



Paradise Valley Cooperative School

6239 E. Bell Road Scottsdale AZ 85254

480-948-3330

SEPTEMBER '09 NEWSLETTER

Director News

Melanie

The first couple weeks of school could not have gone more smoothly! Thank you to everyone who helped to make it that way, especially my dedicated hard-working staff! I want to say a special thank-you to Dez who keeps our outside grounds clean and bug-free every weekend even in this HORRIBLE heat! And to Full-time parents, Trevor and Patrick, who spent most of last weekend scrubbing, buffing and waxing our linoleum floors! They look brand-new!

Parent Meetings: It was great to see so many of you at our first monthly parent meetings! The purposes of these monthly meetings are threefold: to build community and relationships, to educate and support each other in our parenting skills, and to keep informed and up to date on what is going on at PVCS! I hope you will continue to attend and find the meetings beneficial in one way or another! Remember, if your child is not ordinarily registered from 12-1, there is childcare for a \$5 fee per family.

This month's meeting was all about PVCS' philosophy and the history and resources behind it. We covered NAEYC's influence, the Arizona Early Learning Standards and the four areas of our adopted curriculum, The Creative Curriculum. The teachers also talked about co-op routine and duties in the classrooms. If you did not make the meeting, please feel free to ask myself or your teachers for a quick review!

September's meeting will focus on assessment and we will also hear from a representative of McGruff the crime dog on how to educate our children about how to stay safe! We will make sure to leave time at the end for questions and discussions about specific issues or general child development topics.

FUN BUNCH/Extra-curricular classes:

Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of interest in Fun Bunch thus far, so we will only offer the 1:00 option to our part-time families until 4 or more students enroll. There is still room in each of our extra-curricular classes! Brochures are available on the front desk for each of these special offerings: Spanish, Dance, Tumbling and Yoga!

Friday Friends (9-1) is not full either! PT Fours and T/Th Threes are welcome to enroll in this extra day! Only 8 students will be

enrolled. It is a great time for teachers to engage and work individually with your children! It is also a quieter environment for those students that are a bit overwhelmed with the large group. Let us know if you want to drop in one Friday to try it out!

As always, I am available to answer any questions in person, by phone or e-mail! Do not hesitate to contact me about anything that's on your mind!

Melanie

Conflict Resolution:

At PVCS, we do not "discipline" children for the mistakes they make. We try to model/teach them how to solve their problems through the 6 steps listed below. These steps come from a book called You Can't Come to my Birthday Party which can be checked out/borrowed in the front lobby if you'd like more information on how to implement it at home and with your children.

Step 1: * Approach calmly, stopping any hurtful actions *Place yourself between the children, on their level.*Use a calm voice and gentle touch.*Remain neutral, rather than take sides.

Step 2: Acknowledge children's feelings
**"You look really upset."*Let children know you need to hold any object in question

Step 3: Gather Information **"What's the problem?"

Step 4: Restate the problem **"So the problem is...."

Step 5: Ask for ideas for solutions and choose one together**"What can we do to solve this problem?"*Encourage children to think of a solution. *Re-state their ideas and agree on a solution

Step 6: Be prepared to give follow up support
**"You solved the problem."*Stay near the children to be sure solution is implemented.

You might also want to take a look at the article I wrote for Raising Arizona Kids magazine on our website:

http://www.pvcoopschool.com/articles/Conflict_Preschool.pdf

Melanie
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IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7: NO SCHOOL

(Labor Day)

Sept. 8: Fundraising Mtg.
5pm Room 8

Sept. 18: Staff Mtg. 1pm

Sept. 19: "COOP" Picnic

9-12 Altadena Park

Sept. 21: Parent Mtg. 12pm
MWF Threes

Sept. 22: Parent Mtg. 12pm
T/Th Twos/Threes

Sept. 23: Parent Mtg. 12pm
PT Fours

Sept. 24: Parent Mtg. 5pm
FT families

Sept. 26: Cleaning Day 9-12

Fundraising News

Melanie

The fundraising TEAM is almost complete and I have a huge list of great ideas! We will meet on **Tuesday, September 8th at 5pm** to choose our projects and dates! Everyone is welcome or drop me a note with your input and ideas! Kids are welcome!

The 09-10 Fundraising Team

Infant/Toddler Team Leader:

Rebecca Cornell

PT Twos Parent Team Leader:

Fiona Madden

PT Threes Team Leader:

Gina Griffiths

PT Fours Team Leader:

Brady Sheldon

FT Team Leader:

_____???

**We have been invited to an
author signing event at Barnes
& Noble on October 9.
Details coming soon!**

PT Toddler News

Teacher Lama

The school year got off to a great start and I'm so excited to be working with your kids! There are some activities I would like to share with you that we will be doing next month. We will start by getting to know each other more through play. We will also be talking about colors through games and we will read stories about colors as well. Next, we will learn many new songs such as; Old McDonald and Brown Bear What Do You See. As for the outside activities, I will be helping the kids to drive the tricycles and cars, as well as activities on the playground such as; the swing set, the slide etc. Here is our schedule for the next month:

Daily Schedule

9:00-10:00 Free Choice/Clean Up
10:00-10:15 Snack Time
10:15-10:50 Outside
10:50-11:00 Circle time
11:00-11:30 Free Choice/Change Diapers
11:30-12:00 Lunch
12:00 Dismissal

And please remember to bring extra clothes to keep at school. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (602)410-1524. I look forward to seeing you next week. Thank you.

