

Dear Moms and Dads,

Last week was a great week. Your toddlers along with Mrs. Craft and myself rode in a school bus to Hartland Orchards. We sang "The Wheels on the Bus" both to and from the Orchard. While at the orchard, we picked apples and enjoyed a picnic lunch before returning to school. We also went on a hike into the woods behind our school. If you have not yet been up in the woods, it is a nice place to explore with your toddlers. There is a walking trail along with forts built by the Elementary students and picnic tables to enjoy an after-school snack.

Your toddler is also learning the Spanish names for food we commonly eat. Cheese is *queso*, milk is *leche*, raisins are *pasas* and crackers are *galletas*. Mrs. Craft, who is originally from Mexico, is always happy to share Spanish words with the children, whether it is food, objects in the classroom, or articles of clothing.

Today, I introduced new language and manipulative materials to your toddlers. We have puzzles on farm animals along with farm animal models. We will be talking about different types of fruit and I will be introducing them to pomegranates and kiwis.

I am also going to add different types of squashes into our lunch menu this month. Today, we had summer squash. We encourage your toddlers to try a bite of everything that is offered. Some kids don't but most kids do when they see their friends try it, too. If your toddler does not like what is offered at lunch, we do provide them with a healthy alternative we know they like.

Tomorrow is Picture Day for us here at school. Our photographer, Nick Crettier, will photograph the kids and then will share with us a link for you to preview for purchasing. If you would like your child to wear something special for Picture Day, send it to school in a bag and we will change them before and after the picture.

Please remember when dressing your child for school, clothing should be easy for your toddler to manipulate. When a toddler is able to do work for themselves it promotes independence and self-confidence. The more they can do on their own, the prouder they feel!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your toddler, please feel free to contact me either by email [dfritts@mlm-school.org](mailto:dfritts@mlm-school.org).

Best,

Debbie Fritts