

October 22, 2017

Hello!

We think this week we might possibly start to feel some cooler weather. The Kindergarten children have been having a good time changing the calendar each day. We spent some time talking about seasons, months and days of the week. The days sure fly by!

We have already completed our orchard trip this year to Hartland Orchard. Making applesauce was such fun. The children love working the apple peeler corer slicer. It is an ingenious tool and it is so fun to watch the kids try to figure out just what is happening while they diligently turn the crank. This year we kept it simple and ate the applesauce for snack.

We have had several volunteer bakers come to class on Thursdays. We thank the parents who are able to volunteer and get our little ones in the kitchen. In our recent parent education meeting the question was posed, "How can we assist our children at home?" I missed my chance to say the MOST important things, plenty of sleep, nutritious foods, and lots of outdoor time and exercise, but was fast enough on my feet to talk about reading to your children, cooking with your children, and practicing routines. We also talked about using car time wisely by having conversations, talking about scenery, singing and listening to stories on tape. This weekend I attended the NAMTA conference, a Montessori conference that centered on these topics: storytelling, music, and outdoor spaces. I come back to class filled with a renewed sense of wonder and armed with many new and exciting things to keep our environment invigorating inside and out!

Mary Cook has been sharing her time in all the classes to bring us wonderful art projects. The last was a creation of their family made from leaves. She centered the lesson on a book titled Leaf Man, by Lois Ehlert. Ehlert is a delightful author and this new book did not let us down. The children's creations were priceless, but the fun they had making the creations was even more priceless. Thank you, Mary.

Melissa Yount has been so kind as to come in for dance lessons on Thursday afternoons. The afternoon class has been having a wonderful time dancing. I have been incredibly impressed by the children's willingness to dance. Sometimes there will be a few children who might feel shy, but we have so many role models that everyone of us dances.

I mentioned our small gardening group in a previous letter. So far we have prepared some beds and moved some plants around. We even finally got the cherry tree trimmed in the small garden on the playground. We have had many donations of bulbs and I have some seeds (just found out I left my hosta flowers on the stem long enough that I have seeds). I am waiting to hear from the garden group as to when we can schedule another hour, 11:30 - 12:30 dismissal group. If anyone else is interested in getting our beds ready for spring and can't attend during that time, please let me know you are interested and we can perhaps work in the later afternoon before 3:00 dismissal. We are flexible.

I have also received a few pressed flowers from families. Please take some time to press the last of the beautiful foliage. Today I was reminded that we don't have to stop at plants... think butterflies! I have a request to my favorite entomologist to see if he could collect some butterfly and moth wings with his granddaughters (former students). Children enjoy nature so much and have such a different perspective than us. Take the time to enjoy it with them!

Lastly, this Friday, October 27th is Grandparents' / Special Friend's Day. If your child has a grandparent or special friend who would like to come visit for the morning, they are more than welcome to arrive at 10am. At 11:30 guests are invited to depart either with or without your child. Please let us know if your child will leave earlier than usual. It is a regular school day, and children may come to school even if they do not have a special guest with them that day.

It is my pleasure working with your children. Ms. Irwin and I are enjoying our community so much. Thank you for all the support... snacks, volunteer work, gardening, meals for Mrs. Thomas, and more.

Sincerely,  
Carrie