Lama

PT Twos News

Teachers Lynda & Jennifer

August was such a short month for us, but in the first few days of school, we are slowly beginning to see the different personalities and the likes and dislikes of our little ones. We've been busy getting accustomed to the classroom routines and the kids have been busy exploring the different learning areas.

Here are our goals for September:

Social / Emotional: We will continue to work on separating from mommies and daddies during morning drop off. Many of the kids are able to choose an activity to try out when they come in, while others are still a little hesitant when they initially enter the classroom. We try to keep a consistent routine so they will feel secure when they know what to expect next. By using songs, and other cues, the children are learning to anticipate what activity we are doing next.

Language: We are learning that by using our words, we can tell each other what we need. We encourage that they ask for a turn, rather than taking a toy from another child, and it's ok to say "I need help" from their teachers. We are also getting to know each other and learning each others' names.

Physical: The children have been enjoying their outside time and look forward to it. We will expand that opportunity for active play in the classroom by introducing tumbling mats and crawling tunnels. We will also introduce songs that get their bodies moving and dancing. Speaking of music and dancing, our class will meet on Tuesdays at 11:30 (right after lunch) for Music Time with Teacher Melanie. For fine motor skills, we will introduce tools like tweezers and nuts and bolts.

Cognitive: Through activities like putting puzzles together, or stacking blocks and pegs, the kids are learning some spatial concepts (next to, on top of).

We will also try sorting different materials by color and size. We will introduce and talk about our five senses and continue some body awareness activities.

We will continue to give you more updates via the weekly emails. We look forward to a busy month of learning and playing! If you have suggestions and/or concerns, please feel free to chat with us at drop-off or pick-up times.

Teachers Lynda and Jennifer

PT Threes News

Teachers Debbie, Paula & Lisa

It's hard to believe that the first month of school is over! We are becoming settled with our schedule and routine. Both classes established the classroom rules and the children came up with some rules on their own. The children enjoyed doing art by gluing, painting with rollers and brushes, and printing with writing tools. They explored around the science table where they found different materials like pouring colored pasta on cups with spoons and looking to leaves with magnifying glasses.

In September our focus will be "All About Me" where we will be learning all about our bodies as well as learning and charting facts about each child. Here is a breakdown of our different focus areas:

Social/Emotional: Now that we've established our classroom rules, we will be focusing on our conflict resolution skills and also on our feelings.

Physical: As we learn about our bodies this month we will be singing songs that relate to the body as well as learning the different ways our bodies can move. We will also be offering more activities with scissors, including ones to make different patterns, and to practice cutting and fine motor control.

Cognitive: In Science and Math, we will be charting our height, weight, eye color, hair color, and gender (boys vs. girls) to post in the room. In Art, we will be making people cutouts and decorating them to look like each student. They will be able to try and match hair color, eye color, etc.

Language/Literacy: We will be working on "All About Me" posters; each student will share the work about themselves with the class. We will also be writing class books and reading books that will help the students learn about themselves and boost their self-esteem.

As a reminder to our parents, please check your child's box daily so you don't miss any important paperwork or beautiful artwork. Also, please make sure your child wears sunscreen before coming to school and pack extra clothes in case we play with water, get really messy, or have an accident.

Thank you to all the parents who co-op this month, it's such a huge help to have you in the classroom, we really appreciate it! Having the calendar on the outside bulletin board of the classroom seems to be working well; please check the schedule and lesson plan and sign-in for co-op.

We look forward to another month of playing, learning and having fun! If you have any question, please contact us.

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Teacher Debbie

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Teacher Paula

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PT Fours News

Teachers Kristen & Terry

It's hard to believe that the first two weeks of school is already over! We are becoming settled with our schedule and routine. Thank you all for coming to the meeting on Wed. Drop off and pick up have been going very well. The class started their helper chart, so 5 students per day get to help with jobs around the classroom such as feeding the fish holding the American flag during the pledge at circle time. The children came up with the class rules and we posted them on the board to help us all remember. We started with our journals and the children are excited to share their stories. In September our focus will be "All About Me" where we will be learning all about ourselves. We will be charting facts about each individual child.

Social/Emotional: Now that we've established our classroom rules, we will be focusing on our conflict resolution skills. We are also learning how to work as a team, especially during our clean up time.

Physical: As weather permits, we will be doing a lot more games outside and working together, like relay races and tag games. For our small motor skills, we will be having the children do a lot more tracing and cutting and always play dough to help strengthen their hands.

Cognitive: In Science and Math, we will be charting our height, weight, eye color, and hair color.

In Art, we will be making people cutouts and decorating them to look like each student. We will also have cutouts to represent people in our families.

Language/Literacy: We will be working on "All About Me Bags" giving each student a day to share about themselves. Please see sign up sheet outside the classroom for your child's special day. More info will come on the Sunday e-mail. We will also be writing class books and reading books that will help the students learn about themselves and boost their self-esteem. We will also be learning sign language so we can communicate in a different way.

