

# Preschool News Letter - November 2016

The fall and winter seasons are upon us and the children are talking about the changes that they have noticed. This month brings with it the excitement of the beginning of a variety of holidays that many children celebrate with the common theme that celebrations of all kinds bring families and friends together.

## Young Preschool Classroom

The young preschool children are talking about fall, the changes that they see, hear, and smell. As pumpkins are popular items at this time of year the children are making observations and recording through their drawings what the outside of the pumpkin looks like. As they continue their exploration they will have an opportunity to look and touch what is inside the pumpkin. This experience contributes to rich and descriptive language as children use words like smooth, bumpy, orange, heavy, round, etc. to compare pumpkins. Children have also had the opportunity to compare and contrast various gourds in the classroom.



The children in the Young Preschool Classroom are reading the book "The Little Old Lady Who Isn't Afraid of Anything" and are using props to retell the story. They are incredibly interested in the classroom scare crow that they affectionately named "Johnny Hay". Young pre has been exploring hay in the sensory tables. Hay is a sensory exploration that allows children to compare through recall how soft green grass feels and compare it to the stiff dry hay in their hands. Moreover, they have had active discussions about the use of dried plants.

The children are actively using their imaginations as they climb into boxes pretending to tractor drawn hay rides.



In the dramatic play area the children continue to practice putting on and taking off dress up clothes. This practice continues to support the children's comfort and confidence with putting on coats and other winter clothing. Children put on their own coats at school often using the flip trick and teachers or peers support them with the zipping and buttoning of jackets. As the weather changes and mittens/gloves arrive it is recommended that families utilize mitten clips so as to not lose the warm gear. Additionally, it is especially helpful to practice putting on and taking off these items at home to further promote self-help skills.

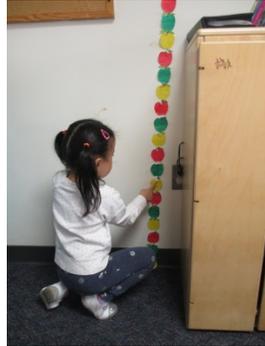
## Middle Preschool Classroom

The middle preschool children have been exploring with fall colors, apples, and pumpkins. Pumpkins and gourds are rolling about the room for the children to compare and discuss. The color orange is a prominent fall color observed in many flowers, leaves and pumpkins that it lends to a discussion that includes how we can create the color mixing two other primary colors together and being able to independently mix it. The children explore with a favorite sensory material of bio putty colored orange that has some similar characteristics to the inside of a pumpkin. Being able to make comparisons between one experience and another is an important skill that enhances children's vocabulary and discussion when they explore new materials.



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Middle Preschool children used apples as a non-traditional measuring tool posted on the wall to see how tall they were. The apples were especially small requiring the children to count higher than they would have done with larger apples.



Some are able to use one to one correspondence touching the apples as they count while others are still utilizing rote counting strategies. Friends are helping others count and they are using the measuring tool independently during play.

The children also used an apple in a science experiment to create a chemical reaction. If you haven't heard about it yet you might want to ask your child about it!

Creative art activities have included children making pumpkins or other designs using orange and green cut tissue paper and glue. There are times that specific materials are put out to encourage children to explore different textures and techniques. In this activity the children recognized that the little bit of glue on their fingertips made it difficult to pick up tissue paper without it crinkling.



The children enjoy creating their own three dimensional art such as creating paper rings with designs on them for themselves and their family members. Being able to access materials, locate scissors, request items and find a place to work cooperatively increases children's confidence, inquire and determination for self-learning.

## Older Preschool Classroom:

The older preschool children are working as scientists as they observe, make predictions, experiment and explore through many different activities. They observed apples of different colors, predicted which color may be tart or sweet, tasted the apples and recorded their individual findings. Along with their scientific inquire they utilized art and writing in their documentations. They used real apples dipped in paint as a print and transferred the print onto paper. Using teacher created written labels as models children later identified the specific type of apple in their own writing.



Additionally the children have had many opportunities to explore with science. They collected natural items such as leaves, flowers and grasses, dried them in a press and used them in a creative arts activity. They used real leaves as stencils, created a modge podge design and used magnifying glasses to make finer discoveries. They have mixed a combination of materials to see chemical

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reactions. Additionally, they have observed, recorded and discussed the difference between gourds and pumpkins. Some have mixed things such as shaving cream, flour and pompoms. Who knew such things mixed? It looked like they had a great deal of fun.



They will tell you science is fun!!

## *Save the Date!*

**Holiday Feast:** On Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-1, we will be having our center family feast. Families are invited to come enjoy a meal provided by LMACCC. You will join your child and his/her classmates and families in the classroom for a traditional turkey dinner.

**Pajama Day:** Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> is pajama day at school. Children are invited to wear their pajamas to school and the preschool children will join together to watch a short video around 10 am and share a snack. Please bring a change of clothes for outside play.

**Scholastic Books:** Reading books with children is a great way to spend quiet time together before bed, increase literacy development and foster a love of reading. If you are interested in purchasing books for holiday gifts I will submit an order on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fall Soccer:**

The fall soccer program runs from November 8 – December 2. This program is a fee based activity that is instructed by the Simmons soccer team players. The

children practice gross motor movement such as balance, accuracy, control, and coordination. They work on social skills: working as a group; spatial awareness: moving around others and sportsmanship: encouraging others, confidence building. Please submit paperwork to Robin by November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Preschool fun!!**



## **Parent Question:**

*Should I worry about which hand my child uses to write with?*

The answer is no, do not worry. Infants and toddlers pick up items with the hand that is closest to the object.

Children continue to switch objects from one hand to another as they figure out what feels comfortable. Even once it appears that a child has a preference it is not

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unusual for him/her to use the other hand periodically. A child's hand preference should never be a concern as comfort with writing implements will lend itself to increased control and confidence with future writing expectations.

*Rubin Gossels, November 2016*