

ROCKING HORSE ACADEMY

FALL 2017



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Candace Burnstein



Welcome to our Back-to-School issue of the Rocking Horse Academy newsletter!

I'd like to thank our editor-in-chief, Ms. Candace Burnstein, for her hard work to make this newsletter so special. She adds articles of interest and fun tidbits to give our families some helpful advice or a chuckle. And thanks to all my teachers for their efforts to bring the news from their classroom to you. It's just one more way we like to communicate with families about all that happens at Rocking Horse Academy. I would suggest that you **LIKE us on Facebook** so that you can receive exciting pictures of some of our events and updates on emergency situations like weather or phone/internet outages. And if you go to www.rockinghorseacademy.com there is a link to an APP that will allow you a quick link to our school's menu and calendar and important daily information. Our Calendar is also on our website for an easy reference of upcoming events and holidays.

This year's Back to School Night will be on September 12th. Please stop by the gym between 5:30pm -6:30 pm to visit with our Lead Teachers. We look forward to visiting with parents and answering questions about the classrooms. This will also be an opportunity to say hello to your child's former and future teachers.

In October, we will order 110 cu. yds. of mulch for the playground. Since they dump that mountain of mulch in our parking lot, we need an army of volunteers to help shovel, wheelbarrow, and spread the mulch inside the fenced area and under the playscapes. A sign-up sheet will be at the front desk. An exact date will be announced as we get closer. October is Fire Safety month and we focus on practicing safety measures. Every month we conduct a fire drill at various times of the day. This keeps our teachers and students on their toes and prepared to respond in case of any emergency. We also reinforce teaching all children about Stranger Danger and how to say NO.

*As a reminder, **our school is closed on October 9th for teacher training.** The state mandates that all teachers receive 30 hours of training every year. Please plan accordingly. On October 10th, we will distribute our Square 1 art catalog.*

Orders must be returned no later than October 20th so we get items back in time for Holiday gifts. As a grandmother, I can tell you that some of my most precious possessions are my Square 1 pieces made from my 4 grandchildren's artwork. I still use my potholders, mouse pad, coasters, cups. And every time I use them I think of my sweet grandbabies (who are now 17, 17, 14, 13)...The quality is really good. Items really hold up well and the art is so cute.

Mr. Traye Dean, our amazing photographer with 512 Portrait Company, will be here again October 24-26 to work his magic. He welcomes families to come in the early morning for group sittings. He truly captures moments beyond the typical studio portraits. Keep an eye out for reminder signs and appointment forms. Almost all the family pictures of my grandchildren in the right hallway are done by Traye. And his portraits will be available for the holidays and could make great cards to mail to friends and family.

Every Halloween, we have our Costume parade. The children get to wear his/her Halloween costume to school and have a parade around the school to show other classrooms. We encourage the children to wear comfortable costumes and bring a change of clothing so that after the parade we can put on our regular school clothes for playground and nap time, etc. November 1, the day after Halloween, will be PJ day. Come in your favorite jammies.

November 5th we "FALL BACK IN TIME." Remember to set your clocks and enjoy that extra hour of sleep Sunday morning. I think everyone loves our Thanksgiving Feast; I know I do. This year we will serve Ham and Turkey for our main course. We will post sign-up forms for sides on our classroom doors. Please feel free to join us Friday, November 17th for this joyful gathering and our celebration of the Family.

As a reminder for our Corral Kid families - Hays CISD is closed for the entire week of Thanksgiving. Our Corral Kids program is available that week for Monday – Wednesday, November 20-22th. Be sure to sign up with Ms. Brooke for the added care if you need it. Our space will be limited as

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(Continued from page 1)

many of our college students head home for Thanksgiving to be with their families. **We will be closed November 23-24th** so our staff can enjoy the holiday time with their families.

