



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Newsletter of Village Academy North, Inc.

Ah, sunny Florida. Isn't this a Chamber of Commerce week for weather? Your children are probably going home with a bit of cabin fever, since there is no outside play. We are always prepared for rainy day activities,

and that doesn't involve TV or video games. If you need some new ideas on how to spend a creative, engaging rainy day with your child, ask the teacher. It can be fun and very educational for everyone.

VILLAGE
ACADEMY NORTH

FLU SCARE

CURIOSITY CAMPS

VPK / JPK
GRADUATIONS

VOLUME III, ISSUE 5
DATE: MAY, 2009

Village Academy North, Inc.
5970 US-1 N
St Augustine, FL 32095

(O) 904.824.7997
(F) 904.824.2344

info@village-academynorth
www.village-academynorth.com

FLU SCARE

At the moment, many of us might be thinking the swine flu panic was "much ado about nothing". Maybe...but maybe not.

This strain of flu doesn't seem particularly harmful. After all, 3 Americans have died from it, while more than 20,000 have died this year from the more typical flu strains. So what's the issue?

The Spanish flu of 1918, widely regarded as the worst in modern history, started out as relatively benign. But it came back 4 months later in mutated - and very deadly - form. That's the concern about the swine flu: that it could mutate and come back virulently during flu season.

Here at *North*, we are paying very special attention to cleanliness, handwashing, and sanitizing of toys and play surfaces. We will be installing a hand sanitizer station at the front door that

we will ask all adults to use. We also ask that your children follow our handwashing guidelines at home. At school, your children always wash hands before eating, after eating, after potty, and after being on the playground. Please keep those same habits at home.

CURIOSITY CAMPS

We're very excited about a new summer program that we are going to offer for 4-6 year old children, including post-Kindergarten. We call it "Curiosity Camps".

We will have 5 camps this summer, each one week long, meeting daily from 9 - 12, just like VPK hours. Each will have a specific theme and an intense, fun curriculum.

- Iron Chefs
- Mad Science Lab
- Van "GO" Arts & Crafts
- Move It! Sports Camp
- Prehistoric Giants

The cost is \$75 plus field trips as applicable (\$35 for full-time children). For more details, pick up a brochure at the front desk.

GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Hard to believe it is that time already, but we will soon be holding our graduations. The schedule is:

- June 8 - Miss Sam
- June 9 - Miss Ashley
- June 10 - Miss Whitney
- June 11 - Miss Amanda and Miss Lori

VPK graduations begin at 7:00 pm. JPK graduation begins at 6:30.

POLICE REQUEST

The Sheriff's office requests parents park on only one side of Island Landing Road. Parking on both sides reduces access to only a single lane.

FALL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

VPK parents, when you start making your arrangements for you new kindergartener, don't forget the Village Academy *North* After School program. We pick the children up in our air-conditioned, seatbelt-equipped vehicles. We provide a snack, homework time, and rotations through a variety of ever-changing, fun activities. And remember, we are open on at least 16 of the days the elementary school after-school programs are closed - days when you have to still be at work.

DATES TO REMEMBER	MAY 25 Memorial Day Village Closed	JUN 6-11 Village <i>North</i> Graduations	JUN 15 VPK Round-Up Ponce Mall	JUN 15 SUMMER CAMP & Summer VPK Begin
--------------------------	---	--	--	---

SUMMER ATTENDANCE

At our main campus, we tend to lose about 4-6 children for the summer. Last year at *North*, we lost 24 children for the summer, and we basically had no prior notice. We found ourselves with extra staff and a very precarious revenue situation that we don't want to repeat.

If you plan to withdraw your child for the summer, you should pay your annual renewal fee before you leave and let us know your expected return date. We can't guarantee a place in the fall, but will give you priority on the waiting list. If we start to fill up during the summer, we'll call you and give you the chance to return early to save your child's position.

FALLING FURNITURE INJURIES

A couple of weeks ago, a 2-year old child was killed in Jacksonville when she pulled a huge flat screen TV down on her. I did a little research, and the findings aren't very comforting. Over the last 18 years, injuries from furniture tip-overs are up 40%. Over 14,000 people are injured each year, most are under 6, and most are injured from falling televisions. How secure are the heavy objects in your home? If your flat screen TV is on a shelf that you can't drill into, just fasten a restraining strap to the wall behind the TV and attach it to the back of the set. Children climb and pull on things...it is better to be safe and avoid an unnecessary tragedy.

VPK REFRESHER CAMP

As every parent knows from their own school days, the crazy schedule our public schools keep means we have a long summer to forget what we learned during the year. Then, we spend time at the beginning of the school year just re-learning. We'd like to change that for our VPK graduates heading for Kindergarten. Your child will be tested the first week or two of school. These tests measure letter recognition, recognizing and discussing pictures, letter sounds, and sight word recognition. The results of the tests determine at what level of curriculum your child will begin. We are considering holding a one-week VPK refresher camp during the week before school starts, to maximize your child's performance on the tests. We'll be asking you for an expression of interest in this camp.

ADMIN NOTES

It's bug and sunburn time. Please make sure your child has both insect spray and sunscreen, and that you have signed the appropriate medicine forms. We can't put anything on your child without a signed form... Does your child have a change of summer clothes? Please be sure to label them...Remember to clock in and out; it keeps DCF happy...Morning academics start at 9:00. Please be here on time...We will probably not offer Before School service for elementary age children this fall. The demand isn't sufficiently high to warrant it.