 large eggs
- 3 tablespoons whole milk
- ½ teaspoon salt (NOTE: some folks have commented that the addition of the salt makes these too salty, so feel free to omit it or decrease the amount!)
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup grated cheddar cheese

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Thoroughly spray miniature muffin pan with cooking spray.

2. In a large measuring cup or bowl, whisk together eggs,
 3. milk, salt, and pepper.
 4. Pour egg mixture into prepared pan, filling cups about ¾ full.
 5. Sprinkle cheese evenly among the cups. Bake for approximately 8-10 minutes, or until eggs set.
 6. Allow to cool in pan for a few minutes before removing to a wire rack. When completely cooled, muffins can be wrapped in plastic and frozen.
- When ready to eat, simply microwave each mini muffin for 15-30 seconds, or until heated through.

Serves 16-18 mini muffins

Author: The Seasoned Mom

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 lots of new and exciting activities.

September brings up our theme of Back to School. We will start working on learning the letters of our names, number recognition, shapes and measuring out how big a "School Bus" actually is. We will talk about our friends and how we see them daily and interact with them. We will also talk about our Senses and how they work. We will do an experiment on our 5 senses and graph our results along with talking about them in small groups.

Our calendar gets very busy in October when we work on our themes of *Fire Prevention*, *Stranger Danger*, *Fantasy and Fall Harvest: pumpkins and apples*. Two of our planned activities include apple tasting and carving our class pumpkin where we will also roast the seeds. Once Halloween is over, the children will find out how "Jack" becomes a tasty treat when

pumpkin pies are made. Our stories will focus on "*Big Pumpkin*" and "*Jungle Halloween*".

The children look forward to this time of the year when they can wear their Halloween costumes to school and have a parade around the building. They also love to see the older children pass by in their costumes and cheer and clap for them.

We will work on the skills for *Fire Safety and Stranger Danger*. We will learn to Stop, Drop and Roll and also make fire hats. The skills we learn will be fun but also helpful to the children.

In November we will talk about family and togetherness. We will make paper bag turkeys, sort and count acorns, talk about our families and have a wonderful feast here at school (stay tuned for details). We will talk about the weather, the leaves changing and build a scarecrow. We will also explore Forest animals and their habitats, go on an "animal hunt" and make animal masks.

Then December will be with us,

and we will do many fun and exciting holiday activities including our "Children around the World" and learn about Ireland and all of its traditions during the holiday season. We will talk about traditions that our families do together and have a holiday party to celebrate this special time of year with family and friends. We will review our numbers, letters and shapes and see how far we have come with recognition of what we've learned in the previous few months.

In closing, please do not forget to have a FULL set of weather appropriate clothes--LABELED in your child's cubby at all times. Please also make sure that their water bottles and jackets are labeled with their name. And only fresh water in the water bottles please.

Thanks for all that you do, you are all simply amazing!!!!

Thank you,
Chargers 2 Teachers

Banana Bites (Makes 2-3 Servings)

Ingredients

2 bananas
1 cup pancake batter ([whole wheat oat pancakes](#))

Preparation

1. Cut the bananas into 1/4 inch slices (I like to make slices on a diagonal bias so they're a little bit longer than circles).
2. One at a time, dip the banana slices into the batter, coating all over, shaking off the excess batter into the bowl and place on a buttered griddle or skillet over medium heat.
3. Cook for 1 minute on each side or until golden.
4. Serve with Yogurt Dip, Healthy Berry Sauce

weelicious.com

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 and every day 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, even sign language and Spanish. 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.

September kicks off with the theme “five senses”. We can taste different type of foods like sweet, salty and sour. We will have scent jars with different smells in each set of jars, using our sense of smell to figure out the smells and matching up the jars that smell the same. We will also have a “can u find it” bottle in our room for the children to find hidden items in. Playing a game of “I Spy” to see who can find things in the room the quickest using our sense of sight is always fun. When you can’t see the object, can you still recognize what it is by just touching it? The Pintos are going to find out using our feel and touch box. Later in the month, we will read books on going to school such as *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*, *Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes*, and *Pete the Cat Rocking in My School Shoes*. These books teach us about color, counting, number recognition, and self-confidence.