As a reminder to parents, please check your child's backpack for daily art work or important paper work. I think the Sunday updates will help out a lot to let you know week to week what we are doing in class and to help remind you of important dates.

Thank you!

Teacher Kristen and Teacher Terry

FT Infant News

Ms. Citha

Hello there! My name is Teacher Citha & I am the Infant room teacher. I have been in the early childhood field for the past six years and plan to continue my education in that area. I have taught all ages from infants to school age, but I love, love, love the babies. I am married and have three beautiful children of my own. Aminah who is 6, Davion is 2 & Shaniyah is 1. I have just recently come back to join my family at PVCS and I am so happy that I did.

We are finally open! The infant room is now open & we are so excited. For the month of September we are going to focus on different daily activities for our little ones. We are going to be doing some physical body movement. We will also be doing some baby art. The babies are also noticing that they do have a voice so we are working on our language skills as well. September is going to be a great month, we can't wait to get it started.

FT Twos News

Ms. Dulce

September has finally arrived and I am so happy to see so many new students! It's always great to see the students make new friends and adapt to the new environment. Last month we all had a great time enjoying some of the final summer days. September is a great month to start working on the themes that we will be reviewing for the entire year. This month we will also be starting the music classes again which the students always enjoy!

Cognitive: This month we will introduce and explore dinosaurs. We will learn the many different kinds of dinosaurs, how they are different and the same as some of the zoo animals we looked at last month!

Social/Emotional: The reoccurring theme each month will be working on friendship and creating a safe, friendly environment for everyone. Since our students all share the same materials and resources in class, we focus a lot on helping them learn to work together and take turns. When we are eating, and throughout the day we also focus on manners. The students should be learning how to ask for items and be thankful for receiving them.

Language and Literacy: We will be reading some of the children's favorite stories from last month, but our main stories will focus on the dinosaurs. I always enjoy every month taking new books from the library to share with the students. Remember that the library is a great resource to get books for your children and best of all its free. ☺

Physical: The children are expanding their skills outside as they attempt new physical feats! It is still hot, so we aren't spending long periods of time outside, but we make sure that the children drink plenty of water and use sun block. Activities such as pouring and measuring water allow us to practice our motor skills and cognitive skills at the same time. We would like to remind the parents to bring **water diapers**. We will still have water activities on Friday but the time will be shorter. All of the kids enjoy working with water and this allows them to stay cool in the end of summer heat. We want to make sure that they are comfortable and prepared. Inside we will continue singing and dancing to develop motor skills,

improve balance and coordination, increase rhythm, and participate as a group. We also work with songs to refine listening skills. Every month I use new songs and if you hear your child at home singing and want to learn the words just let me know! *A special thanks to the parents who have brought a family picture for naptime! This has been a great way to help the children rest faster because the children feel safer sleeping in a new environment.*

Miss Dulce Harbison

FT Thees News

Ms. Erin & Ms. Debbi

What an excellent start to a new school year!!! We welcomed some new friends to our class, and said good-bye to a few as well. The past few weeks we have focused on building a classroom community by learning the rules to keep the classroom safe, "Using Our Words" and practicing kindness. We also discussed the 5 senses; "Our 5 Senses" song is one of our new favorites. We continue to work on calendar skills, practicing counting, days of the week, and the weather. We had fun making class graphs about eye color, counting the letters in our name, and Salty/Sweet comparison. We tasted cookies and popcorn and surprisingly more children like salty better than sweet. In September, our focus will be Family and Nursery Rhymes.

Cognitive (Math/Science) : We will continue to work on making class graphs. One of the graphs we will start with this month is "How many members in your family?" Calendar time and our counting caterpillar will also be a daily activity. I have added unifix cubes and pattern blocks to the manipulative area where the children can work on counting and patterning.

Language/Literacy: We have worked hard on the "ME" book, look for it to be completed and sent home this month. With the introduction of several nursery rhymes the children will be exposed to books, flannel board activities and art activities.

Social/Emotional: We continue to focus on respecting each other and our classroom. "Use your words" is a phrase we use quite often with the children. This encourages them to talk to each other about a problem rather than screaming, hitting or telling the teacher.

Physical (Fine/Gross): Because of the heat, our outside time is often short. But when we are inside the children love to sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", "Shake the Wiggles Out", use the beanbags to toss or pass to the music. We also have a shark mouth beanbag toss, and 5 senses beanbag toss game. All these activities help to engage both fine and gross motor skills.

Reminders: Please send in family pictures. The pictures will not be returned, the children will be using them in various projects. Show and Share will be on the first Thursday of each month. Please keep toys at home unless there is a special something your child likes to nap with. Please send in pull-ups if your child needs them to nap in.

Thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a great month!

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CLASSIFIED/WANTED ADS

Free Classified/Wanted advertising for current families: Please submit a 50 word or less classified ad to sell or buy anything from A-Z to melaniejo@cox.net by 25th of month for placement in next PVCS monthly newsletter.



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Contact Teacher

Kristen

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