

Oct. 2017

Happy Fall!



Dear Parents,

Happy Fall! The children are learning our classroom procedures and routines and we are enjoying getting to know them.

A big "Thank You" to all of you who shared wonderful family pages for our **Fabulous Families** classroom book. The children will enjoy seeing their loved ones and sharing the pictures and stories with their friends.

If you have not joined our Facebook group and wish to, please let me know.

We are pleased to have college students helping in our class. The education students will be rotating through our classes during a 3 week period. We also have OT students who volunteer to meet a 15 hour requirement. This makes it very difficult for us to introduce you to all our helpers but please feel free to ask us or your child about our college friends. We appreciate their help and interaction with the children.

It has been an exciting start to our year! We are spending the few weeks of school learning how to be a friend and what it means to "Be Kind, Be Safe, and Be a Team Player." These concepts will continue to be reinforced throughout our year. We witnessed many butterflies emerging from their chrysalises and released them for their migration to Mexico. We will be doing some fun spider activities and making some tasty snacks and then continuing with fall activities. Children are encouraged to bring items of interest to share, such as nature items, books relevant to our topics,... Please refrain from allowing toys to come to school.

As we discuss different topics, we will be introducing and reviewing our letters, their sounds, and numerals. Please reinforce letter and numeral recognition any way you can: street signs, license plates, billboards, store signs, food packaging, ... They are everywhere! Take a moment to point them out!

Also, thank you for helping your child learn to print his/her name. I have been working with the children independently helping them form their letters correctly. Reminder, we use an upper case followed by lower case letters. Please practice name writing at home and have your child bring their "homework" to share with the class! Using a broken crayon helps with proper hand grip or placing a small item in the palm to be held with the ring finger



and pinkie. Ask me to show you this trick if your child has an improper pencil grip. Remember to say letter names as they write them. Many children are unable to recognize the letters in their names out of sequence.

Please dress your child for the appropriate weather; we will go outside whenever we can even as the temperature gets colder. Also, please label all items brought to school. Using masking tape with their name works great.

Vision Screening is being held October 18. This is a free service. You will receive a consent form next week. If you wish to have your child's vision evaluated, return the permission form.

Here's what's in store for the next few weeks:

- Oct. 2: Fire and Emergency Safety. (On Oct. 4 the Elizabethtown Fire Company will be bringing their truck and will have a presentation.) 
- Oct. 4-6: Insects, Spiders, and Things that Crawl. On Friday, Lowell West, will be sharing his bees and his role as a beekeeper.
- **Oct. 9: NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 11: Apples. They are more than just sauce!!
- Oct. 13: Celebration of Read Across America - We will be having some fun with some really fun books!! (National Read Across America day is Oct. 14. Take some time to celebrate as a family by reading together!)
- Oct. 16: Squirrels. What are those furry little creatures up to this time of year?
- Oct. 18-20: Hello Autumn! We will be comparing and contrasting seasons while looking for signs of autumn. We will be looking at leaves and their many colors! Have your child bring a few colorful leaves to share on Wednesday.
- Oct. 23: Scarecrows. What is their purpose and why are they so much fun!
- Oct. 25: From Scarecrows to Skeletons! We will be comparing scarecrows to our skeletons and what makes them so great!
- Oct. 27-30: Pumpkin Time. We will be carving and decorating as well as looking at how they grow. Lots of fun activities with pumpkins.

Oct. 30 is our All School Mixed Up Monday!! Wear some wacky, mixed up clothes to help celebrate Fall! Please no masks or costumes.



October Tips:

Make name puzzles!! As I mentioned most children can "recite" the letters in their names left to right, but are unable to identify them out of sequence. Write your child's first and last names on a piece of paper. Cut apart the letters to make a puzzle. Have your child reassemble the puzzle while identifying each letter and sound.

Talk about your favorites. What is your favorite food, color, TV show, or entertainment? What are some of your child's favorites? Talk about things you both like that are the same. Spend time doing something you both enjoy!

Count items around your house. Count the stairs, windows, doors, steps it takes to get to the garage, ...

Look for fall changes in your own backyard. Talk about preparations you make for cooler weather.

Bug Song

Head and Thorax, Abdomen, Abdomen

Head and Thorax, Abdomen, Abdomen

Wings, Antennae, 6 Legs too

Don't let this bug land on you!



Shoo Bug Shoo!!

Sincerely,

Kathy and Ann