

September has flown by. The children are becoming familiar with the classroom routines. Together we are engaging in all kinds of learning. We had our first fire drill practice, and Teacher Pat has visited as well. Small Group time and Mystery Friend are starting this week. Our Jungle theme was a big hit!

Thank you for joining us at Back to School night! Thank you to our room parents Julie N. and Amanda G. for providing the refreshments for BTS night! Thank you to Christina C. for donating fruit for snack time, and Susan H. and Julie N. for our first batches of play-dough.

F.Y.I. We are still waiting for more family pictures! The children are enjoying seeing their pictures on the wall. It's a real conversation starter. Please send in as soon as possible. We will create a Giraffe class Family Picture Album for our bookshelf. Don't miss out!

Parents are always welcome to come in and read to us. Please let us know if you would like a turn.

Highlights from Circle Time:

Yoga: A time for everyone to relax, calm our bodies, stretch our muscles, and breathe slowly and rhythmically. Some examples: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" song, "Monkey Moves", "Bunny" Breaths, and You Are a Lion and Other Fun Yoga Positions by Taeun Yoo.

The Whole-Body Listening Larry at School written by Kristen Wilson and Elizabeth Sautter. This curriculum component teaches children to listen with their whole bodies using a holistic approach. Zones of Regulation created by Leah Kuypers, MAED. O.T.R, is helping students learn about self-regulating, social thinking and emotional control.

Creative Movement, Finger Plays and Songs: "Do the Monkey", "Hello" song, Jungle card charades, "5 Little Monkeys Swinging from a Tree..."

Books Read Aloud: Goodnight Gorilla by P. Rathmann, Monkey and the Little One by C. Alexander, Slowly, Slowly, Slowly Went the Sloth by E. Carle, In My Heart, A Book about Feelings by J. Witek

Highlights from the Playground:

Each morning as we enter the **playground** we gather together to sing songs the children suggest. We try familiar songs as well as originals the children teach us. We are constructing a "campfire" space to gather at, to sing, story tell and learn together. We are also forming a Giraffe "Loose Parts" box with materials we are collecting to use for play and learning.

Our next unit is about the season of Autumn/Fall and the seasonal changes we are experiencing. Please see attached letter.

Dear Giraffe Families:

October 2018

For the month of October, the Giraffe class will be learning about the season of Autumn/Fall. Starting Tuesday, October 16 through Monday, October 22, the children are invited to collect 3-4 items from nature and bring them into the classroom for our sensory table. We will talk about them at circle time. This is a wonderful opportunity to notice the season changing with your child/children. This time reinforces concepts we are learning about in the classroom. (Please no walnuts, hazelnuts or pine nuts unless they are in a sealed bag) pine cones and acorns are okay. If you have any questions, please ask.

Sincerely,

The Giraffe Team

