



# Quarterly Newsletter

**Greetings to my Parents  
and friends of VCA!**



Our holiday season seems so far gone although it was only a month ago. The VPK children and staff performed at the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Viera Company as well as in the park by the fountain at the Avenues. They were simply awesome. Check out the very cute pictures in the current section of our website.

A happy New Year to all of our VCA families! I hope this year brings you prosperity and good health. VCA is off to a very busy start this New Year. Our little ones are growing and learning and they are so proud of their achievements. We are also very thrilled with their progress and love of learning.

There are many exciting events planned for the coming year. Please continue to peruse our website for all the fun activities.

This year we are expanding our learning to include an outdoor classroom. Many of you are not familiar with an outdoor classroom, so I will give you a brief overview. Many children are only familiar with learning indoors and playing outdoors. Learning is all around us, especially outdoors. Outdoor play will allow children to connect with nature and apply concepts and skills learned indoors to their outdoor experiences as well as embrace new skills that will be learned outdoors.

Many centers and schools are now beginning to appreciate how valuable an outdoor classroom is to their curriculum. We certainly have the space! Now we need the design. I am proposing an area for a butterfly garden, a hill for climbing, and a trellis for vines and shade, and containers with vegetables and flowers. Oh my! I am so excited about the possibilities! We are seeking volunteers who are willing to give of their time, expertise, and monetary contributions. Please take a look at our newsletters and website for updates regarding planning times. We will provide you with more information at that time.

For those of you, who can visualize this area and share my passion, please see me!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Put on your dancing shoes!

- The Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Valentine's Day Dance is on Monday February 13th from 6 – 8pm. This dance is being held for the VPK classes, Alligators, and Penguins. It should be a fun time and a limited number of volunteers will be appreciated.
- The Chipmunk, Alligator, Penguin, and VPK classes will host an in-house Black History presentation on Wednesday February 29, 2012 at 3pm. The classes may choose to invite parents, so ask the teachers.
- Come and play at VCA on March 10th from 10am to 2pm (Open house and new enrollment activity)
- VPK children will participate in their Commencement Exercises on Saturday May 5, 2012 at 10am at Viera High School.

## WANTED

- Seamstresses for costumes – please see Ms. Flo
- Parents that are able to copy forms for us



*"Good is the biggest enemy of best."*

## Parent Tips

Remember parental involvement is key in your child's education. Is your child on track? Ask yourself, your spouse, or your significant other this question. Be true to yourself with your answer and seek help if you are not sure.

Teachers really appreciate parents who follow through with volunteerism, homework, projects, and self help skills at home.

## Referral Program

Please remember that each child who enrolls as a result of your referral will yield **\$50.00** cash to you!

## Summer Program

VCA will offer a summer program for our youngsters from age one through age nine. There will be enrichment classes in Math, Reading, and Spanish. Please sign up early as classes fill up quickly.

For children, summer is a time for "fun in the sun". Unfortunately, it is also a time when their learning "slides". Research shows that during the summer, students forget many of the skills they learned during the school year. Time has to be spent the following school year relearning previously learned skills and concepts instead of mastering new ones.

Here are some ways that you can combat the summer slide:

- Have your child attend a summer enrichment program, like the one being offered at VCA.
- Read with your child EVERYDAY and have children read to you if they are able. Have older children read a book a week. Take your child to the museum and discuss the paintings and other items that you see.
- Attend a live show at the theater.
- Visit your local library!

Did you know that we have a Parent Volunteer Group here at VCA? Mrs. Dee Mills and Ms. Trisha "head up" this group and are always seeking additional volunteers. Please feel free to join this **AWESOME** and talented group of parents. Our next meeting is **Thursday March 15, 2012 at 6pm.**

## Math Connection

Try some of these fun counting games with your children at home.

Count the number of stairs in your house as you go up and down.

Bounce a ball once, twice, three times, and so on.

Play hopscotch (remember this game?)

Do one to one correspondence when counting:



- One apple (touch the apple)



- Two apples (count one, two, as you touch the apples)



- Three apples (count one, two, three, as you touch the apples)

Children will begin to develop an understanding of numbers and number concepts.

Well, we are looking forward to a successful rest of the year and a busy summer. Check our websites for our exciting summer themes. Remember that our refreshing water park will be open to all VCA students as they cool off in the hot summer months. Picnics will be held outdoors and learning will be fun. You may sign up for two weekly increments. See our front desk staff.

**Thank you for being a part of the VCA family and remember, we appreciate all that you do!**

