

Giraffe October/November 2019 Newsletter

FALL

During the month of October we immersed ourselves in a curriculum that brought us many delights of the season. Some highlights included looking at, and identifying the parts of an apple and the parts of a pumpkin. There was tasting first, and then graphing their favorite apple. For an experiment, the children predicted what would happen to a slice of apple when it was put in a jar of water, a jar of vinegar, a jar of sugar, and a jar of baking soda. Some very interesting guesses were shared. We colored rice for our sensory table and added colored pom poms and tweezers for sorting. We went on picnics and opened a farm stand in dramatic play. Pumpkin Patch day was really fun, followed by hammering pumpkins, pumpkin slime, leaf rubbings, acorn painting with a friend, and building with cardboard blocks and forest animal beanie babies.

Mystery Friend has started. It is a great opportunity to work on social skills, turn taking, sharing toys and making new friends. One to two times a week the children are paired with a classmate. They take turns choosing an activity, and play together until the time ends. It is a mystery because they don't know who they will be paired with.

SMALL GROUP

Small group is an opportunity for children to meet with one – two teachers at least once a week in a quiet setting removed from the classroom. Typically there are five to six children in a group. 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. 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 to check in and discuss goals you have for your child. Concerns can be addressed as well. Written narrative reports accompany spring meetings, emphasizing a culmination of your child's interests, skills and progress.

THANK YOU TO:

Yumi M., Mary L. and Staci for making our play dough
Margot L. and Ben M. for the yummy birthday treats
Shifrin Family for donating toys to our classroom
Teacher Pat for sharing her "Spooky's" with us

Important Information:

Please be sure your child has warm outdoor gear for the cold weather. Include hats, mittens, and boots for those chilly and wet days. The children will be learning how to dress themselves. We sing the song "Snow pants, boots, jacket and hat, then your mittens go on last". Speaking of mittens/gloves, their little hands need protection so for wet days, waterproof material is ideal. Also labeling their names in their clothes helps to ensure they don't get mixed up with someone else's. We appreciate your support throughout this time of year. Gaining self help skills is an integral part of your preschooler learning independence.

SONGS AND BOOKS WE SHARED

Apple Trouble by R. Scannell
Ten Apples Up on Top by T. LeSieg
Full of Fall by A. Pulley Sayre
Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Seep by A. Pulley Sayre
Pete the Cat and 5 Little Pumpkins by J. Dean
"I'm a Little Acorn Round" song
"Way Up High in the Apple Tree" song
"5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate"

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS

"Happy Baby", "Do Nothing Doll", "Cat and Cow" yoga poses. Mindful Minute: close your eyes and listen to the chime, and "Baby Bunny" breaths



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