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**Chesterbrook Academy – Preston October Newsletter**

**From the Principal's Desk**

           Happy October Everyone!  I have been overjoyed over the past month watching our new students adjust to school life and our current students adjust to their new big boy or big girl classrooms!  All of our students are off to a great start of a new school year!  I have such a wonderful and talented teaching staff that really put their hearts into their classrooms and it shows!  Thank you also for the support that you show them!  Your comments, emails, phone calls, and parent reviews on greatschools.org mean so much to us!  We truly are a family working together to raise educated, well rounded, beautiful children!

 Please join us in welcoming our **new families to Chesterbrook Academy – Preston and our newest members of our teaching team--Miss Tasha, Miss Kim, Miss Qwanna, and Miss Taylor.**  We have been welcoming so many families that we need to welcome new staff! Have a great month!

           Tawni S. Connor, Principal

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**Important Dates in October**

* October 1 - Tuition's Due
* October 3 – Happy Anniversary Miss Lily!
* October 15 – CBA Pumpkin Patch Adventure!
* October 18 – Happy Birthday Miss Gloria and Miss Marilena!
* October 19-23 – Miss Tawni is away at Principal's Conference!
* October 21 – Holiday Photos!
* October 29 – LTL Folders Go Home!
* October 30 – Fall Harvest Costume Parade!
* Every Monday - Miss Marilena's Art Class!
* Every Tuesday: Happy Feet Soccer!
* Every Wednesday: Tap and Tumble Dance and Gymnastic Classes!
* Every Friday:  White Tiger Martial Arts!

**CBA Pumpkin Patch Adventure!**

            On Thursday October 15th we will hold our Annual CBA Pumpkin Patch Adventure!  It will be a fun afternoon for our students filled with pumpkins, crafts, and yummy treats!  Mark your calendar and feel free to come by for our event.  It will begin at 3:00 pm. Each child will have an opportunity to pick a pumpkin and enjoy a cool sensory experience! We are asking that each parent donate a child sized pumpkin and a few gourds for the event. Please bring the pumpkins and gourds in by Monday, October 12th. Thank you! Hope to see you there!

 **Holiday Photos!**

             On Wednesday, October 21st LifeTouch Portraits will return to take Holiday Photos.  Have your child come in their Holiday Best and with lots of smiles!  Photos will be taken and packages will arrive in a few weeks!  Just as the fall photos, there is no obligation to purchase.

**Fall Harvest Costume Parade**

          On Friday, October 30th we will have our Fall Harvest Costume Parade.   Please mark your calendars as you will not want to miss this one!  Please arrive by 3:00 to witness our parade of cuteness as our students show off their Halloween costumes!  More details will come closer to the event date!!

**October Education Article – *Exploring Community Helpers & the Roles They Play***

By Lauren Starnes, PhD Director of Early Childhood Education

This month, our students are gaining a greater understanding of community helper occupations, such as police officers, mail carriers, medical professionals and firefighters. The children have a lot of fun imagining themselves in these important roles, and incorporating toy versions of the uniforms, equipment and vehicles that go with them.

In addition, October is National Fire Prevention Month, so we place a special emphasis on the importance of fire safety and the role of firefighters. Our classroom activities help the children become more comfortable around emergency responders in uniform, and teach them basics about what to do in case of an emergency.

 Here are some ways children learn about community helpers in the classroom, as well as activities for you and your child to do at home.

**TODDLERS (ages 1-2):**

**In the classroom:** Toddlers are fascinated with dressing up as doctors, police officers and firefighters, because they have distinct uniforms and roles that children can easily understand. During dramatic play, our teachers provide students with costumes and props, and encourage them to choose the role they want to play.

**At home:** Continue dress-up play by providing your child with various props and costumes. Ask him, “Who do you want to dress-up as?” and “What does that person wear?”

**Recommended reading:** *Whose Hat is This* by Sharon Katz Cooper

**BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):**

**In the classroom:** Our Beginner students learn about the special vehicles that community helpers use, by playing matching games, reading books, and building vehicles using cardboard boxes.

**At home:** Go for a drive with your child. Point out vehicles that belong to community helpers, such as a fire truck and a police car. Ask, “Who drives that vehicle?” and “Where might it be going?”

**Recommended reading:** *The Little Fire Engine* by Lois Lenski

**INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):**

**In the classroom:** During fire safety lessons, many of our schools invite local firefighters to visit. Students explore the tools firefighters use, learn “Stop, Drop and Roll,” and may have the opportunity to tour a fire truck.

**At home:** Continue exploring fire safety by practicing “Stop, Drop and Roll” with your child. Ask him, “Who puts out fires?” and discuss what he should do if he hears a fire alarm at home.

**Recommended reading:** *The Fire Engine Book* by Tibor Gergely

**PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (ages 4-5):**

**In the classroom:** Teachers introduce situations when it might be necessary to dial 9-1-1. Students practice finding 9-1-1 on different keypads, such as cell phones and landlines.

**At home:** Show your child photos of various community helpers and the buildings where they work. Ask him to identify the helpers and their workplaces, and describe the roles the helpers play in our community.

**Recommended reading:** *The Berenstain Bears: Jobs around Town* by Jan Berenstain

We provide many opportunities for students to learn about community helpers. By setting this foundation, they become more familiar and comfortable around the people that make their neighborhoods a better place.