****

**Chesterbrook Academy – Preston**

**November Newsletter**

**From the Principal's Desk**

        November is upon us and it is a great time to remember all that we are **thankful** for.  I am taking the time this November to reflect on all that I am thankful for.  I am thankful for the teachers who work for me at this school as they are the most dedicated and talented group of ladies I have met.  I am thankful for the friendly families and the adorable children who dawn my school's doorstep each morning.  I am thankful to work with an amazing Assistant Principal—Miss Susan. And I am most thankful to be blessed with two wonderful children (Mitchell and Lindsay) whom I am so proud of and my sweet dog (Carley).  I hope you all take the time this November to pause and think about how much you all have to be thankful for as well!  Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

              As I shared with you last month, I was away for a week attending my **12th Annual Principal's Conference**.  The conference was once again filled with so much inspiration for me as a Principal and information to share with my teachers.  It is more clear to me than ever that Nobel Learning Communities is committed to being a leader in the education field and we are all lucky to be a part of one of their schools!

         Hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and a great month!

           Tawni S. Connor, Principal

**In this Issue**

* Important Dates for November
* Professional Development Day!
* Parent Conferences Offered!
* Fall Harvest Celebration Luncheon
* Dr. Lauren Starnes' Educational Article

**Important Dates in November**

* November 1 - Tuition's Due
* November 8 – Happy Anniversary Miss Gloria!
* November 11 – School’s Closed Professional Development Day!
* November 18 – Happy Birthday Miss Kim!
* November 19 – Fall Harvest Luncheon!
* November 20 – Assessments Go Home!
* November 21 – Happy Anniversary Jade!
* November 23 – Parent Conferences Available
* November 24 – Parent Conferences Available
* November 25 – Parent Conferences Available
* November 26 – School’s Closed Happy Thanksgiving
* November 27 – School’s Closed Happy Thanksgiving
* Every Monday - Miss Marilena's Art Class
* Every Tuesday: Soccer Shots classes
* Every Wednesday: Dance / Tap and Tumble Gymnastics Class
* Every Friday:  White Tiger Martial Arts!

**Professional Development Day!**

            On Wednesday November 11th our school will be closed to hold our Bi Annual Professional Development Day for our teachers. Please be sure to make arrangements for your child on this day. We have a lot planned for our teachers to make them even better than they already are!

**Parent Conferences Offered!**

            On Monday, November 23 – Wednesday, November 25, we will offer an opportunity for you to have a personal conference with your child’s teacher. The conferences are available by appointment only. You must email me at tawni.connor@nlcinc.com to request a conference and tell me your preferred time. Conferences will begin approximately at 4:30 and run through 5:45 pm. Times are not guaranteed but I will try very hard to accommodate everyone’s wishes. We can also offer phone conferences at lunch time if that works better for you! Please email me by Friday, November 20th to request a conference.

**Harvest Celebration Luncheon**

          Once again, Chesterbrook Academy – Preston will hold its annual Harvest Celebration Luncheon on Thursday, November 19th from 11am – 12:30 pm. Our Harvest Celebration Luncheon is the perfect opportunity for you to come and have a feast with your child, their little friends, your child’s teachers, Miss Susan, and I. Chesterbrook will provide the Turkey, Gravy, and Mashed Potatoes! You all will provide the sides! This is a great opportunity to share your culture and bring an authentic family dish! I will be bringing my Memmy’s Pennsylvania Dutch Style Stuffing! There will be a sign up sheet at the front desk! I hope to see you all there! Thanksgiving foods are the best!

**November Education Article**

**4 Ways to Instill Thankfulness in Young Children**

**By Lauren Starnes, PhD Director of Early Childhood Education**

It’s never too early to teach your child about thankfulness. By learning concepts of generosity and compassion, children strengthen their connection to their community and become sensitive to the feelings of others.

The holiday season is quickly approaching, so now is a great time to reinforce the importance of thankfulness and giving back to those in need.

Below are age appropriate activities that we implement in the classroom, as well as activities for you and your child to do at home.

**TODDLERS: Be a good role model**

**In the classroom:** Our teachers introduce “please” and “thank you” to our toddlers by using sign language and verbal communication. Students practice good manners with their dolls, stuffed animals and each other.

**At home:** Modeling positive behaviors is a great way to teach your child good manners. Say “please” before asking him to do something, and always follow with “thank you.”

**Recommended reading:** *Little Critter® I Am Helping* by Mercer Mayer

**BEGINNERS: Share your gratitude out loud**

**In the classroom:** Our teachers encourage our Beginner students to name a few of their favorite toys and games, and bring one in from home to share with friends. By sharing their belongings, children nurture connections with their classmates, and build necessary problem-solving skills.

**At home:** Talk with your child about the things in your life for which you are thankful, and ask him to name a few as well. Extend the discussion beyond physical possessions. For instance, if he is thankful for a favorite toy, say “Grandma bought you that toy, and we are thankful for her.”

**Recommended reading:** *Spot Helps Out* by Eric Hill

**INTERMEDIATES: Show appreciation through actions**

**In the classroom:** By age three, children begin to understand the concept of appreciation. They create birthday cards for their teachers, make art projects for friends, and write thank you cards for classroom visitors.

**At home:** Go shopping with your child, and buy a small token of appreciation for a friend or family member. Ask your child to draw a picture or write a thank you note to accompany the gift.

**Recommended reading:** *Clifford's Good Deeds* by Norman Bridwell

**PRE-K/PRE-K2: Give back to those in need**

**In the classroom:** During the holidays, many of our schools host donation drives for organizations in need. Our older preschoolers discuss why they are participating, count the items donated, and sometimes have the opportunity to deliver the donations.

**At home:** Donate canned goods to a local food pantry, and allow your child to choose the food that he would like to donate. Explain to him that you are thankful to have good food to eat, and that you want to make sure that others have the same.

**Recommended reading:** *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

We provide many opportunities for our preschoolers to develop thankfulness and show gratitude towards others. By setting this positive foundation, your child will be more appreciative and generous as he enters elementary school and beyond.