December is such a busy month for us. We have Shop 'Til You Drop on Saturday, December 9th. We generally open at noon and close at midnight. It's a per hour charge, so you are free to shop, wrap, attend parties, have a date, whatever you need, and we will take loving care of your child(ren) at a reasonable price.

In December, our classrooms celebrate diverse cultures and life around the globe with our Children Around the World units. Each classroom selects a different country and the students will learn about the children in that country: What do they eat? How do they dress? What does their flag look like? How is their music different? If you were born in another country or culture or have lived in a different place, please let your teachers know you would like to help teach our children about that world. We want to teach respect for every citizen of the world.

And remember **we will close December 22, 25, & 26 and January 1st** to give our staff a little holiday break to be with their families. Hays CISD students will be on holiday break from December 18th Monday—January

3rd Wednesday). Again, be sure to let Brooke know if you need school-aged care during this time.

As a general reminder—We are required by state law to label water bottles. Both lid and bottle should have your child's name on it. I also recommend that all jackets and sweaters, etc. be labeled. It will prevent a mistaken loss. Rocking Horse Academy is not responsible for loss of clothing, but we do our best to make sure every child goes home with his/her belongings every day. Please help us by putting in permanent labels. And PLEASE look through our Lost and Found box regularly. We have so many items left by our students without name tags. Anything left in the box will be donated to the Kyle Thrift Store at the end of December.

*Just a reminder for January: **RHA Closed January 15th for staff training.** Mark your calendars Our Parent Teacher conferences the end of January and first of February.*

Each and every day I am thankful for your continued support in our school. Education is essential to the success of every individual, but also to the success of our nation's future. Our motto states it best: Educating tomorrow's leaders today.

Jane



Tuition Due

September	11th
	25th
October	10th
	23rd
November	6th
	20th
December	4th
	18th



Date Night

September	16th
October	21st
November	11th
December	9th
	(12pm-midnight)



REMINDER: Check Santa Schedule

<http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/santas-arrival-tree-lighting-ceremony>



Smile & Giggles @9:30 A.M.
September 13, 14, 15

512 Portraits:
October 24, 25, 26

FOALS I

Wow! I can't believe how quickly we are in the middle of the year as we say goodbye to summer and hello to the beginning of the school year and soon to follow Fall. We have been busy and having fun enjoying each other company as we have watched the infants grow and explore their new developments.

Our themes for **September** are: 5 Senses, Back to School, My School, My Classroom, and My Friends. Books we will read are "Favorite Things," "A Color of His Own," and "Everyone Is Special." Music is fun we will sing "Wheels on Bus," and "Hello Friends." Spanish words are: September-Septiembre, back to school-regreso da escuela, and rules-reglas. We will do hand finger painting as we use our fine motor skills.

October is going to be a fun month. We will learn about the following themes: Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Community Helpers, and Fantasy. We will read books on the mat with our friends "Julius Candy Corn," "Lulla's Perfect Pumpkin," and "Nursery Rhymes." We will sing "5 Little Pumpkins." Fine Motor Skills: Can grasp object with one hand, turn their head toward sounds and voices, move arms together and apart, and roll over to explore.

In the month of **November** we will learn about: Fall, Foods, Weather, Holidays, Family and Home, and Forest animals. Books we will read are: "At Home," "Hugs and Kisses," and "Helping Hands." Spanish words are: November-Noviembre, family-familia, and home-casa. Gross motor skills are involved in move-

ment and coordination of the arms, legs, and other large body parts and movement.

December, as we end the year our themes are: Holiday Traditions, Children and Cultures from around the world, and Review basic: letters, numbers, etc. Fun books we will read are "Flying with Santa," "Time for Bed," and "Santa's Workshop." Songs we will sing "Jingle Bells," and "Frosty the Snowman."