We will finish off this month by reviewing the school rules in our classroom. Also in these upcoming months, we will focus on the children learning the letters and their names: how to spell their name and how to write it.

October opens opportunities for us to discuss and learn about our community

helpers. It is fire safety month, so learning about firefighters is a must. With Halloween it is very important to learn about how to be safe around strangers. I will read a few books about this subject, but what will make the information really sink in are the real life scenarios that are played out with props. Another theme in this month is fantasy. We get to make up stories and fun characters to share with each other. I will be asking the children to tell me a story, and then I will write it down and share it with their friends. This activity gives the children a great deal of pride. We will also pick out one of our favorite books and act out the story. This gives the children a better understanding of story sequencing.

November we will reflect on how important our families are. The children will share pictures of their families and family pets with their friends. I will also pass out a family information sheet to be filled out and returned. Children get so much out of bringing their home lives into the school room setting. This is also a great opportunity to point out the differences and similarities of our families. A great book that illustrates this concept to children so beautifully is *Everyone is Different, Everyone is the Same*. November is also a gorgeous fall month. We will be learning about the season of fall and all the different aspects of fall, like the foods, weather, animals and holiday.

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

Right around the age of three is when children start to realize they are not the entire center of the universe and can have an effect on the people around them. This is a great time to learn about the world, all the different types of peo-

ple and how to accept differences through understanding. December will be a very exciting month for everyone!

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 pre-suppositions 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.

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 clean them and refill with fresh, cold water. Please label, label, label everything that belongs to your child that is brought to school. We look forward to a year full of adventure and learning with our friends.

Every day is a day to learn in the Pintos.

WRANGLER

Summertime is closely coming to an end and back to school we go. First, we would like to welcome Yasmine to our class. She is new to the center but is super excited to work with children. Thank you, parents for all the support and dedication you put in your child. To see them grow every-day into little individuals is such privilege.

On September 13, we will be having back to school night starting at 5:30 till 6:30. We will be set up in the gym if you like to stop by. Mark your calendar for September 15, we will be taking our class picture that day. We ask for your child to come dressed and ready to take the picture.

For the month of September we will learn about our five senses. We will discuss the difference between a carrot stick and a cheese stick. We will walk on bubble wrap to feel the texture with our feet. We will be working on our fine motor skills by stringing beads onto string. We will also see how many pennies will sink a toy boat in a tub of water.

We will continue to work on communication with friends. We are encouraging the Wranglers to use their words with friends when they are trying to express their feelings or wants.

Another focus this month will be on class rules and responsibilities. I will be doing small group activities and observations to target areas of strengths and weakness to better meet the

needs of each child.

In October, we will begin with fire safety at home, school, and in the community. We will create a safety book. Students will be asked to give examples of safe practices, and I will transcribe their answers in their books. I will demonstrate what they would do in case of a fire at home (such as stop, drop and roll). If a stranger approaches them, we talk about what to do.

The purpose for these lessons is to ensure that our children are equipped with the knowledge, so that they will be confident to respond to these type of situations. We will also discuss community helpers and why they are so important to the community. If you would like to join us and share with the class what you do for the community, please feel free to join us. Please let Mrs. Angie or Ms. Kristina know if you would like to come by and speak to the class.

We will be ending this month with fantasy. The Wranglers will participate in a pumpkin carving event and will see and feel the inside of a pumpkin. We will also roast the pumpkin seeds and eat them.

For the month of November we will start with forest animals and weather. Weather will be discussed daily. I will invite a different friend to tell the class what the weather will be like for that day. They will work on a mini book on the different types of weathers. Wranglers will learn

about Thanksgiving traditions. I will ask that each child take a feather home to decorate with his/her family and bring back to school. It will be displayed on our classroom bulletin board and at the big Thanksgiving Turkey at the Family Feast.

