

FAIR ACRES NEWS

Official newsletter of Fair Acres Country Day School & Summer Camp



We're Off and Running!

It's been a fun-filled Fall here at Fair Acres! The children have been very busy playing, making new friends, learning about the environment, writing, reading, and developing their math skills. At this year's Parents' Night, families had the opportunity to meet their child's teachers, view an array of impressive art projects and learn about the exciting themes planned for the coming year. As always, outdoor physical play is an integral and treasured part of our daily curriculum.

Hola Spanish For Kids

New this year, our Kindergarten class has added a foreign language to their schedule. *Hola Spanish for Kids* is a Falmouth based program run by Maria Pechuk. This weekly Spanish class uses physical movement and activities to help reinforce the lessons. Senoritas Maria and Veronica are both native Spanish speakers who create the exciting lessons for our students. How is it going? Just say "Hola" to one of our Kindergarten students and wait for their response!



Decodable Readers

Our Kindergarten students have been enjoying reading aloud in their weekly decodable readers. Fair Acres takes every measure to provide your child with a solid foundation in reading, integrating a variety of the foremost programs into the curriculum, including the Scott Foresman Reading Street and Lively Letters programs. These lessons address the core areas of reading instruction, which are: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Text Comprehension.

Learn to Skate Program

Fair Acres' *Learn to Skate* program is back by popular demand! We are proud of the long list of hockey players and figure skaters we have produced over the years! Please join us each Friday, from Jan. 19 – Feb. 9, for a fun morning of skating at the Hyannis Youth & Community Center. Watch for the sign-up sheets coming out before Christmas...

Community Food Drive

This Fall, the Kindergarten class held a food drive to benefit the Sandwich Food Pantry. Students collected food donations, over the course of a week, from many of our generous Fair Acres families. In addition to the lesson on community support and kindness, students learned about advertising, collecting, sorting, counting, weighing and estimating. A total of 371 items were loaded up and delivered by Miss Jodi, just in time for Thanksgiving! Thank you to Miss Linda for coordinating this event. We are grateful to our families for the opportunity to share with those in need.



Dates to Remember

- Holiday Recess: December 22 - January 1. We will re-open on January 2.
- January , 2018: Fair Acres will launch its brand new website!
- MLK Jr. Day – Closed Monday, January 15



Bike Riding 101

Why is it important for my child to learn how to ride a bike? Our Fall bike days are over, and while we wait for the Spring to bring the return of good weather, let's take a look at the importance of learning to ride a bike. According to Katy Smith, Licensed PT Asst. with MedCentral Pediatric Therapy, the skills required to ride a bicycle are multifaceted and very beneficial.

Learning to ride a bike helps children develop:

- Good core stability and balance,
- Visual and bilateral coordination skills and
- Overall strength and endurance.
- A child also needs to have well-established vestibular system which coordinates information from around the body, including the inner ear, eyes, muscles, joints and skin and adjusts heart rate, blood pressure, muscle tone, limb position, immune responses and balance.
- The proprioceptive sense which refers to the sensory input and feedback that tells us about movement and body position. Its "receptors" are located within our muscles, joints, ligaments, tendons and connective tissues."

Nurturing Nature

Earlier this Fall, the Kindergarten class prepared a garden area to plant milk weeds for their Monarch Butterflies, which they studied, observed hatch, then released. One of our students brought in a pair of caterpillars climbing on Milk Weed stalks, and when the time came for them to spin their chrysalis, one of the caterpillars climbed into the student's cubby to make his transition! The students all voted on a name for each of the butterflies before setting them free. Above you can see "September," the Monarch getting ready to take flight.



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Thanksgiving Feast

This year, all of the Fair Acres students enjoyed recounting the story of the first Thanksgiving harvest that the Pilgrims and Native Americans shared. In celebration, the children sang songs, then sat down for their own delicious feast, which included: cornbread, cheese, grapes, mashed potato, cinnamon apples, green beans, stuffing and pumpkin pudding.



