



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Newsletter of Village Academy North, Inc.

Cold. Again. Isn't this Florida? Ah, well, I guess it has to warm up someday. If you are trying to get warm, think warm: Think Summer! We already are thinking about summer 2010 and the fun and exciting programs

we will offer. We'll have Summer Camp for school age; post-VPK Summer Camp, and we are bringing back are highly successful 1-week Curiosity Camps for ages 4-7. Aren't you feeling warmer already?

VILLAGE ACADEMY NORTH

TREATING EAR INFECTIONS

LOBBY FOR VPK FUNDS

NEW TODDLER PROGRAMS

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

(O) 904.824.7997
(F) 904.824.2344

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

EAR INFECTIONS

Ear infections seem to be a standard part of childhood - accounting for over 16 million doctor visits annually. According to an article in the Wall St Journal, more than 75% of children will suffer an ear infection before age 5!

Recently, a new recommendation has been released by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. They recommend deferring any antibiotics for 24-48 hours to see if the infection clears up by itself. If there is pain, ibuprofen for children is the recommended treatment.

It is a tough decision for parents, especially when their child is hurting. The number one reason more doctors don't defer prescribing antibiotics? 65% said the parents demanded it.

We aren't offering a recommendation here, just some information and something to think about.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As we told you in the last newsletter, this year's VPK funding has still not been fully authorized (and this is February!), and next year's looks to be \$38 million short.

Starting Monday, we will have a sample letter prepared for you to send your state senator and representative. You can use it as a template, or just sign it and mail it, or we will mail it for you. Please stop at the front desk and ask for them. The staff will ask you for your zip+4 so that we can be sure you send the letter to the correct legislator (the districts are very gerrymandered).

We - and your children - really need your help. So please - write your legislator.

NEW TODDLER PROGRAMS

We are very excited about new changes we are making to the Toddler program.

We have not had many infants in the last 8 months. We think part of the reason is because the swine flu scare kept many infants at home. Meanwhile, we found ourselves turning away Toddlers. So we have rearranged our rooms.

Infants are now in the small room attached to the former Toddler room. (It was originally designed to be our infant room.) That room is for non-mobile infants, and gives the teacher more opportunity for interaction with each baby. When your child becomes mobile and ready for table food, we will move to the outer room, now designated as the Young Toddler room.

When developmentally ready, normally around 16 months, the next move is to the Toddler room (the former infant room). Having a divided room allows us to have different learning areas. Finally, 2-year olds who turned two after the Sep 1, 2009 cutoff will be in JPS where we will teach the 2-year old curriculum.

CAR SEATS AND SEAT BELTS - ITS THE LAW

Our teachers are very concerned about repeated incidents of parents driving away without children being safely buckled into a car seat. Parents, not only is that unsafe it is illegal. If this continues, we plan to invite the St Johns County Sheriff to provide a deputy to encourage compliance with the law. Please, protect your children!

	MAR 5	MAR 17	MAR 19	MAR 29 - APR 6
DATES TO REMEMBER	VPK Field Trip to Ring Power	St Patrick's Day - wear your green!	VPK Field Trip to Pump It Up	St Johns County Schools Closed (Village North Open)

PARENT POLICIES UPDATE

The front desk staff is providing each parent with a copy of changes to the Parent Policies and Procedures contract and asking for your signature acknowledging receipt. Many of these changes are the result of new mandates from the Department of Children and Families, so we appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

SPRING BREAK

We don't get one, but St Johns County Schools does! Their break is from March 27 to April 6th (note that Monday the 5th there is no school). There will be no VPK that week. We are open that entire time, and we will have activities for both VPK students and our After School students. Please let the front desk know if your child will be attending.

PRODUCT RECALLS

Do you ever check the Consumer Product Safety Commission web site for product recalls? Here's the link: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>. Right now, there are recalls of Pull-a-long pull toys, Britax "Blink" umbrella strollers, Tiny Love wind chime toys, Discovery Kids Animated Marine and Safari Lamps, and all Generation 2 Worldwide and ChildESIGNS drop side cribs. If you own any of these products, please see the web site to determine if your unit has been recalled. This is important; the stroller was recalled as a finger amputation hazard, and the cribs have resulted in infant deaths.

WHAT'S THAT COMING OUT OF HER NOSE?

Bet that got your attention. We know you sometimes go into your child's classroom, and several children will have runny noses. And you know that we have very specific policies about when children with constant nasal discharge have to go home. But what if it is clear? We have consulted with physicians and this is the standard answer: if it is clear there is no infection, they are not communicable, and it is probably an allergy.

ADMIN NOTES

Don't forget that there is a recall of Children's Motrin (caplet and chewable) and Children's Tylenol (Meltaway)... Can you donate any used clothing for ages 1-4? We can use some spare clothes to deal with accidents...Please read to your child - every night...VPK parents, please remember to sign the attendance book.