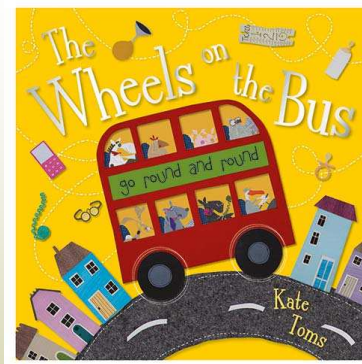
Please help us by checking your child's drawer routinely to make sure they have extra clothes and they are weather appropriate. Also, please make sure to label everything with their name. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask.

Foals I Teachers

Rhyming

The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and
round
Round and round, round and round
The wheels on the bus go round and
round
All through the town.



FOALS II

Farewell, summer. Welcome, fall! Also, a welcome to all our new little friends and their families to Foals 2. We are so excited for you to join us. The month of **September** we will focus on the themes of My 5 Senses and Back to School. Kicking the month off we will be learning about our school, supplies, and friends. A tour around the school will allow us to become familiar with different classrooms as well as meet new friends from other classes. Wheels on the Bus and Ticky Tock will be the songs we focus on to encourage music and movement. Together we will learn the Spanish words for the month which are: friends- amigos and book- libro. For art and sensory development, we will make different school supplies with our hand and footprints. The last two weeks, we will learn about ourselves focusing on our 5 senses. Listening to music with our ears, tasting our foods with our taste buds (mouth), smelling different scents in our classroom and touching different textures around the room will not only encourage us in using all of our senses to learn, but also introduce our little ones to new sensations.

The month of **October**, we will learn about: Fire Safety, Stranger, Community Helpers and Fantasy. First we will learn about Fire Safety and get our bodies moving by learning Stop, Drop and Roll infant style. Our hands and feet may get a bit colorful as we delve into finger-paints to create a firefighter along with his hat and firetruck. We will sing Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck and learn to vocalize the sounds of a whirring fire engine siren. This theme will transition us into learning about our communi-

ty 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?". Painting a police badge, a chef's hat, and an apple for a teacher will teach us about creative expression; while introducing different types of community helpers will encourage our social development skills as well. Finally, we will complete our month learning about Fantasy. This adventurous theme will be filled with fun and games. We will play Hide 'n Seek with infant toys, and read nursery rhymes and fairytales. Our songs for this theme are Humpty Dumpty, Hey Diddle, Diddle and Princess and the Pea. Some art for this week, will include, painting a crown, and a star. We will also focus on cognitive development by building castles with blocks and knocking them down, exploring the concept of cause and effect.

Looking forward to the month of **November** we will concentrate on Family & Home and Forest Animals. Learning about Forest Animals, will take place in our first 2 weeks of November. To encourage our language development, we will read the books: "In the Forest" and "Little Red Riding Hood". The babies will learn about the different animals that live in the forest and we will do some finger plays about forest animals to reinforce our theme and improve fine motor skills. We are excited about our art projects for this month which will include painting a bear and creating our own trees. The second half of the month we will learn about Family and Home. We will sing Daddy Finger, Daddy Finger Where Are

You? and Where is Mommy? Books about mommies, daddies, siblings and other members of the family will be read to encourage language and introduce babies to diverse family dynamics. We will finger-paint a house and make a family out of their hands. This month we will further our ASL vocabulary by learning signs for mom, dad, sister and brother, and grandparents.

December is always a fun and exciting month at Rocking Horse Academy. The themes for this month focus on different cultures with, Holiday Traditions and Children Around the World. Starting the month, we will learn about the children in different countries by seeing 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 and learn to say hello in different languages. We will round out the year by introducing holiday traditions, with creative expression, by finger-painting an evergreen tree, making a reindeer out of babies' hands and feet and making ornaments for our evergreen trees. 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. Playing with musical instruments and singing holiday songs with our friends will strengthen social development.

Foals 2 Teachers

DISAPPEARING CHEERIO

Materials needed: Cheerios, opaque plastic cups

Instructions: Using two different-colored cups, put the Cheerio under one cup and move it around to see if your baby can remember which one was the hiding place. After your baby found the Cheerio under the first cup, show that you are now putting it under the second cup to see if your baby remembers that the Cheerio has moved.

