



1WC STRONGSTARTS: EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

- ❖ **Alpha Academies:** Five-year partnership with Audubon Area Head Start to serve birth to five year olds. The academies are located at Sebree and Providence School campuses. There are two six months to 3-year-old classrooms at the Providence campus. There is one six months to 3-year-old classroom and one three to five year old classroom on the Sebree campus.
- ❖ **Born Learning Academies:** All four elementary schools have obtained Born Learning Grants through the Cabinet for Families and Children. Family Resource Center coordinates and plans the family education classes. Daycare services are provided along with food during the classes. Providence & Clay Elementary have a culminating dinner and class. T
- ❖ **Tiny Trojans in Training:** Webster County Early Childhood Council targeted two year olds in the county and had an event at our local Extension office for them and their families. The event had booths and activities for the children and parents. They received information on appropriate developmental skills.
- ❖ **Little Trojan Backpacks:** Webster County Early Childhood Council, WC Schools, and Family Resource Centers purchased backpacks for all three to five year olds and filled them with developmental materials for each age level. The backpacks were given out at the countywide preschool screenings, kindergarten family fun nights, and kindergarten jumpstart.
- ❖ **Preschool Tier 2 Partnership Grant:** A grant for \$150,000 to provide full day preschool to at-risk children. Webster County Schools partnered with Audubon Area Head Start to provide full day preschool at the two preschool locations that serve the Alpha Academies. Thirty-five at-risk children targeted to be served and all thirty-five slots are full with a waiting list. In April, we will be able to reapply for a continuation grant of the current services.
- ❖ **Kindergarten Family Fun Night:** Kindergarten families are invited to a family fun night in the spring to allow families to visit the school and participate in reading and math activities that occur in kindergarten. Teachers are provided with funds to give each child a book, writing books, pencils or crayons.
- ❖ **Kindergarten Jump Start:** Prior to the start of the new school year, kindergarten children are invited to come for two hours and spend time with the teacher and assistant. They run a mock day in kindergarten. Cafeteria staff is available and children get to eat lunch and see what lunch will be like during school. Transportation staff attends and brings a bus so the children can board and hear about bus safety and rules.
- ❖ **Future Kids2College Graduate Stickers & Shirts:** All preschool children who attended preschool screenings received stickers that told them they were "Future Kids2College Graduate" which is a scholarship program for graduates who meet the program criteria. Kindergarten students receive a t-shirt with same information. We believe now is the time to plant the seed that they can have two years of college provided for them if they work hard and meet the criteria when they graduate.

Kim Saalwaechter, Director of Special Education & Early Childhood
kim.saalwaechter@webster.kyschools.us or (270)639-3405