December will be a fun-filled month because we will talk about how each child celebrates Christmas. We will also celebrate Children Around the World. We will study the food, clothing, and traditions of how children from Spain celebrate Christmas. We are very excited to learn and teach the Wranglers about this different culture. If you or a family member has been to Spain or has any materials they would like to share with the class, we would be very grateful. Please feel free to provide some information on how your family celebrates this time of year.

Reminder:

Please continue to sign your child in and out. Remember, Wranglers should be here no later by 10 a.m. With the weather changing in the next couple months, please make sure he/she has weather appropriate clothing. Also, check your child's folders daily for important information and art work.

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 any comments, concerns or suggestions.

Thank you Mrs. Angie, Ms. Kristina, and Ms. Yasmine

MUSTANG

Time flies when you're having fun and we have definitely had a summer full of fun in the Mustang room! As we start our back to school unit Ms. Katie and I are excited to really start getting to know our Mustang students. We look forward to the coming school year and to helping them grow, learn and prepare for Pre-K next summer.

To kick off our back to school unit we will talk all about ourselves: our school, class and friends. We will decorate our hallway bulletin board with fun information and pictures all about our Mustangs and their families. We, the teachers, hope to include our own information so that you can get to know us better as well. In addition, Rocking Horse Academy's annual Back to School night will be held on Sept. 13 from 5:30-6:30. It is an excellent time to come and talk with us outside of drop-off and pick-up.

Later on in the month we will explore our senses. We will have a week of touch and taste, where we explore textures of both objects and food. We will stimulate our tactile sense with things that are rough, smooth, slimy and sticky. We will stimulate our pal-

ettes to discover the tastes of salty, sweet, sour and savory with different food items such as spices, juices and other snacks. The remaining senses will be covered another week and will include activities such as making I-spy bottles and guessing various scents and sounds.

With October comes our safety units dealing with: fire safety, stranger danger and talking about various community helpers. We will practice reciting our parents' names and emergency phone number as well as talking about using 9-1-1 in case of emergencies and what to do in situations of becoming lost/separated from our parents. During our community helpers' week we would love to have family participation. If you or a loved one are interested in coming to speak to the children about the ways in which you serve our community, we would be honored to have you. A sign up sheet will be posted a week in advance.

For many, November is the start of the holiday season. Fall temperatures will be in the air as we talk with the Mustangs about the weather, food

and holidays of the season as well as family and home life. A favorite Rocking Horse Academy event, the Family Feast, will happen this month and we can't wait to enjoy this special meal with our Mustangs and their families.

Before you know it December will be here! We will spend some time reviewing basics (letters, numbers, shapes, etc.) as we prepare for assessments and parent-teacher conferences in January. However most of the month will be focused on learning about a different culture. We have chosen Japan and can't wait to explore all we can about the land of the rising sun. We will talk about the people, the land, the food, their clothing and customs. We will also discuss how they celebrate the different winter holidays and later compare it to the holiday traditions of our class.

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

Easy riddles for kids

1. What is as big as an elephant, but weighs nothing at all?
2. What starts with a 'P', ends with an 'E' and has thousands of letters?
3. What has two hands, a round face, always runs, but stays in place?

Answers to easy riddles for kids

1. The shadow of an elephant.
2. The Post Office.
3. A clock.

TROTTERS

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

Our Pre-K curriculum is aligned with the district's programs to better prepare students entering public schools next year. As we settle into our school routine, we will begin to implement our Scholastic curriculum.

The first "official" day of school is Monday August 22nd. We will take these first two weeks for the students and the parents to get accustomed to the classroom rules and routines, as well as establish trusting relationships that will last indefinitely. The first few weeks in September will be spent getting to know you, your Trotter, as well as the Trotter teachers. In the classroom we will take the time to participate in a number of activities, games, and dramatic role playing under our "Back to School" theme. This will not only help the students get to know one another but for the teachers to get to know their students better, too.

