



Westminster Preschool News



May 2012

All YOU need to know about Westminster!

Theme: Viva, Mexico!

We're traveling to....Mexico on May 3 & 4



During the month of May, Westminster students and staff are traveling to the wonderful country of Mexico. Our make-believe trip will take us to the Ancient Aztec ruins. We will learn how to make tortillas and dance to folkloric music. Please send your child with a packed backpack or suitcase for the trip. Allow your child to help pack.



Happy Mother's Day Teas - May 10 & 11



- Please join us Mom's, Grand mom's, Aunties and friends for a fun 'Fiesta' honoring YOU!
- Bring your favorite teacup and wear your favorite hat
 - Make some memories with your child
- AM classes are meeting from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and PM classes are meeting from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the theater located to the left of the church office.



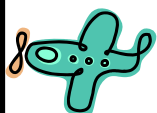
Graduation Photos - May 15 & 16

Fiesta Photography will be here taking cap and gown photos with Ms. Metcalfe's and Ms. Singleton's graduating classes. We want everyone to look fabulous for this day! If you need more information about ordering and pricing packages, see the office. Proofs are usually ready in one week.

Reminder: Pony pictures are available for purchase in the preschool office.



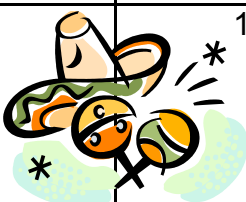
Summer and Fall spots are still available. Call the office for more details (619) 224-7403



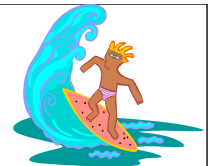
Bon Voyage! To Ron and Judy Stephens as they begin their tour of Europe May 1 through May 17. They are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. While away, they will be gathering literature and taking photos of the places they visit to be used for our "Make Believe Trips to Foreign Countries."

May 2012 Events



S	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat-
		1	2	3 Make Believe Trips to Mexico Send a packed suitcase or backpack	4 Make Believe Trips to Mexico Send a packed suitcase or backpack	5
6	7	8 Cooking: "Mother's Day Fruit Kabobs"	9 Cooking: "Mother's Day Fruit Kabobs"	10 Mother's Day Teas - 11:00/3:30	11 Mother's Day Teas - 11:00/3:30	12
1 3	14	15 Graduation Photos for PreK and KT students	16 Graduation Photos for PreK and KT Students	17	18	19
2 0	21	22 Cooking: "Tortilla Buffet" and Juice	23 Cooking: "Tortilla Buffet" and Juice	24	25	26
2 7	28 School Holiday (Memorial Day)	29	30	31		

What's Coming Up This Spring/Summer?



- May 1 - 4: Progress Reports are sent home
- May 7-11: Teacher Appreciation Week (**National Teacher's Day is May 8**)
 - May 10 & 11: Mother's Day Teas (11:00am and 3:30 pm)
 - May 15 & 16: Graduation Pictures for KT and Pre K classes
 - May 28: Memorial Day Holiday-School is Closed
 - June 14 & 15: Dad's Donut Days (8:30am and 4:00pm)
 - June 20: KT and Pre K Graduation Ceremony @ 6:00pm
- June 21 & 22: End of the Year Picnics - Bring Your Own Picnic and Bike to ride (11:00 and 1:00)
 - June 25-June 29: Summer Vacation
 - July 2: Staff Development Day - School is Closed
 - July 3: Summer Session Begins
 - July 4 - Independence Day Holiday Observed
 - August 30: Summer Session Ends
 - August 31: Staff Development Day - School is Closed
 - September 4 & 5: Fall Session Begins



They Don't Come with a Manual: "Thoughts on Kindergarten Preparation" by Judy Stephens, Founder and Debbie Batchman, Director

Many families believe when their child approaches the age for Kindergarten, a crash course in the ABC's, number recognition and colors is necessary. However, we here at Westminster take a slightly different approach. While the academics are important, they are only a portion of the picture. We feel children can begin preparation for elementary school while they are years away. We offer the following suggestions:

Investigation

Begin helping your child explore the world, make observations, ask questions, and be enthusiastic about discovering new things. Hopefully, curiosity is stronger than the fear of trying new and exciting things.

Oral Language Skills

Travel with your children, even if it is only in San Diego. Visit different areas of the city including museums. Talk about what is being seen. Ask your children questions that make them think. Enrich vocabulary by using new words several times in the context of conversation. Travel outside of San Diego, if you can, even a day trip to new town and talk about it.

Listening

Read to your child every night. The more animated you are, the more you'll hold their attention. Change your voice to coincide with different characters. Ask children open ended questions about the stories, what they remember, who was in the story or describe what part they liked best.

Independence

Encourage self help skills. Resist the temptation to do everything for your child even if it is easier and faster for you. Give simple 2- 3 step directions and teach your child to follow them. This will help him develop confidence and not be fearful of the unknown. The kindergarten teacher will expect your child to manage his own jacket, open his own lunch box, handle the juice box, food containers and use the toilet without assistance with snaps, buckles etc. In addition, make sure your child knows his/her first and last names, address, phone number, and your names.

Social Skills

Encourage interactions or "play dates" with other children. Little ones are naturally egocentric and will need guidance in learning to share, compromise, take turns, and solve problems. When there is a dispute, let both parties come up with a solution. Helping them understand feelings of others and how to read emotions teaches them how to problem solve and be empathetic.

Fine Motor Skills

Develop fine motor skills through art (even threading cheerios on a pipe cleaner), puzzles, cooking, and offering a variety of writing materials.

Academics

It is helpful if a child entering kindergarten does recognize most letters, can count to 10, and recognizes some shapes and colors. However, please try not to rely on workbooks to accomplish these goals. Much learning can happen in the kitchen, while going for a walk or drive, playing guessing games, on a family outing or just playing with Legos.

Fear of the "unknown" plays a big part when starting Kindergarten for you and your child. Help diffuse this by planning a visit to a Kindergarten classroom, preferably the one your child will be attending in the fall so that he/she can see what happens. Many of our local elementary schools have 'Open Houses' designed for incoming students. Try to stay enthusiastic about your child starting Kindergarten. They are watching you!