



CHURCH
HEALTH
CENTER

Perea
Preschool

Perea's Place

MARCH 2012

A Word From Ms. Alicia...

Spring has finally sprung! It is an exciting time of year at Perea. Soccer playoffs, Easter egg hunts, family Zoo day and our big Promotion Day are all just around the corner. Children are busy learning and teachers are busy teaching, but in the midst of all our busyness is something you can't see. Behind the scene our teachers and staff are diligently working on NAEYC Accreditation. It is our goal to ensure that we offer the highest level of quality within our program. With Early Childhood Education being a major focus now, parents need to be able to choose from the best preschools available. Perea Preschool has earned Three Stars through the State of Tennessee every year since we've been in operation. We practice the High Scope curriculum, a research-based teaching method developed for at-risk children with over 40 years of success. We have the best Parent Engagement program that fits the needs of each individual family. And now we are in the final stages of achieving the highest mark of quality in Early Childhood Education, NAEYC accreditation

NAEYC, The National Association of the Education of Young Children is considered "the mark of quality in Early Childhood Education". NAEYC was established in 1926 with the goal of ensuring high quality programs serving young children. It is a very tedious process that takes approximately 18-24 months to accomplish. We are more than 1/2 way through the process with a target completion time frame of early Fall 2012. NAEYC focuses on four major areas within EC programs; children, teaching staff, administration and partnerships (community and family). These four major areas are covered under ten different standards with a total of 413 criteria to meet. No stone is left unturned during this process. It is with great pleasure that I lead our team through such a defining moment in our school history. Although it is very exhausting for our staff right now, we know that the end reward will not only benefit our students and families, but our staff as well. We anxiously work towards and wait on the day that we achieve yet another milestone at Perea Preschool. Please join with us as we answer the call for high quality preschools and centers for children throughout the city of Memphis and across the state of Tennessee.

For His Children,
Ms. Alicia

Upcoming Events

April 5

Easter Celebrations and Egg Hunts

April 6-9, NO SCHOOL

Easter Break

April 12

Soccer Playoff

April 27, NO SCHOOL

Parent/Teacher Conferences

May 3

Parent Appreciation Cookout

May 11

Promotion Ceremony

"Then little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them, but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' When He had placed His hands on them and blessed them, He went on from there and the region was that of Perea."

Matthew 19:14



Spreading the Love



Valentine's Day provided an opportunity for Perea Preschool students to travel around the world and burn up the dance floor. The Pre-K 3 students celebrated the holiday with "International Love Day." Students were treated to food and cultural lessons from the United States, China, Italy, and Mexico without having to leave the building. The Pre-K 4 students had a Valentine's Day dance that had the whole school jumping. Even Ms. Alicia and Ms. Valarie got in on the action. The teachers took this special day of candy and flowers, and made it a learning experience the students will not soon forget.



Special Times

Black History Month Moments



Black History Month is a chance for our students to learn about the many African-Americans who have made contributions to American culture. This year we were entertained and educated about the lives of Rosa Parks(Northside High School Student Council), George Washington Carver(Ms. Robin & Ms. Jennifer's Pre-K 3 class), Valerie Thomas,

Thomas Stewart, and Kevin Clash(Ms. Marchelle & Ms. Terri's Pre-K 4 class). February provides a spotlight for these great African-Americans, but it is our goal to make sure our students are always aware of the contributions being made every day by African-Americans that are shaping our country.



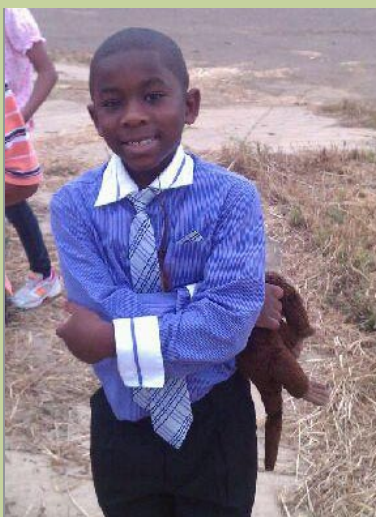
Alumni Spotlight

Testing in education is a hot topic today. Should teachers be evaluated on students' test scores? Should children's test scores be used to rank the performance of a school? Everyone has an opinion on these issues, but the fact remains that a child's standardized test scores can accurately reflect their level of academic achievement. To that end, Perea Preschool tracks the progress of our alumni to make sure that the gains they made in preschool were not lost.

One of our former students, Tyler Hanner, has risen to the top in this category. Tyler, the son of Ms. Marchelle Hanner(Pre-K 4 teacher), is a first grader at Memphis College Prep Charter School. On the Terra Nova Assessment Tyler scored in the 99th percentile for children his age across the

nation. Ms. Hanner has no doubt that the start he got at Perea helped Tyler get where he is today. "Tyler's creativity and curiosity were fostered in Ms. Robin's classroom, and he was allowed to learn through his own explorations." Ms. Robin remembers Tyler "always extending his curiosity outside the classroom and bringing ideas from home." Bridging that gap between school and home is one of the major reason for our success.

