

# The Dick Howser Center Post



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**4th QUARTER**  
**2015-16**

September/October: Balls Study  
November/December: Clothes Study

## Parent Reminders

### October

#### Fall/Winter Menu ~ Monday, October 5, 2015

In order to serve the freshest and most wholesome meals to our children, we modify our menus based on the seasons. Monday, October 5th will be the first day for implementation of our new menu. The menus will be emailed. Also, menus are always posted in classrooms and the lobby.

#### VPK Fall Holiday ~ Monday, October 16, 2015 ~ VPK Holiday

This is a VPK holiday for all children who attend VPK only from 9am – 12n. If you'd like for your VPK only child to attend, you'll need to prepay the \$35 fee. For children enrolled in VPK and also attend during "wrap around" care, there is no extra charge to attend.

#### Fall Festival ~ Friday, October 30, 2015 from 3:30 – 5pm

Come out and help us celebrate Fall! Activities include face painting, temporary tattoos, making pumpkin shakers, leaf prints, fishing for pumpkins and much more.

### November

#### Veteran's Day Holiday ~ Wednesday, November 11, 2015 – VPK Holiday

This is a VPK holiday for all children who attend VPK only from 9am – 12n. If you'd like for your VPK only child to attend, you'll need to prepay the \$35 fee. For children enrolled in VPK and also attend during "wrap around" care, there is no extra charge to attend.

#### Thanksgiving Feast & Parent Meeting ~ Thursday, November 19, 2015 from 6 – 7pm

We are so thankful that you've chosen to share your child with us. Please join us for a Thanksgiving meal as our way to say thank you. This won't be a typical Parent Meeting, in that we'll simply be enjoying good food, friends and family!

#### VPK Thanksgiving Holiday ~ Wednesday, November 25, 2015 – VPK Holiday

This is a VPK holiday for all children who attend VPK only from 9am – 12n. If you'd like for your VPK only child to attend, you'll need to prepay the \$35 fee. For children enrolled in VPK and also attend during "wrap around" care, there is no extra charge to attend.

#### Thanksgiving Holiday ~ Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27, 2015 ~ SCHOOL CLOSED to ALL CHILDREN

### December

#### Parent's DAY Out Babysitting Service ~ Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 10am – 3pm

This is your opportunity to get some holiday shopping done WITHOUT your little one tagging along, clean your house for holiday guests.....basically whatever you need to get done to prepare for the holidays.

#### Winter Celebration & Parent Meeting ~ Thursday, December 17, 2015 from 6 – 7pm

We'll be reading "T'was The Night Before Christmas", drinking hot cocoa with mini-marshmallows and visiting with Santa.

#### Winter Classroom Parties ~ Friday, December 18, 2015

Wobblers – 3:30pm      Toddlers – VPK – 3:00pm

#### VPK Holiday ~ Monday, December 21 – Wednesday, December 23, 2015 ~ Winter Holiday

#### Winter Holiday ~ Thursday, December 24, 2015 – Friday, January 1, 2016 ~ School Closed

# Parent Information...



## Parent's DAY Out Babysitting Service

This is your opportunity to go holiday shopping WITHOUT your little one, clean your home for holiday guests or whatever you want to do, while your child has a BLAST at preschool. We're serving lunch and have planned lots of fun arts & crafts, activities, and a G-rated movie. Children ages 6 weeks – VPK will take a nap between 1 – 2:30pm. There will be a sign-up sheet at the front desk. The cost is \$25 for the 1<sup>st</sup> child and \$15 for each additional child. Children from infants – school age who attend our school, their siblings, family members or friends of the family are welcome to attend.

Saturday, December 12, 2015  
10am – 3pm

## From the Suggestion Box

Reminder that there is a suggestion box located on the sign-in/out table. We hope that you use this box to give all types of input and feedback to the teachers, the Preschool and the PTO. The suggestion box is intended to open a door for communication, allowing you to provide comments, concerns, compliments, suggestions, pose questions, propose solutions or even just provide a teacher with an encouraging word.