Skills learned: Attention skills, memory development, object permanence



COLTS

Welcome Colts! We are excited about the start of the new school year. Each month we will explore our themes through art work, song and dance, and literature. We will also introduce the children to colors, shapes, numbers, Spanish words, and American Sign Language. Our weekly lesson plans and monthly calendar are posted in the room for your convenience. Your Colt will also have a daily sheet that highlights the highs (and sometimes the lows) of his/her day.

The themes for **September** are the 5 senses and Back to School. The colors of the month are blue and red. The shape of the month is the circle. We will focus on the letters A and B and on the number 1. Some of our work will include a school bus, apple paintings, and a collage of colors. In our lesson plans, we will work on learning the signs and Spanish words for circle (circulo), red (rojo), and blue (azul). Some of the books will read are *I Touch, I Hear, I Can* by Helen Oxenbury. Back to school books include *Biscuit Loves School* and *If You Take a Mouse to School*. We will sign "The Wheels on the Bus" and "The More We get Together."

School wide themes for **October** are: Fire-safety, Community Helpers, Stranger Danger, and Fantasy. The colors for the month are black and orange. The shape for the month is a square. We will focus on the letters C and D and on the number 2. Some of our art projects will be making fire hoses, black cats, pumpkins, and owls. We will read *I Love You Little Pumpkin, I am a Fire Truck*, and many others associated with our themes. At the end of the month, we will have a party to celebrate the fall season.

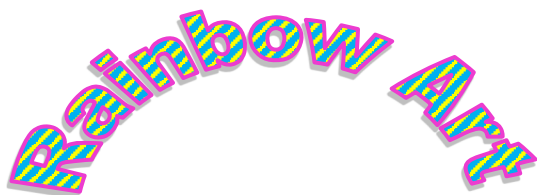
November will be a busy month for RHA and the Colts. The school wide themes are: Fall, Family & Home, and Forest Animals. The shape of the month is the triangle and the number is #3. We will focus on the letters E and F. We will make a family quilt this month and ask that each family bring in photos that can be used for this project. This is the month that we gather for a fall feast. Keep an eye out for information related to this delicious gathering. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special occasion. Some of our art projects include making placemats, making turkeys, painting with leaves and feathers. Books for the month include 5 Silly

Turkeys, Fletcher and the falling Leaves, and Ten Apples on Top.

In **December** our themes are Holiday Traditions and Children and Cultures Around the World. The shape of the month is the rectangle, the colors are red and green, the number is 4, and the letters are G and H. In art we will make a special gift for our parents. 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-appropriate clothing in his/her cubby hole. Don't forget to label clothing, bags, bedding and water cup. Morning times can get a little hectic and we want the appropriate items go to the correct child. Please remember to read your child's daily sheet. We mark it with any supplies that are needed and attach any important information for parents to read. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call during our nap hours (12:00-2:00). Thank you for allowing RHA and the Colts to care for and nurture your child.

Colts Teachers



- Take three colorful crayons and tape them together.
- Give the taped crayon to you child along with a large piece of paper.
- Show your child that when she colors with the large crayon, it makes tri-colored lines.
- Let your child color with the crayon however she wishes to create a design filled with rain- bow like lines.

Did You KNOW?

#332

RAINBOWS can only be seen in the morning or late afternoon (the sun needs to be less than 40° above the horizon).



DidYouKnow.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 activi-

ties 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. 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!

Ponies Teachers



Q.Everyone has it and no one can lose it, what is it?

A. A shadow.

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 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 im-

portant they are to us. We will 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.

Chargers 1 Teachers

**Q: If you feed me, I live, but if you water me, I die
What am I?**

A: Fire



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!!!!