While Tyler's score stood out, all of our young alumni excelled. Perea students at Memphis College Prep had an average score in the 92nd percentile. As early childhood professionals it is our main goal to make sure that our children are prepared for kindergarten. As Perea Preschool teachers it is our main goal to make sure that our children are prepared for kindergarten and **beyond**.



Perea's Got Talent

Family Talent Show

Anyone who takes a walk through the halls of Perea notices that our children love to sing and dance, but who would have imagined the level of talent that our families had?! There was not an empty seat in the Klondike cafeteria. The show began with Ms. Foster (Daniel Foster's mother) singing "I Will Always Love You," and everyone that stayed was treated to a rousing final performance by Roman Austin (Ms. Katie's son). Each class also performed, and Ms. Annie and Ms. Kennetha's class had the audience in stitches with their comedy routine. There was dancing by Madison Davis; a performance by the Perea contingent of the Watoto De'Afrika performing arts group; Jada Jackson singing and dancing; Kiara Norman (Ms. Alicia's daughter) dancing; and Charley and Macy Cavitt singing with their father Jathaniel (Ms. Jennifer's Family).

The level of talent was extremely high, and the countdown is already on for next year. So do your vocal exercises and practice your dance moves so that you can be the next Perea Idol.



Watoto De'Africa

Five Perea students earned scholarships to participate in the Watoto De'Africa performing arts program. These children were immersed in a variety of Afro-centric performing arts, including music, dance, and literary styles. The culmination of their hard work was a performance at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. Perea students joined other Memphis-area children in lighting up the stage with a dance to "All Around the Kitchen."

The participating Perea students were: Donna Moses, Jada Dickens, Madison Baker, Gabrielle Hall, and Jace Harris.



Spotlight on the Classroom

Highscope Moment

Why Active Learning Works.....

Active learning will only work in a Perea High/Scope classroom if CLAMM (Choice, Language, Adult Support, Materials and Manipulation) is present. Another great thing about Active Learning is that the children are allowed to bring their experiences from home, church and other activities that show their interests. The children and teachers are partners during this active learning experience. The following anecdotal note will show you exactly how CLAMM works during the day in our High/Scope classrooms.

Anecdotal notes are used by the teachers to track each student's progress. Throughout the day teachers take notes on what the children do and say. These notes are then entered into the Child Observation Record (COR) where they are scored on a 0-5 scale. COR is broken down into academic and social areas, and the results allow teachers to track a child's progress over two years and present the parents with a "report card." New innovations in COR now allow teachers to link video and photographic evidence to their anecdotal notes. While standardized tests offer a snapshot of how a child is performing in the classroom, COR allows teachers and parents a more detailed look at a student's academic and social growth.

Anecdotal Note: In the Activity Room during Before Care, Vanterrio said "I beat my drums." Vanterrio used tinkertoys to build a "drum set." After he built his drum set, we noticed he was singing in his "microphone" that he built with tinkertoys as well. *Please see photograph. Every time he did a beat, he sang "Yeah, yeah yeah" in his microphone. We see this kind of active learning on a daily basis. Children are given a choice of materials (tinkertoys) to make their creations. They are allowed to have language with their teachers to discuss what they have created ("I beat my drums"). The teachers give the children adult support as they play with their creations (Ms. Valarie and Ms. Kassitee were in the audience as Vanterrio beat his drums and sang into his microphone). The children are privileged to use as many materials as they choose from any of the areas in the

classroom. Once the children choose their materials, they are allowed to manipulate them in any way they choose that is developmentally appropriate. The best way to see active learning work is to visit our classrooms. You will be amazed of the way the children use the materials to role play different experiences.





Volunteer Corner

Perea was blessed with a visit from six students from Friends University in Wichita, KS. These young men showed the true meaning of service in their two days on our campus. They jumped right in and led a chapel that will go down in Perea lore as one of the best ever, and even got their hands dirty doing some gardening. But their impact was felt most strongly in the classroom, where their contagious energy filled the rooms.

These young men decided to spend their spring break in Memphis serving a community they knew nothing about. Their example of selflessness is one that re-energized the entire Perea staff.

Volunteer Hours

January/February

921

Community Volunteers = 126 hrs

Parent Volunteers = 795 hrs

Check us out on Facebook for all the latest happenings at Perea Preschool.

Anyone interested in blessing Perea with their talents, time, and gifts should contact Ms. Kassitee Poole at poolek@pereapreschool.org or 901.726.4300.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Ms. Kassitee Poole at poolek@pereapreschool.org or 901.726.4300