

## GIRAFFE FALL NEWSLETTER

During the month of October, we immersed ourselves in a curriculum that brought us many delights of the season. During circle time, the children enjoyed tasting and graphing their favorite apple by color, playing a leaf matching game, and learning a few new songs about apples. Federica taught us some new Spanish vocabulary as well. We opened a farm stand and sold apples, pumpkins, cider and juice. We cut up apples to make apple crisp for snack, we created beautiful designs on paper by rolling acorns in paint with a partner, made leaf rubbings with real leaves and crayons, and tried several new games including Snail's Pace Race, The Sneaky Squirrel, The Hungry Squirrel, and a Fruit Pie Sorting game too. The children also had many opportunities to explore real items from nature throughout the month. On the playground we planted some herbs in the garden beds, and took turns with the watering cans. We had Teacher Pat come for song and movement. We went to our first Community Sing with the whole school, enjoyed the many fun activities at Pumpkin Patch day, and even participated in a fire drill. Please welcome John Basbas to our classroom. He is our new TA and nurse for one of our students in the Giraffe room.

### THANK YOU TO:

Vanessa Jason and Marni Canterbury for making our play dough. Bianca W. for the delicious birthday snack.

### SMALL GROUP

Small group is an opportunity for children to meet with one of the classroom teachers three times a week in a quiet setting in or out of the classroom. Teachers direct learning in a way that is fun and interactive. Skill building is emphasized throughout the school year. Incidental learning can also be the focus, at any given time, such as going on a nature walk, sharing songs, or even building a snowman in the winter. All developmental domains are pursued meeting every child's abilities. Formal conferences are conducted by your child's small group teacher twice a year. Fall parent/teacher conferences are a time to check in and discuss goals you have for your child. Concerns can be addressed as well. Written narrative reports will accompany spring meetings, emphasizing a culmination of your child's interests, skills and progress during the school year.

### SONGS AND BOOKS WE SHARED

Apple Trouble by R. Scannell  
Ten Apples Up on Top by T. LeSieg  
The Big Leaf Pile by J. Page  
Apple Farmer Annie by M. Wellington  
"Way Up High in the Apple Tree"  
"5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate"  
"Gray Squirrel" song  
Red and Green apple freeze dance

### Important Information:

Parent Teacher Giraffe conferences are Thursday, November 9, and Wednesday, November 15. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's small group teacher for 15 minutes. Meetings will be held in the small hearing room downstairs in the gym hallway. The room is located on your right as you enter the hallway. Please return your conference questionnaire as soon as possible. The signup sheets will be available starting November 1, next to the attendance book.

### **NEW SPANISH VOCABULARY**

**Apple: Manzana      Pumpkin: Calabaza**