Activities For 2 Year Olds

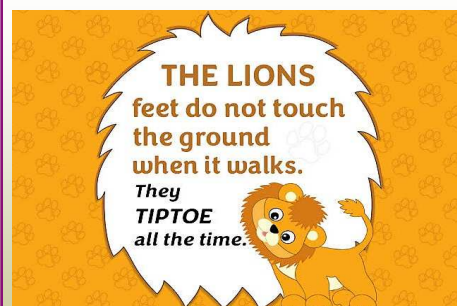
Color Wheel

- White paper
- Paint (colors in the rainbow)
- Brushes/sponges/empty bottles
- Draw dividing lines for color wheel sections
- Discuss colors as painting



Fun Fact:

Did you know?...



"Every day is a day to learn in the Pintos."

PINTOS

We have learned so much in the last few months. The children have practiced several different pre-reading and pre-writing skills. I work on teaching these skills each and every day in many different ways. Circle time is one of the best times of day to introduce new concepts. Pintos circle time is at 9:45 – 10:00 AM. 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. Allowing children to share his/her ideas with his/her peers and teacher during circle time. This opportunity gives them a sense of pride and an outlet to be a part of our Pinto family.

We will kick **September** off with the theme "five senses" tasting 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 "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? Finding out by using our feel and touch box. Later, 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*. Which focus on colors, counting, number recognition, and self-confidence. We will end September reviewing the school rules in our classroom. In upcoming months your child will be learning letters and their names: Including spelling and writing.

October opens lots of opportunities for discussion and learning 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. Fantasy will be another focus. We will 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. Which gives the children a better understanding of story sequencing. October is a great month to stretch and grow the children's already great imaginations and bring them to life.

November is a time for everyone to reflect on how important our families are. We will share pictures of our families and family pets with their friends. I will also pass out a family information sheet to be completed. Children get so much out of bringing their home lives into the school room setting. This is a great opportunity to point out the differences and similarities of our families. Illustrating this concept 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 cook food from our country. We will dance to their music and even dress up in clothes that the people from that country wear.

Around age 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, different types of people, and how to accept differences through understanding. 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 presumptions are incorrect. I 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. **Reminders:** Check behavior charts and cubby (daily) to stay informed on RHA current news. Also, take water bottles home daily to clean and refill fresh- cold water. Please label, label, label everything that belongs to your child and brought to school. We look forward to adventures and learning with friends!

Pintos Teachers

WRANGLERS

Summertime is closely coming to an end and back to school we go. First off, we would like to let parents know that Ms. Lauren is no longer with us. She had a great opportunity to work with 6th graders. Thank you, parents for all the support and dedication you put in your child. To see them grow everyday into little individuals is such privilege. On September 12, we will be having Back-to-School night starting at 5:30p.m. until 6:30p.m. We will be set up in the gym if you would like to stop by. Mark your calendar for September 13; we will be taking our class picture that day at 9:30a.m. We ask for your child to come dressed and ready to take the picture.

In **September**, we will learn about our Five Senses. We will discuss the difference between a carrot stick and a cheese stick. We will step into large sensory bins along with the Mustangs to feel the textures with our feet. We will work on our fine motor skills by stringing beads onto a 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 ob-

servations to target areas of strengths and weakness to better meet the needs of each child.

In **October**, we will begin with Fire Safety and Stranger Danger 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 some 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 types of situations. We will also discuss Community Helpers and why they are so important to the community. If you would like to share with the class what you do for the community, please feel free to join us. Please let Ms. Kristina or Ms. Tiera know if you would like to come by and speak to the class. We will be ending this month with Fantasy and Our Imaginations. 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.

In **November** we will start our units 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 Winter Holidays. We will also celebrate *Children Around the World*. We will study the food, clothing, and traditions of how children from around the world live every day. We are very excited to learn and teach the Wranglers about a different culture.

Reminders:

Please continue to sign your child in and out. Wranglers should be here no later by 10 AM. Please make sure he/she has weather appropriate clothing. 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. Feel free to come to us if you have any comments, concerns or suggestions

Wranglers Teachers

eDid You KNOW?

