

## Approaches to Learning

Respect, responsibility and community are our core Lower School values. Teachers, counselors and administrators work throughout the year to teach, model and reinforce values. Our goal is to guide our students to develop positive social interactions and positive approaches to learning that will continue to grow throughout our students' school careers. Each quarter, students will receive a formal report card detailing their learning progress on specific skills being taught that quarter. As well, we report on the following areas we call 'Approaches to Learning:'

- Shows interest and curiosity as a learner
- Participates in large and small groups
- Uses classroom materials respectfully
- Shows some self direction in action
- Accepts teacher orientation
- Seeks help when necessary
- Persists on tasks
- Listens attentively
- Maintains focus for a 10 min. presentation
- Participates in classroom activities
- Follows classroom rules
- Works independently
- Works cooperatively

## Parent Involvement

You are your child's most important teacher and our valued partners. We welcome your involvement in our school and classrooms. Please watch for opportunities for volunteering at school and supporting your child's learning at home.

## Welcome to our Lower School!

We are a dynamic and caring learning community committed to effective and innovative teaching methods, a meaningful and well rounded curriculum, and supportive relationships between teachers, students and parents.

Our educational program is advanced by a highly qualified and dedicated professional staff comprised of home-room teachers, Specialist and Portuguese teachers, and student support professionals in the counseling and student services departments.

We are delighted that you are a part of our community. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and thank you in advance for all that you will do to support your child's learning experience with us.

Warm regards,

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WELCOME  
TO  
PRESCHOOL!  
ESCOLA AMERICANA  
2008-2009



**This pamphlet briefly highlights the essential skills, concepts and thematic units that Preschool students will be taught this year. We hope it will help you anticipate, support and celebrate your child's learning experience this year.**

### **English Language Learning**

Preschool is a precious and critically important phase for children. Our young students are immersed in a nurturing, holistic, enthusiastic and literacy rich learning environment where they are engaged in a variety of exploratory and purposefully guided language learning experiences that develop communication skills, nurture relationships and build self confidence.

By the end of Preschool students will:

- Listen with understanding to conversation
- Sing simple songs and repeat rhymes and finger plays
- Use English to communicate needs and ideas
- Listen with interest to stories read aloud
- Retell information and details from a story
- Make predictions about story parts using a picture as a guide
- Show phonological awareness
- Follow a two to three step sequence of actions

### **Math**

This year we will begin the Preschool Everyday Math program which is hot off the press, joining K-6th grades. The Everyday Math program is research based and is both hands-on and interactive. Children develop a strong background by learning concepts and skills in the following content areas:

*Numbers and Numeration* — Verbally count in sequence to 10 and beyond; count objects with one to one correspondence; develop an awareness of numbers; associate number names, quantities, and written numerals; recognize numbers

*Operations and Computation* — Solve and create number stories using concrete modeling; explore part-whole relationships (for example, 5 is made of 2 and 3)

*Data and Chance* — Collect and represent data in a variety of ways, focusing on concrete and pictorial representations; use graphs to answer simple questions

*Measurement* — Distinguish and describe size attributes, including length, weight; compare objects according to various size attributes; sequence familiar events in time

*Geometry* — Recognize and describe the position and location of objects; use spatial reasoning in concrete tasks such as putting together puzzles and block structures; recognize and describe basic geometric shapes

### **Science and Social Studies**

By the end of Lower School, both our Science and Social Studies programs endeavor to develop students who are curious, capable, critical and proactive thinkers. Units explore specific themes through activity based learning and integrate with our Language Arts curriculum.

Key Thematic Units in Preschool include the following:

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- Our Classroom: friendship and familiarization with the school environment
- All about Me: sense of self, responsibility for self and others; use of thinking skills to solve problems,
- Families: family members and family dynamics
- Holidays around the World: appreciation and celebration of different cultures represented in our classroom

### **'SPECIALS' in PRESCHOOL**

#### **Music**

Preschool students learn many action, rhyme, chants and movement songs throughout the year. They move, tap, play a steady beat, and learn about different voice variations. Parents and students alike love our biannual presentations.

#### **Visual Arts**

Homeroom teachers integrate the arts into thematic units. As well, our students love their weekly art classes where they are exposed to the world of art and artists, techniques and materials. Geometric and organic shapes, primary colors, collage, and painting are amongst mediums explored.

#### **Cooking and Gardening**

Students are involved in delightful, hands-on cooking and gardening activities throughout the year integrated with celebrations and themes being studied in homeroom classes.

#### **Physical Education**

We explore movement, adventure learning, body awareness, rhythmic activities and motor skills throughout the year.

#### **Library / Media Center**

Students are exposed to quality children's literature from Fairy and Folk tales to contemporary authors and illustrators from around the world through a variety picture books, puppet shows, and storytellers.