



Hillcrest Day School

September 2005

Frisco ISD & Hillcrest Day
School will be CLOSED Monday
September 5th 2005 for Labor
Day

From the Owner/Director, Cheryl Hayes

Transition is a Journey

On the first day of school, children experience multiple changes such as different classroom arrangements, new teachers, unfamiliar routines, or even completely new schools. Other events such as the birth of a sibling or divorce also result in numerous changes children must adjust to. Often when we think about transition, we think of these major events. Adults can help make each child's journey into new territory most successful by supporting them before, during, and after the major change occurs. Our teachers work together with parents to share the unique information they have about the child and what support he or she may need. Adults can better provide guidance and support when they understand the stages associated with adapting to change.

"Letting Go" Stage

Feelings of sadness and resistance are common as children prepare to leave a familiar setting or situation. Children need to express how they feel. Some may act fussy or whiny. Others may lose control, cry easily, or revert to habits you thought they had outgrown, such as thumb sucking. We can help your child through this stage by reading stories about children in similar situations and talking with them about their feelings.

Uncertainty Stage

Change can cause fears, concerns, and mixed feelings. Often children are confused about exactly what will happen next. All young children moving into new early childhood programs need to visit the setting ahead of time and practice new routines to anticipate what will be different. This is the reason we recommend, when feasible, that the child start in our school for short periods and gradually move them into the regular schedule. Letting them bring "lovies" (familiar, comforting objects, such as favorite stuffed toy or blanket) is important as well. During this stage, try to be clear about the things that are changing by answering any questions the children have such as: Who will pick me up and when?

"Taking Hold" Stage

Children in new situations need guidance about what is expected and affirmation when they are acting appropriately. Help them gain confidence by reviewing expectations and pointing out how they are learning. We also know it is important to young children that their families feel welcome in our programs. Our teachers adapt to the individual needs of a new child, such as assigning a classroom buddy and or ensuring the child's name is displayed on cubbies or birthday walls. Parents are invited to a family night and are encouraged to be involved on a daily basis as children are dropped off or picked up.

**Happy Birthday to
children celebrating
September birthdays!**

Infant II

Arianna Dickerson
Allayna Stewart

Tots I

Brayden Borden
Leila Williams

Prechool I

Makayla McCarter
Laney Moore
Kayli Villars

Preschool II Kyle Eaton

Transitional Kindergarten II Blake Jackson

After School

Kaleb Bradford
Elaina Dawson
Peyton Robertson
Anthony Stevenson

Colorful Cookie Dough

Well, it is that time of the year. We will be selling gourmet cookie dough again this year. We have added to our assortment and added some red, blue, green and yellow dough. This makes cooking holiday cookies a fun, family adventure. In addition, we will be selling the normal flavors of cookie dough as well as, some wonderful candles. Watch for information on this wonderful fund-raiser that starts the first of October.

TUITION POLICES

Just a reminder: when you move classrooms, rates change. If you do not know what your new tuition rate is, please see Ms. Tiffany, or they will be posted in the front office. If you pay monthly your tuition is due on the 1st of each month, if you pay semi-monthly it is due on the 15th of each month or if you pay weekly it is due the Friday before. Late fees are posted on the third business day following your "tuition due date."

PRETTY AS A PICTURE

It is that time of the year again! We will be having individual pictures done on two days this year. They will be held the 14th and 15th of September. The 14th will be Infants I, Infant II, Toddlers, Tots I and Tots II. The 15th is PSI, PSII, TKI and TKII. Dividing the classes into two days will allow the photographer more time with each individual child to get that "perfect" picture. This is a new photography company called Images 4 Kids and we are excited to see their results.

Please bring your children dressed and ready for the pictures. If you would like them to change into play clothes, just bring them and we will change them once their pictures have been taken. If you have siblings here at Hillcrest and would like their pictures taken together, please inform your children's teacher.

FLU Shots!!!!

Hillcrest Day School will be offering the flu shot to all staff, parents and children (with written consent) for \$18.00 a shot given by Nurse Kelly from Dr. Nelson Simmons Office. They will be here on October 4th. If you are interested, sign ups will begin September 19th in the front office.

Public School Bus Run

Parents of public school children please make sure that you notify HDS when your child will not be on the afternoon bus run. If we are not notified by 2pm there will be a \$10 fee charged to your account. Also if your child needs to ride the HDS bus to school in the morning, they must be at HDS no later than 7:15am. Please check with us for the schools we pick up and drop off at.

NAP MATS FOR SALE:

Hillcrest will be requiring all children to have nap mats for rest time. They are easily stored in the children's cubbies and will be taken home every Friday to be kept clean and sterile. This is mandatory. They are for sale in the front office. Please see Ms. Tiffany for details.

Classroom Chatter

Infant I – From Ms. Jodi, Ms Misti and Ms. Michelle -

Infant I is on the move. We would like to start off by welcoming all of our new friends: Grant, Katherine, Brooklyn, Molly and Peyton. We look forward to watching all of you grow. Carole Ann is working on rolling over and sitting up. Erica and Christian are both working hard on tummy time and reaching for toys. We would also like to wish our friends Arianna, Madison, Sophia, and Eli the best in Infant II.