A great way for the Trotter/Bronco parents to get involved is to attend our Back to School Night on Tuesday September 13th at 5:30p.m. I will have more information on our 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.

Also, in September we will cover school rules and making good choices. It is important that we all reinforce good manners and following rules as part of learning our social skills. September 15th: Class Group Pictures (MWF Children are encouraged to come for the photo—times will be posted).

Once we've completed our back to school theme by mid-September we will switch to our "Family" theme. This is just another step in helping build relationships with our students and their families. It should be said to expect a couple of projects to come home such as a family collage that we will display throughout the classroom and possibly in the hallways. We would love to see the uniqueness of every family.

By October we will shift into our "Community" theme. I would like to invite any family members that play a role in helping the community to join us to talk about your job. These jobs might entail postal work, police department, fire department, teacher, nurse or doctors, etc. This will benefit children in their social skills, curiosity, and make personal connections to our community. Further details will come as our community theme approaches. Thank you in advance for all your cooperation and contributions.

Another October treat is Halloween. Rocking Horse's traditional Halloween parade will continue to allow children to showcase their costumes. On the same day we will allow our students to enjoy the rest of the day in their pajamas.

Speaking of traditions, here comes November. We will take the week of the 7th to take a moment to notice the seasonal changes and the following week will be dedicated to the history of Thanksgiving, which is aligned with our annual Thanksgiving Family Feast. The history of Thanksgiving will entail reading stories of the Pilgrims and Indians, arts and crafts, educational videos, and so much more. Then on Friday November 18th, Rocking Horse will open their doors and welcome all staff, students, family and friends to join in on our feast and traditions.

This month our Trotters/Broncos will also be learning and discussing our military branches that have protected and served our country.

Before we know it, Jack Frost will be nipping at our noses. I would like to call December our culture awareness month. This month we will explore our family traditions and celebrations as well as other countries' traditions and celebrations. This is another month where families can expect projects to be done at home and brought to class so we can expose our students to different traditions and customs. As a class we will be researching different countries to learn and embrace new cultures, traditions, and customs.

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

In closing, continue to bring fresh water daily. Be sure to check behavior charts daily 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 Kohl's and buy similar items. And if different parents drop off than pick up, it makes it easier to keep items with rightful owners.

Welcome to the Trotter/Broncos room. Please feel free to contact us during nap time 1:30 – 2:30 if you have questions. We look forward to a new school year full of adventure and learning.

Ms. Marcey and Bronco's Teachers

BRONCOS

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

Our Pre-K curriculum is aligned with the district's programs to better prepare students entering public schools next year. As we settle into our school routine, we will begin to implement our Scholastic curriculum.

The first "official" day of school is Monday August 22nd. We will take these first two weeks for the students and the parents to get accustomed to the classroom rules and routines, as well as establish trusting relationships that will last indefinitely. The first few weeks in September will be spent getting to know you, your Trotter, as well as the Trotter teachers. In the classroom we will take the time to participate in a number of activities, games, and dramatic role playing under our "Back to School" theme. This will not only help the students get to know one another but for the teachers to get to know their students better, too.

A great way for the Trotter/Bronco parents to get involved is to attend our Back to School Night on Tuesday September 13th at 5:30p.m. I will have more information on our 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.

Also, in September we will cover school rules and making good choices. It is important that we all reinforce good manners and following rules as part of learning our social skills. September 15th: Class Group Pictures (MWF Children are encouraged to come for the photo—times will be posted).

Once we've completed our back to school theme by mid-September we will switch to our "Family" theme. This is just another step in helping build relationships with our students and their families. It should be said to expect a couple of projects to come home such as a family collage that we will display throughout the classroom and possibly in the hallways. We would love to see the uniqueness of every family.