# Fall is Here!

## School Lunch



## Fall/Winter Menu

We recently modified our 4-week rotational menu to reflect the cooler weather. The new menus will be emailed by October 5, 2015. Calendars located at the end of this newsletter list which menu we'll use during each week.

## Upcoming Holiday Closures - Everyone

OCTOBER  
NO SCHOOL CLOSURES

NOVEMBER  
Thursday, November 26, 2015 ~ Thanksgiving Day  
Friday, November 27, 2015 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER  
Thursday, December 24 – December 31, 2015  
~ Winter Holidays  
Friday, January 1, 2016 ~ New Year's Day

## Upcoming Holiday Closures – VPK Only

The following closures are for children enrolled in VPK Only (9am – 12n). If your child attends for "wrap around" services, they may attend at no extra fee.

OCTOBER  
Monday, October 16, 2015 ~ LCS Inservice Day

NOVEMBER  
Wednesday, November 25, 2015 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER  
Monday, December 21 – Wednesday, December 23, 2015 ~ Winter Holiday



## Monthly Parent Meeting

We have scheduled a monthly Parent Meeting for the last Thursday of every month. Each meeting is scheduled from 6 – 7pm. We will be discussing a variety of subjects, invite guest speakers, and more. We hope that you'll attend.

### October

No Meeting. We hope to see you at the Fall Festival on Friday, October 30, 2015 from 3:30 – 5pm

### November

Thursday, November 19, 2015 from 6 – 7pm  
Thanksgiving Feast

### December

Thursday, December 17, 2015 from 6 – 7pm  
Winter Celebration & Visit from Santa



**VPK**  
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN

# Parent Information...



Our Fall Festival is an annual celebration of Fall!

Children and parents will have opportunities to visit several interactive centers, including making pumpkin shakers, playing bean bag toss, "fishing" for pumpkins and much more.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the front lobby as we will need parents to assist with providing snacks and drinks, set-up and clean up.

Children, parents and staff are welcome to wear "Halloween" costumes, but it is not required. We will not be handing out candy during this event.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### OCTOBER

Juliet 10/1                      Briley 10/4                      Cecilia 10/6  
Margaret "Maggie Kate" 10/6  
Julian 10/7                      Xander 10/9                      Brawley 10/10  
Molly 10/29  
Ms. Deandra Lee (OT) 10/1

### NOVEMBER

Seth 11/5      Devin 11/15                      Paige 11/9  
Ariella 11/24                      Cerenity 11/26  
Joel 11/29      Miles 11/30  
Ms. Jessica 11/15

### DECEMBER

Jack 12/1      Adriana 12/4                      Robert "RJ" 12/13  
Maya 12/20                      Deklen 12/28  
Ms. Ivory 12/6                      Ms. Doris 12/17                      Ms. Amy 12/21

**Anniversary**  
**Ms. Amber 12/22**  
**5 Years!**



# Creative Curriculum

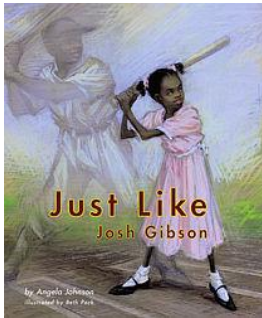


## September/October: Balls Study

We have noticed that the children are very interested in balls. They're curious about different kinds of balls, how people use balls, what they are made of, what is inside them, bounce. We think balls will make an interesting study.

If you can, we would like your help in gathering a collection of balls to investigate. We'll need many different types of balls (baseball, beach ball, bowling ball, football, golf ball, Koosh ball, marbles, ping-pong ball, racquetball, wiffle ball and many more.

As we study balls, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also be using thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions and test our ideas.



### **Books we'll be reading:**

Exploring the Topic (What do we know about balls) – The Little Red Hen

Investigation 1 (Do all balls bounce?) – The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Bounce by Doreen Cronin and Scott Menchin.

