

Read America

Praxis Education Center ♥ Chrysalis School

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Back-to-School 2008 NEWSLETTER

A Busy Summer— In June it was summer camp. In early July Miss Carmen was off to the DIR/Institute. In late July Praxis Education Center and Chrysalis School hosted teachers from around the US, Canada, and Great Britain for our Phono-Graphix, Most Challenging 100 Students, and Clay Math certification courses. And we had no rest in early August with interns and out of town clients. School will seem like a vacation after this summer!

Welcome to New Teachers/Therapists— Please welcome Margaret Blauvelt our new co-teacher. Margaret is a Montessori elementary teacher with 20 years of experience working with children with special educational challenges. She joins us from Vancouver, BC where she has been living and working while completing additional Montessori training. Prior to Canada Margaret lived and worked in Oregon. Her parents live in South Florida, so Margaret is no stranger to the South and our warmer climate. We're thrilled to have Margaret on our team.

Also joining us this summer and into the school year is Ashley Whittaker, a speech and language pathologist. With PROMPT training and several years of experience with Seminole County Schools Ashley's services are a fabulous addition to what we offer our students in need of speech and language therapy.

You will also see Diane Norton, OTR at Chrysalis this year. Diane is an occupational therapist working with and for the Elks' community outreach program which supplies occupational therapy services to qualifying children in Seminole, Orange, and Lake counties. Diane, and her work with the Elks is highly regarded throughout Central Florida. We've very fortunate to have her coming to the school to support our qualifying students.

Teacher Work Week— The Chrysalis staff will officially convene the week of August 11th for our teacher work week. Lots to do and precious little time with school *just around the corner!*

Student Records— If you haven't returned your school records request forms, etc., please do. You're welcome to stop by the school with them. If we have them we have made a records request. Sometimes it takes two or three requests before records are sent. Needless to say we'll stay on top of it.

Pictures Please— If you could send us a picture of your child we will use it on his school cubby box and also on his work folder. You can email pics to Miss Carmen at chrysalisschool@aol.com. If you don't have a current pic don't worry, we'll take a pic of your child on the first day of school and make the label for day two.

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First Day of School— The first day of classes for the 2008/09 school year is August 18th.

Arrival and Dismissal: Our school business hours are 8:30 to 1:30 with student arrival between 8:45 and 9:00 and student dismissal between 1:00 and 1:15. In the interest of safety and everyone's peace of mind we ask that parents please park and escort your child into the classroom.

Provisions and Such: We do not have a supply list. We'll provide the children with educational supplies through the school year. If we have any special requests along the way we'll let you know. You are more than welcome to bring a change of clothes if you feel it's needed. Most of the parents have indicated that they will be packing a lunch.. But with our short school day it's entirely up to you if you prefer to feed your child after school. We'll always have a light, healthy snack on hand for children who do not bring lunch. If you do pack a lunch be sure to include a drink and please remember that we do not have a refrigerator and you will need to include a cold pack if there is anything that requires cool temps included in your child's lunch bag. Please make sure your child has a healthy breakfast before coming to school. It's really important to maintaining energy for learning and having fun.

McKay Scholarship Funding— Everyone has been registered and confirmed on the McKay website. The following appears on the McKay website 'administrative section for private schools, *"Payments will be made in four equal installments (September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1). The payment must be made by individual warrant (check) payable to the student's parent or guardian and mailed by the Department of Education to the private school. The parent must restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school for deposit into the private school's account."* We will let you know when tuition arrives. The funding check must be endorsed by the parent who was named when you initiated the McKay process with the Department of Education. We're prohibited from sending checks home for endorsement. We appreciate the McKay parent coming by to endorse the check at your earliest convenience after we let you know they've arrived.

Calendar— The school calendar is on the website Schedule & Calendar page. Please download a copy and keep it handy. It is almost exactly the same as Seminole Public Schools. We do have one extra day off at Thanksgiving and also Spring Break. We like our family time!

Communication— There is a sign-in and sign-out sheet in a bin over the student cubby area in the main hall as you approach the classroom. In the same bin you'll find a folder with your child's name on it. This is our communication center. Being a small school we shouldn't have much need for paperwork, but please do check it daily just in case. Please also feel welcome to touch base when your child arrives and leaves every day. And don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or suggestions.

Volunteers are Always Welcome— If you're interested in signing up as a volunteer to support the school during teacher absence and in general volunteer work, please let us know. Volunteers in Florida schools are required to undergo an FBI background clearance. This requires a drive to Orlando and a fingerprinting, and takes about week to receive the clearance, so do plan ahead if you're interested. We'll be pleased to pay the fees for volunteer screenings.

*Miss Carmen and the rest of
the team of Chrysalis School*