Summer Camp

Our 2017 Summer Camp was a big hit! What a fantastic summer we had here, at Fair Acres. Good ol' camp fun was had by all - some of the most memorable camp experiences included: Color Wars, a visit from the "Fried Dough Truck" during Carnival Day, sliding down the 100' water slide, dressing up for "Sports Day," and of course, telling camp stories at Camp Fire Night. Every summer gets a little bit bigger and better here at Fair Acres Summer Day Camp, and the summer of 2018 is shaping up to be the best yet! Start to consider your summer camp plans early, as camp spots fill up fast. Camp registration will open in March!

Visit fairacrescapecod.com
for more information and
to register!

Welcome New Staff

Tracy Hilfrank



In 2016, Tracy and her husband Brian moved to Mashpee from Norfolk where they raised two daughters. Her eldest daughter currently is in graduate school at The University of Michigan and her youngest is a senior at Gettysburg College. Tracy has enjoyed teaching preschool and pre-k for the past 15 years. She is very excited to become part of the Fair Acres teaching team along with co-teacher, Julie Morris. When she is not teaching, Tracy can be found on the golf course, beach or traveling to her daughter's cross-country meets.

Joyce McGrath



Joyce lives in Hyannisport with her husband and yellow lab, Coral. Before joining Fair Acres, Joyce was the Lead Teacher of the Little Raiders Infant & Toddler classroom for 13 years. Joyce also ran a home day care program for 16 years. She is very excited to begin her new adventures in the 3's Room with Miss Jen. In her free time, she can be found walking Coral on the beach, swimming and spending time with her two sons Patrick and Tim.

Welcome New Staff

Gina DiCecco



Gina began working at Fair Acres, as a substitute teacher, two years ago. She has since graduated from Merrimack College with her B.A. in Human Development: Early Childhood Education. Gina is excited to be team teaching in Pre-K with Tracy Prete. She currently resides in Falmouth with her family. In her spare time, Gina works as a women's fitness coach through Beachbody

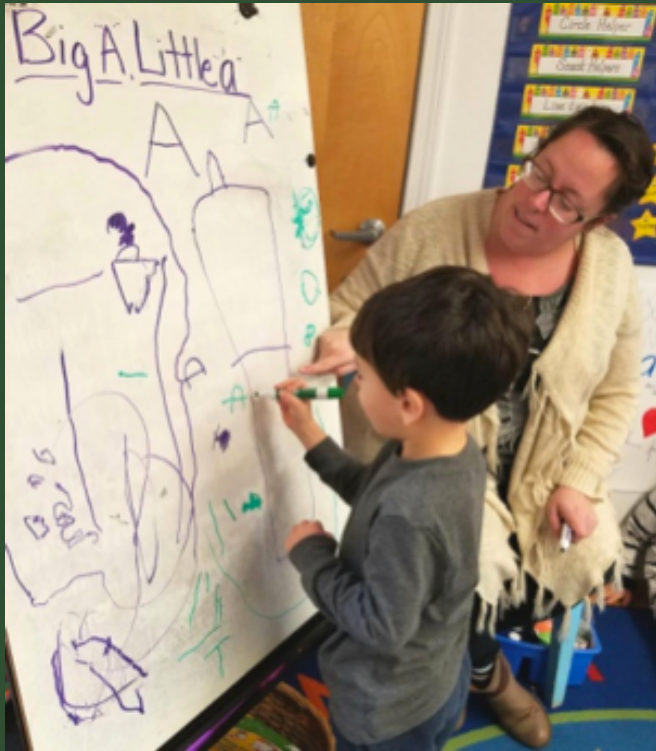
Julie Morris



Julie is excited to be a member of the Fair Acres Family. She graduated from Wheelock College in 1990 and has worked in early childhood education for almost 30 years. She and her husband have 2 wonderful children, Zachary, 24 and Arianna, 18. Her daughter just began her freshman year at Salem State University. In June, they relocated from Reading and now reside in East Dennis. Julie is looking forward to an exciting journey team teaching with Tracy Hilfrank in the 5 Day Pre-K classroom.

Fun Staff Facts

Miss Jen: In high school, Miss Jen was a Majorette and participated in baton twirling competitions with her high school marching band.



Miss Linda: She has seen the "Wizard of Oz" over 100 times and as a child, she would tell people that the Good Witch's name was Linda, not Glinda!



Miss Julie: She is a brown belt in Karate and won first place in a tournament.