Investigation 2 (Do all balls roll?) and Investigation 3 (What makes balls move?) – The Three Little Pigs

Investigation 4 (Who uses balls?) – Just Like Josh Gibson, by Angela Johnson and Beth Peck and Play Ball!, by Nancy Noel Williams

Investigation 5 (What are balls made of?) – The Doorbell Rang, by Pat Hutchins, A Birthday Basket for Tia, by Pat Mora and Cecily Lang and Have a Ball, by Nancy Noel Williams

As a culminating activity, we'll invite athletes from local sports teams. If you have a connection to FAMU, FSU, TCC or a local high school, we'd love to hear from you so that we can schedule a "mini-clinic"/demonstration for our children of athletes showcasing their sport.



## What You Can Do at Home



Spend time with your child, playing with balls of all shapes, types, and sizes, such as playground balls, tennis balls, ping-pong balls, Koosh balls, volleyballs, baseballs, footballs, and marbles. Talk about what the balls are made of, whether they are heavy or light, and whether they are big or little.

Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about balls. For example, you might ask, "I wonder what's inside a tennis ball. I wonder how far you can throw a foil ball, a beach ball or a tennis ball. How can we find out? Do all balls bounce? Do any balls float in water? Why?"

Help your child use all of his or her senses when playing with balls. You might ask, "What does it look like" Feel like" Sound like? Smell like?"

See how many types of balls you can find around the house and in your neighborhood.

Play a game while riding in a car, bus, or train. Think of all the words that contain the word *ball* in them. Look for examples of balls around you. Search for billboards, license plates, etc that have the letter Bb.



# Creative Curriculum

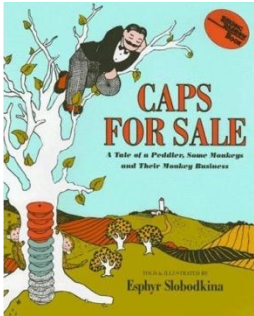
## November/December: Clothes Study

Children are interested in clothes from a very young age. Babies tug at their clothing; toddlers study buttons, snaps, and zippers; and, by the time children are in preschool, they develop distinct preferences for colors, fabrics, and styles. Children's interest in clothing can be the foundation for learning about different kinds of clothes, a variety of fabrics, the processes involved in making and selling clothes, the specialized purposes of some garments, and how clothes have changed over time. This study shows how to use children's interest in clothes to help them explore social studies and science concepts about different kinds of clothing and where and how clothing is made. The study also helps children use skills in literacy, math, technology, and the arts as they investigate.



We need your help to gather a collection of clothes to investigate. We need clothes of all sizes, types, colors, and fabrics (jackets, raincoats, ponchos, work and dress shirts, blouses, pajamas, neckties, bandanas, scarves, belts, suspenders, socks, old-fashioned clothes, uniforms, costumes, and more). If you are able to send in clothes, please label with your name so that we can return them at the end of the study.

As we study clothes, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also use thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predications, and test our ideas.



### Books we'll be reading:

Exploring the Topic (What do we know about clothes? What do we want to find out?) – Caps for Sale, by Esphyr Slobodkina, Uncle Nacho's Hat/El Sombrero Del Tio Nacho, by Harriet Rohmer and Llama Llama Red Pajama, by Anna Dewdney

Investigation 1 (What are the features of clothes?) – Goldilocks and the Three Bears, A Pocket for Corduroy, by Don Freeman, Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?, by Trish Holland and The Mitten, by Jan Brett.

Investigation 2 (How do we take care of our clothes?) – Wash and Dry, by Trish Holland.

Investigation 3 (How do people make clothes?) – The Girl Who Wore Too Much, by Margaret

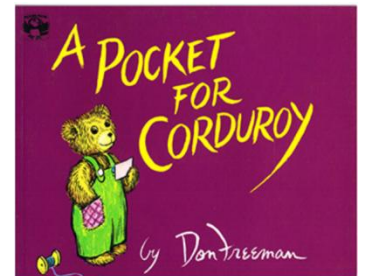
Read MacDonald, Something From Nothing, by Phoebe Gilman and Abuela's Weave, by Omar S. Castaneda

Investigation 4 (How is cloth made?) – The Paper Bag Princess, by Robert Munsch

Investigation 5 (Where do we get our clothes?) – A Pocket for Corduroy, Button, Button, Who's Got the Button and Something From Nothing.