Infant II – From Ms. Christie & Ms. Devon –

Hi everyone! September is finally here. Our kids have been very busy playing with each other and learning new things. Sophie is beginning to crawl, Madison is also very close to crawling. Lana and Helen are both new to the class and school. They are progressing into their new schedules and acclimating very well. Eli move to infant II two months ago and is very close to walking. Chance moved up also and is crawling, pulling up and trying new table foods. Allayna's smile keeps us all happy – we missed her this summer. Madison has been with us about 2 weeks and is scooting and very close to crawling. Manny – the oldest in the class is walking very well and teaching the younger ones how to do it. As you can see our babies are learning something-new everyday. It is AWESOME! We have a fabulous group of children and are excited to work with them. We will keep you posted on all our new learning as we progress.

Toddler – From Ms. Magda, & Ms. Sara –

We hope everyone enjoyed his or her summer. It is hard to believe the fall program has already begun. We would like to welcome each of our new friends to our classroom. The transition has been smooth and everyone is fitting in nicely. This has been an exciting month, full of change. We spent the first couple of weeks getting to know one another, our new routine and the classroom rules. We learned each other's name by pronouncing our names and using individual names in songs, finger plays, transitions between activities and circle time. We learning about "our faces" by using mirrors during many of our routine activities. We are very proud of all the children. We are so grateful for the opportunity to care for your children and watch them grow and learn. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Tots I – From Ms. Nimala and Ms. Levon –

Welcome to Tots! I am so excited to have my class open for the fall program. Our transition has been very smooth. We had a great summer and our friends had lots of fun doing many messy activities. Now we are ready to get back into routine and getting in the mood to learn. We bid farewell to some of our older friends who moved into Tots II. My young two-year-olds have really enjoyed our new classroom. The children enjoy counting and singing the alphabet song. In August our themes we talked about "All about me" and "My body". We learned new vocabulary words like; special, family, bones, muscles, etc. In September, we will be learning about "things I can do" and "our senses." Our room is filled with fun activities everyday. We "start the day with love, fill the day with love and end the day with love." I am really looking forward to this school year with my Tots.

Tots II – From Ms. Jamie, Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Sabrina –

Welcome to Tots!! Our transition has been smooth. We have started the first couple of weeks getting to know our friends and go over the classroom rules. Much of our daily routine is circle time. This is when we learn our calendars, numbers, the letters of the alphabet, read a story and sing songs. The children really enjoy counting and saying their alphabet. In September we will be learning about our bodies, things I can do, and our senses. We will be having a testing test, so please look for our sign up sheet by the front door. In addition, we will be having a special cooking project on Fridays. Please remember we are learning about our family style meals, so let your child practice serving themselves at home. They are really doing well with this. We are looking forward to a fun year together.

Classroom Chatter

Preschool I-From Ms. Bridgette and Ms. Hillary –

We are enjoying every moment working with your child. It was a great pleasure meeting every one of the parents. My friends are settling in very well. This month in Preschool I we will continue talking about our families, our homes, our neighborhoods and the outdoors. We will also start focusing on learning to recognize and write our alphabet letters. Please help us by pointing out different letters when you are out with your child. We also plan on doing a special cooking project once a week and will send the recipes home so that your child can show you what they are learning to make at school. Your children are adjusting to Preschool well and we are having a great time getting to know them better. We are looking forward to a fruitful, happy Academic year. Let us work hand in hand for the good of our friends.

Preschool II – Ms. Pat, Ms. Rae and Ms. Robyn –

The children in PSII have made a wonderful adjustment to their new routine in our classroom. We will be working on our numbers, shapes and alphabets. We have made some number books and will be sending them home on Mondays and Wednesdays for the children to review at home. In addition, we will be talking about “our families, our homes and the outdoors.” We will have some exciting projects and circles times, so please watch our door for all the exciting things we will be doing.

Transitional Kindergarten – From Ms. Lynn, Ms. Erica & Ms. Tammy –

As we enter our school year, we are working on knowing our daily routine. This entails each child putting its attendance up and taking it down in the afternoon. Working on their journal is another part of our daily routine that is practiced each morning. These routines are used to help the children with their fine motor skills. This month we will focus on writing our names, the procedure for writing letters properly, as well as upper and lower case forms. We will be working on number recognition from 0-20 and tracing letters and numbers.

This month our unit will be “Caring for our World.” In this unit, the children engage in activities in which they explore nature in a number of ways from examining items on a nature walk and exploring animal habitats to experimenting with feathers, oil and water to discover how oil slick could affect wildlife.

The children are trying hard to earn a sticker for the end of the day. Any sticker donated to our classroom would be appreciated. We will also start our “Student of the Week” reward. Watch for more information on our Friday newsletter. Don’t forget to check your child’s daily folder and initial it everyday. This will help you know how your child’s day was.

School Age – From Mr. Matt, Ms. Briana and Ms. Maneeka

We have had a great start to the new school year. It has been so nice to see all of those familiar faces from TK in the new “BIG” kid’s class. We are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of your children and in building new relationships with all of our new parents. Please make sure to check your child’s Friday folder for upcoming events, art, and other things that your children do in our class. We are looking forward to a great month.