



Turtle Tidbits
October, 2017

We have had a wonderful October so far. The children have been enjoying the playground as they start their day warming up with digging in the sandbox, playing tag, catch, or pretending to drive a train on the climber. The recent addition of hay bales has presented a newer challenge for obstacle course work! Strategies have been developed for children to make their way across the monkey bars in many forms— they are quite a talented group! We have also been noticing social growth as children anticipate the arrival of both old and new friends with an excited and welcoming invitation to come play!

Our current theme of “friendship and filling buckets” has been perfect as the children have read many stories, created several art projects and worked on cooperative activities over the course of the past few weeks. They can proudly sing “Make New Friends” without any teacher help and have been having fun participating in our outdoor song titled “Move Over and Make Room For _____”, which has helped them to learn/review classmate’s names. These children LOVE books and delight in finding the rhyming words or using powerful voices to repeat fun phrases. Some recent favorites include Do Unto Otters, Boy and Bot, That’s What Friends Do and Penguin and Pinecone!

Our next planned theme is to explore Brain and Body Mindfulness, then Germs, which segues into Eating Healthy Foods which will bring us right up to the Thanksgiving break.

Our annual “Pumpkin Patch” is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th. Children will each find a pumpkin, participate in special outdoor activities, have their faces

painted and enjoy a special snack! Our usual time slot is right around 9:00am, so if your child does not usually attend TCW on Thursdays, he/she is welcome to come with an adult and join us until 9:30. If you are unable to attend, we will get a pumpkin for your child and put it in their cubby.

Now that it is officially Autumn please remember to send your child with warm layers, hats and gloves; the playground can be especially chilly in the morning. Also, please check your child's extra clothing bag to be sure that the extra clothing is appropriate for the colder weather! We have another request that might not be as easily implemented since we understand how challenging it can be to just get out of the house in the morning: could you please ask your child to **use the bathroom** before arriving at school? It can sometimes be difficult to have a teacher leave the playground to bring a child inside for a variety of reasons, and we want to ensure optimal safety for all. Thank you!

Parent conferences occur in November. These are 15-minute check-in meetings with your child's small group teacher to see how the first few weeks of school have gone from your perspective. Our scheduled days will be posted soon. We realize that the parents of full-day class students cannot necessarily or realistically attend conferences on just those dates and times. We are more than willing to work with families to make these conferences happen. Please contact your child's small group teacher to arrange a mutually agreeable time. Sign-up sheets (including small group information) will be available with the sign-in book after October 23rd. We very much appreciate your feedback forms ahead of time!

A big "thank you" to the Hill and Rodrigo families for providing refreshments for our Back to School Night – it was a great turnout! Many thanks for the goodies provided for the teachers from the TPO as well (and all the other things that they do to support us!). We would like you to know that our door is always open for a special "Mystery" guest! We would be so happy if any parent or grandparent would like to come in to read, bake or do an art project (or just play).

Thanks!

Ali, Carrie, Margot, Mary and Niki