Investigation 6 (What special clothes do people wear for work?) – Who Wears What?, by Judith Bauer Stamper and Little Red Riding Hood.

At the end of our study, we'll have a special guest from the Capitol Police to show us his uniform and talk about the job he does.



## At Home Activities



Talk with your child about clothes. Examine the fabrics together and discuss how the clothes were made. Look at the labels to find out where the clothes were made and identify the fabric. Look at pictures from the past and note how the clothing differs from clothing today.

Teach your child to stitch. Use a large plastic needle and yarn; make stitches on burlap or felt. Even toddlers can "sew" or lace. Cut a pattern (simple shape or something fun and related to the curriculum, such as a shirt) out of thick construction paper, card stock or a paper plate.

Use a single hold punch to punch holes in the shape. Your toddler can use a piece of yarn (with the end taped to prevent fraying) or a shoe lace to "sew" the shape.

When you shop for clothes, help your child notice how clothes are organized in the store and offer a simple explanation of how you compare prices.

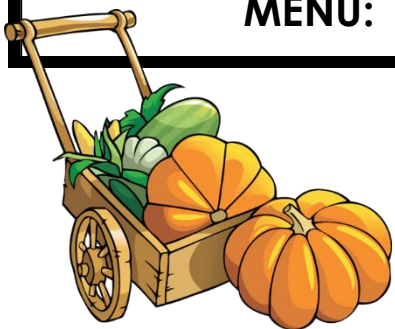


# Calendar

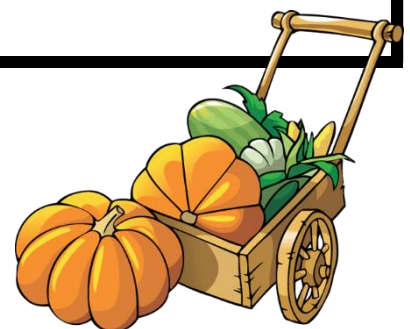


## OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>MENU: Week 2</b>						
4	5	6	7 Staff Meeting 6 – 7pm	8	9	10
<b>MENU: Week 1: Begin Fall/Winter Menu</b>						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>MENU: Week 2</b>						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>MENU: Week 3</b>						
25	26	27	28	29 Parent Meeting CANCELLED Hope to see you at the Fall Festival!	30 Fall Festival 3:30 – 5pm	31
<b>MENU: Week 4</b>						



# The Pumpkin Patch



# Calendar

NOVEMBER



Sun      Mon      Tues      Wed      Thurs      Fri      Sat

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7

**MENU: Week 1**

8                      9                      10                      11                      12                      13                      14

VPK Holiday  
Veteran's Day  
School Closed for VPK  
children who attend  
from 9am-12n

Staff Meeting  
6 – 7pm

**MENU: Week 2**

15                      16                      17                      18                      19                      20                      21

Thanksgiving Feast  
and Parent Meeting  
6 – 7pm

**MENU: Week 3**

22                      23                      24                      25                      26                      27 28

VPK Holiday  
No VPK for children  
who attend from  
9am-12n

Thanksgiving Holiday  
NO SCHOOL

**MENU: Week 4**

29                      30

**MENU: Week 1**

# Autumn



# Calendar

**DECEMBER**



Sun      Mon      Tues      Wed      Thurs

1      2      3

**MENU: Week 1**

6      7      8      9      10      11      12

Staff Meeting  
6 – 7pm

Parent's DAY  
Out!  
10am – 3pm  
Lunch Served  
Must Pre-Register  
\$25 - 1<sup>st</sup> Child  
\$15 - each  
additional child

**MENU: Week 2**

13      14      15      16      17      18      19

Winter  
Celebration &  
Visit from Santa  
6 – 7pm

Classroom  
Winter Parties  
2s – VPK @ 3pm  
1s @ 3:30pm

**MENU: Week 3**

20      21      22      23      24      25      26

VPK Holiday  
Winter Break  
No VPK for  
children who  
attend from  
9am-12n

←-----Winter Holiday-----→  
NO SCHOOL

**MENU: Week 4**

27      28      29      30      31      Jan 1      2

←-----Winter Holiday-----→  
NO SCHOOL

