

Mrs. DeMato's Classroom Notes
September 2019

9/22/19

Dear Families,

The children are happily working in the classroom in all four areas: Practical Life (washing tables, arranging flowers, folding laundry), Sensorial (matching colors, listening for volume, feeling textures), Language (sound games, developing handwriting, reading phonetic words) and Math (counting to 10, building numbers in the thousands, and memorizing math facts). It is amazing to look around the classroom and see such diverse work going on, as well as concentration. In the pictures below, take a moment to note the deep concentration in the children's body language.

The afternoon children are continuing to read Charlotte's Web. We had the chance to dissect a flower, learning the names of each part, as well as make some leaf rubbings, leaning the names of the leaves. We enjoyed a fun hike to Dickey Ridge, collecting leaves, acorns, and pine cones. We noted just how green the forest is as we walked through a tunnel of trees. We are hoping to hike again in the late fall to see the changing colors, and then again when snow is on the ground.

In this upcoming week, please look forward to:

 **Tuesday, Sept 24** - Kindergarten Field Trip to the Apple Orchard

 **Wednesday, Sept 25** - Picture Day, first thing in the morning

 **Thursday, Sept 26** - Coffee, Cake and Curriculum - Parent Education talk with the Primary teachers regarding Practical Life in the Classroom. Your child may join Laurel Club for free with an RSVP.

If you would like to sign up to bake with a small group of children, we would love to have you join us! Please click here: [Baking Sign Up](#)

New Books We Read:

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Elhert

Apple Picking Time by Michele Benoit Swanson

New Song: "Shake the Apple Tree" - a song where we can change colors!

Shake, shake the apple tree, apples RED and juicy.

Shake, shake the apple tree, apples RED and juicy.

One for you, one for me, shake, shake the apple tree.

Snack: bagels with cream cheese, apples, strawberries, triscuits, carrots with ranch, graham crackers, mini triscuits, cheese sticks, wheat thins, blueberry yogurt and strawberry banana

yogurt. Thank you to the **Comer Family** for bringing in snack, flowers, and wipes for this upcoming week!

Sincerely,
Meg, Katie and Tanya



Practicing writing numbers - *Note - we use a very short piece of chalk as children's fingers develop for handwriting with a proper pencil grip.



Dishwashing



Geometric solids - learning the names and physical properties of a cube, rectangular prism, triangular-based pyramid, and square-based pyramid.



Flower Arranging



Matching colors, and then finding colors in the classroom that match



Identifying and labeling parts of the spider



Hike to Dickey Ridge on Skyline Drive

9/28/19

Dear Families,

Apples, apples everywhere! Our Kindergarteners enjoyed a fun trip to Marker Miller Apple Orchard this week. We picked apples and made apple sauce for the class to taste. It was fun peeling and coring the apples with a special crank. Everyone had the chance to mash, mix, and add ingredients. Cleaning was fun too with washing bowls, sweeping the floor, crumbing the tables, and sponging up spilled sauce. It was a great week for Practical Life in the classroom. Thank you for everyone who attended the first Coffee, Cake and Curriculum, where we featured Practical Life.

If you are headed to the apple orchard or pumpkin patch this Fall, here is an interesting article to read that describes expectations and activities for the children to get the most out of their excursion: <https://forestbluffschool.org/apple-activities/>

In addition to making apple sauce, some of the children had the chance to bake Chinese egg tarts with Max's mom Jane Kauer. While some children were hesitant at first to try, everyone was delighted by the tasty treat. I love seeing children try new things with their friends. If you are interested in baking with the children, you can sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4eacab29a5ff2-primary>

New Books We Read:

How Do Apples Grow? by Betsy Maestro

Applesauce by Shirley Kurtz

New Song: "The Itsy Bity Spider"

Snack: cucumbers, goldfish, bagels with cream cheese, blackberries, apples, cheese, pretzel sticks, GoGurts, bananas, carrots with ranch dressing. Thank you to the **Eason Family** for bringing in snack, wipes and flowers this week!

Sincerely,
Meg



Kindergarten Field Trip to the Apple Orchard



Making apple sauce with our fresh pickings!



Using Practical Life skills to make snack for the class (Care of Community)



Buttoning sweater to take care of her belongings in the morning (Care of Self)