By October we will shift into our "Community" theme. I would like to invite any family members that play a role in helping the community to join us to talk about your job. These jobs might entail postal work, police department, fire department, teacher, nurse or doctors, etc. This will benefit children in their social skills, curiosity, and make personal connections to our community. Further details will come as our community theme approaches. Thank you in advance for all your cooperation and contributions.

Another October treat is Halloween. Rocking Horse's traditional Halloween parade will continue to allow children to showcase their costumes. On the same day we will allow our students to enjoy the rest of the day in their pajamas.

Speaking of traditions, here comes November. We will take the week of the 7th to take a moment to notice the seasonal changes and the following week will be dedicated to the history of Thanksgiving, which is aligned with our annual Thanksgiving Family Feast. The history of Thanksgiving will entail reading stories of the Pilgrims and Indians, arts and crafts, educational videos, and so much more. Then on Friday November 18th, Rocking Horse will open their doors and welcome all staff, students, family and friends to join in on our feast and traditions.

This month our Trotters/Broncos will also be learning and discussing our military branches that have protected and served our country.

Before we know it, Jack Frost will be nipping at our noses. I would like to call December our culture awareness month. This month we will explore our family traditions and celebrations as well as other countries' traditions and celebrations. This is another month where families can expect projects to be done at home and brought to class so we can expose our students to different traditions and customs. As a class we will be researching different countries to learn and embrace new cultures, traditions, and customs.

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

In closing, continue to bring fresh water daily. Be sure to check behavior charts daily 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 Kohl's and buy similar items. And if different parents drop off than pick up, it makes it easier to keep items with rightful owners.

Welcome to the Trotter/Broncos room. Please feel free to contact us during nap time 1:30 – 2:30 if you have questions. We look forward to a new school year full of adventure and learning.

Ms. Marcey and Bronco's Teachers

CORRAL KIDS

September

Sadly SUMMER has come and gone but we went out kicking up our heels at our End-of-Summer Sock Hop with DJ David. It's always hard to see such a fun summer end, but it's great to see new and old faces joining Corral Kids for another new school year! The beginning of school for Corral Kids is all about adjusting to new schedules, teachers, curriculum and friends but we all quickly get comfortable and jump into making the 2016-2017 school year a huge success! Homework, art projects, science experiments, games and activities are just a few of the fun things Corral Kids have planned this school year. Needless to say we are excited to say **Welcome Back Corral Kids** (after all summer will be back soon enough).

October

October is one of Corral Kids favorite months. It gives us the opportunity to celebrate everything that is fall including food, nature and *wild* imaginations. October ultimately gives us hope that we may finally get some

cooler weather and extended outside time perfect for group games like kickball, soccer and baseball!!

Corral Kids and RHA are closed for Training on October 10th.

November

Corral Kids will be giving thanks and celebrating family and friends this November! We will spend this month learning that even the smallest acts of kindness can be the greatest! Each grade will design an activity or craft for the entire group each week that will concentrate on spreading love, encouragement and thanks to whomever they want to celebrate! Rocking Horse Academy will be feeling the love!

Corral Kids will have ALL-DAY CARE available November 21st – 23rd.

December

Snow, cheer, holiday and celebration are just a few things we look forward to in December! While HCISD will be closed for

"Holiday Vacation" RHA will be open! Corral Kids will break up into groups to research crafts, recipes, music, games, etc. from different countries and organize a day to teach each other about the cultures and all that they have learned. We will also be taking a day to spread the Holiday cheer with the residents at New Haven Memory Care & Assisted Living. We will be singing carols, decorating cookies and playing their favorite game *Pictionary*! So much celebrating to be had during the holiday season!

Corral Kids ALL-DAY Care will be available December 19th – 22nd and December 27th – 29th.

We would love to hear from you! You can reach Brooke anytime during school hours at 512-405-3700 or by email at corral-kidsrha@rockinghorseacademy.com. This is a wonderful way for you to let us know about your child's expected attendance, questions about the programs and services that we provide, or any other questions that you may have.

What comes once a minute,
twice in a moment,
but never in a thousand years?

Answer: The Letter M