

Looking back on our first month of school!



Dear families,

Children have been adapting to school life by learning the rules and routines of the school day, making friends and learning about themselves, others and the world around them. By now the children have learned the arrival routine of “hanging up their things, signing in, and washing their hands.” We use our mealtime to model being thankful to the Earth for providing us with such beautiful, delicious food by saying our “Thankful poem” before eating. At this time children and teachers come and sit together while sharing food and having conversations with one another. This is a tradition that holds true in every culture around the world and is no different in our classroom. What a beautiful time to help children learn how to listen to one another, take turns talking and share their thoughts and ideas. Indeed mealtime is an important part of our day.

During our morning meetings we sing our “Welcome In” song, and our “Listening song” (to remind us how to have our bodies as meeting) before we stand up for our moving song. Next we talk about what our day is going to look like by reviewing the daily schedule. The children have come to know and expect the flow of each day and the week, which helps them feel safe and comfortable in school. We usually end our meeting with a “go around” where we pass the talking stick around the circle and

everyone has a turn to share his or her thoughts on a topic. This teaches children how to feel comfortable sharing their ideas in a group, shows them that their thoughts and ideas are valued and how to take turns talking. To transition from meeting to line we sing the “Sah-sah croma neome woo cocomah” which comes from West African culture. The children clap their hands on their legs while learning to keep the beat to the song.

Each day we have a different adventure in school, on Tuesdays-“Loose Parts Play”, Wednesdays- Hike, Thursday- Woods, Friday Playground and Journal.

So far in Loose Parts Play we have painted on the easel outside, built obstacle courses, had pine cone tosses, played in the mud kitchen, worked with the wagons and vehicles, and had lots of pretend and imaginative play. On our hikes we have explored trails close to the building while observing the weather and the things we see around us, using all of our senses. We smell the air, look at the sky to take note of the weather that day, observe the mist rising from the grass and how the wind feels. Most recently we visited the “gnome houses” built out of sticks in the woods. The children’s eyes were filled with wonder as they took turns going in and out of the stick forts. Ask your children about “jumping rock”!

In our woods spot among the trees and nature sounds is where we do our storytelling. So far the children have listened to the story of the Three Little Bears which lead us into our “stick lesson” on how to find “just the right size” of stick as Goldilocks learned in the house of the three little bears. After listening to the story of Jack and the Giant Bean Stalk I gave a lesson on how to safely climb the trees in our woods spot in the way Jack climbed the beanstalk.

In the classroom we are learning how to choose an area we want to play in and “sign into” that area. Children have been exploring the block area, art area, dramatic play, manipulatives and puzzles and games. On Fridays the children enjoy playing on the playground before returning to the classroom to do journals. Here teachers give a lesson on how to draw themselves by adding details that they notice on their own bodies. Our self-portraits are up on display in the classroom.

We hope you are enjoying all the joys that fall has to offer. We would love to do some fall festivities in the classroom and so are asking for apple and pumpkin donations.

Please look out for a permission slip coming home in the next few weeks for a field trip to Littlewood Farm.

I will leave you with the poem we sing at our meeting in the woods.....

*“The Earth is strong beneath my feet
The sun shines bright above
Here I stand so straight and tall
All things I know and Love”*

*Warmly,
Preschool*