#64

Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

eDidYouKnow.com

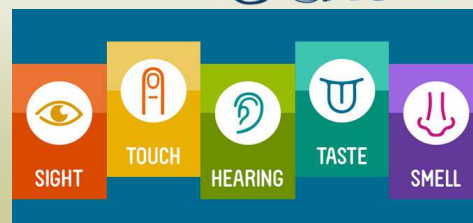
eDid You KNOW?

#383

CRICKETS hear through their knees.

eDidYouKnow.com

5 Senses



MUSTANGS

Time flies when you're having fun and we have 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 new Mustang students. We look forward to our year together, growing, learning, and preparing for Pre-K next summer.

To kick off our back to school unit we will talk 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, will be including information of our own for you to get to know us better too. Additionally, Rocking Horse Academy's annual Back to School night will be held on Sept. 12 from 5:30-6:30pm. It is an excellent time to come and talk with us outside of the normal drop-off and pick-up time. It is also a great opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers in your child's future classrooms and get a sense of the new skills they hope to teach them when they next transition.

In **September** we will be exploring 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 a special sensory walk. Each child will take turns walking through bins filled with

different materials such as sand, rocks, grass, and water. We will discuss what the different materials feel like and which are our favorite or least favorite. Also, stimulating our palettes 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 an I-spy scavenger hunt and guessing games with various scents and sounds.

October will safety units dealing with: fire safety, stranger danger and talking about various community helpers. We will practice our parents' names, learn who to ask for help and who to call in an emergency. We will role play 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 someone you know 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 in advance.

November is the start of the holiday season. Fall temperatures will hopefully 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. We will have many opportunities to practice our culinary skills by making different snacks and treats as we talk about different fall foods such as apples and pumpkins. My 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.

December will be here! We will spend some time reviewing basics (letters, numbers, shapes, etc.) as we prepare for individual assessments and parent-teacher conferences in January. However most of the month will be focused on learning about a different culture. Per RHA tradition we will pick a country and learn and explore as much as we can about its land, people, food, 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.

Mustang Teachers

eDid You KNOW?

#557

Wind doesn't make a sound until it blows against an object.

eDidYouKnow.com

Q: Why was the baby ant confused?



A: Because all his uncles were ants!



TROTTERS

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone. A new school year is quickly approaching, and the Trotters 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 28th. 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 parents to get involved is to attend our Back to School Night on Tuesday September 12th in the gymnasium. There will be a short orientation in the gym for new families and those wishing to have a refresher course on RHA. Please take advantage of this evening, as you will get to tour your child's classroom and meet his/her teachers.

In **September** we will 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. Class Group

Pictures will be during the second week of September, and we will have more information for you as that day draws near. Once we've completed our back to school theme by mid-September, we will switch to our "Family" theme. The Trotters are currently working on a giant family tree for our classroom. This is just another step in helping build relationships with our students and their families.

We begin **October** with 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. I truly believe the children will enjoy having guest speakers, especially if it is their family. 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. Another October treat is Halloween. Rocking Horse's traditional Halloween parade will continue to allow children to showcase their costumes.

November will reflect on the seasonal changes. 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 Native Americans, arts and crafts, educational videos, and so much more. Then on Friday November 17th Rocking Horse will open their doors and welcome all staff,

students, family and friends to join in on our feast and traditions.

Before we know it, **December** will be upon us. 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. Also, with the weather changing please keep in mind of the extra clothing that is kept in children's cubbies is 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.

Please continue to bring fresh water, daily. Also, check behavior charts and folders daily so you know how your child did that day. LABEL everything. As the season changes, many will begin coming in jackets and sweaters. Many of us shop at similar stores or 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 room. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. I look forward to a new school year full of adventure and learning!

Trotter Teachers

Q.What belongs to you but is used more by others?

