

Dear families,

The dark, gloomy days of fall are upon us, but preschool is still warm and cozy and having lots of fun! The month of October was a busy one indeed. Thank you families for the apple and pumpkin donations. Together we made yummy apple crisp that we shared together during meal times. The children voted on what type of face they wanted carved on our classroom pumpkin, the “happy” face won with a total of 7 votes. After carving our pumpkin we read the story Pumpkin Jack, which talks about the stages of a pumpkins growth and decay. We later took our jack “o” lantern out to Loose Parts Play so we can watch this process ourselves through careful observation over time. Of course we didn’t waste the pumpkin seeds, we baked then and had them as a snack during lunchtime!

Our field trip to Littlewood Farm was a success! Each child found a pumpkin of their own to bring back to school. We are keeping them in the classroom to decorate for our upcoming “Thankful Potluck” happening in November. Along with our pumpkins we dug up bright orange carrots from the ground and ate them right then and there, they were delicious! After our trip to the farm we changed our dramatic play area into a farm stand complete with eggs, cider, veggies, fruit and pumpkins for sale.

At the art area the play dough became a vehicle for building animal dens with natural materials we found outside such as pinecones, sticks and rocks. The children have also been working hard on their self-portraits during journal time to give to you at parent teacher conferences. At Loose Parts Play children have been busy raking leaves and making piles to jump in to together. What a wonderful group activity to work on together with a common goal in mind that they can all enjoy after their hard work is complete!

In the woods children continue to practice climbing trees, while others choose to make potions with the mortal and pestle, or create art from natural materials we find outside such as leaves, pinecones, acorns, sticks and stones. Out in the field children have loved playing the group game “mouse and owl” where some children act as mice hiding in the field, while others fly around as owl’s looking to catch their prey. During this game the children have to work together, have an awareness of themselves in space, recognize what others are doing and follow the rules of the game. There are many skills to practice while having tons of fun together.

Our Halloween parade was a success! The children created unique headpieces, which they wore around to each elementary classroom while shaking their tambourines and shouting, “Happy Halloween!” It was a fun and celebratory time shared by all.

I’ll leave you with a song the children have enjoyed acting out……

Four little leaves so happy they say

Were dancing around a tree one day

The wind came blowing through the town

And one little leaf came tumbling down

Continue this song counting down from 4, 3, 2, 1

**Important upcoming events**

* An invitation to the “Thankful Potluck” will be coming home soon! The Thankful Potluck will be on Tuesday the 22nd during school hours.
* Thanksgiving break: Wednesday 11/23-Friday 11/25
* Thank you for joining me at parent teacher conferences to share in the growth of your children!

Warmly,

Elaina, Emily, Dianne, Becca and Denise