Q. Where do ghosts mail their letters?

BRNCOS

Welcome back to school! We would like to update you on the progress of our Bronco class and what to expect for the upcoming months. We are seeing progress in every child's writing, and letter & number recognition. Broncos have begun to write their names with a capital letter followed by lower case letters. The children are working on identify upper, lower case letters, numbers 0-20, opposites, and rhyming words. The Broncos practice writing their first name, letters, and numbers in their journals weekly, they are all making noticeable progress. The Broncos are also showing progress in their interactions with their peers. We continue to work on using words and manners. The children are doing well using their manners with the teachers, but we still working on using our words to communicate our needs and wants from friends.

September will be our Ready for School unit. In this unit, the students will learn about making friends and working together. September 12th will be our back-to-school night. Parents can come and see what the students have been working on so far and meet their child's teacher.

My Family unit will be throughout the month of **October**. The Broncos will learn about their Families and how each family is unique. We want to explore all types of relationships: aunts, uncles and cousins, grandparents, step brothers, or godfathers...and even how pets are part of the family.

November will consist of two units: Our Community and Awesome Animals. We will learn about Native Americans, the Pilgrims and how Thanksgiving originated. Do not forget the Annual Family Feast hosted by Rocking Horse Academy Friday, November 17th. We welcome you to join us on this day and enjoy a nice feast with your Bronco.

As **December** begins we will continue our theme of Awesome Animals and begin Imagine It, Make It. 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. We will also begin to study another country in preparation for our Children Around the World Festival. We will learn about the country's music, traditions, culture, and compare to our own traditions. We will learn and sing holi-

day songs as well as have a Holiday Party for our class. Broncos class party will be on Friday, December 15th. Each child will need to bring a wrapped gift that could be for a girl or boy.

We are enjoying getting to know each of the Broncos and his/her family. We 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 1:30 – 2:30. We do not mind having brief discussions in the morning as you drop off, but please remember that we are supervising children, so if you have a concern or question that will take more than a couple of minutes to discuss, please call between 1:30 – 2:30 or set an appointment. You may call Rocking Horse Academy at (512)405-3700. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being a part of your child's life.

Broncos Teachers



Q. Why do dogs run in circles?

A. Because it's hard to run in

CORRAL KIDS

SUMMER has come and gone but we went out with a bang at our End-of-Summer Backyard Bash. 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!

September is the beginning of school for Corral Kids and it is all about adjusting to new schedules, teachers, curriculum and friends...we are all excited to get the 2017-2018 school year started! 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).

Labor Day September 4th – Enjoy the 3-Day Weekend!!!!

October is one of Corral Kids favorite months. It gives us the opportunity to

celebrate everything that is fall... pumpkins, leaves changing colors 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!!

In **November** the 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 20th – 22nd

December brings snow, cheer, holiday and celebration are just a few things we look forward to in December! Don't

forget to sign up for our Holiday Camp! Corral Kids will stay busy making ornaments, decorating cookies and learning carols. We will be spreading the holiday spirit at RHA as we sing carols to the pre-school classes. So much celebrating to be had during the holiday season!

Corral Kids ALL-DAY Care will be available December 18th – 21st and December 26th – 29th

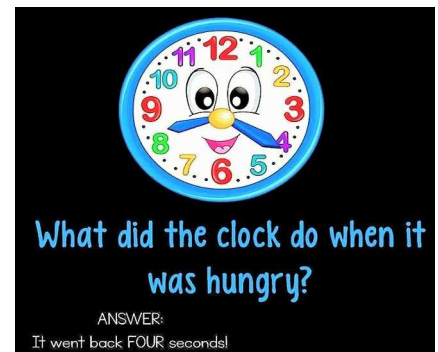
We would love to hear from you!

You can reach Brooke at 512-405-3700 or email

corralkidsrha@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.

Corral Teachers



Q. It's been around for millions of years, but it's no more than a month old. What is it?

A. The moon.