

Classroom Notes  
October 2020

October 21, 2020

Dear Families,

The energy in our classroom has settled into a frequency similar to a well-oiled machine. The children come to school ready to work and already have a plan in mind when they enter the classroom. By now, everyone knows our routine and feels safe within the limits of our classroom and schedule. Since everyone is well adjusted, exploration and work are in full swing. Many of the children are working hard on strengthening their fine motor skills. We have been working on zig zag, serpentine, vertical, and horizontal lines. The Primary children are tracing the first letter of their names with a sandpaper letter. Many children are attempting to write their letter (and their assigned shape!) with chalk, crayons, and paint. All of the children love using our pumpkin stamper to make a smiling jack-o-lantern face or using their crayons to decorate a printed outline of a pumpkin.

We have enjoyed collecting leaves and identifying them with our leaf chart. We have talked about birch, maple, oak, gum, and sassafras leaves. The children have also enjoyed feeling, washing, and smelling our pumpkins, gourds, squashes, and pinecones. This sensory experience will help the children retain these new vocabulary words and encourage their language development. We have also talked about forest animals such as squirrel, fox, wolf, pika, fawn, racoon, and beaver and what these animals are up to this time of year.

We have recently had lots of lessons with solid cylinders of varying sizes, color tablets to expand our knowledge of primary, secondary, and tertiary colors, and the pink tower. Our primary students are receiving variations of these lessons to encourage creativity and engineering skills.

Hiking in the woods will be occurring more frequently now that the weather has changed. The children love exploring mushrooms, lichen, various species of trees... and we even saw some wild turkeys! Please make sure you send your child in with sturdy shoes they are able to put on by themselves.

I have attached an article that was shared with me by a colleague pertaining to pretend and imagination play among preschoolers. As many of your children enter into the preschool age, you will notice that their type of play will evolve. This is a great article that correlates well with the Montessori philosophy.

<https://www.themontessorinotebook.com/montessori-and-pretend-play/?fbclid=IwAR2JGzKIZjFWQiJSeEZ2t014vLn72Cqjk0yliT7zCprYtpG8WqXmb7u4AFY>

We had a wonderful time celebrating Anna's birthday Russian style on Friday with a Russian fairy tale, Russian cake, Russian ice cream, and exploring a Russian tea pot! The children were so sweet and loved hearing Anna's life story and looking at her beautiful family photos.

Here is the link to our upcoming parent/ teacher conferences:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45ADA929A0FE3-parent2>

I am looking forward to talking with each one of you pertaining to your child's current developmental standpoint.

Warmly,  
Sarah Veitenthal

Jack- O- Lantern Poem:  
Sometimes big.  
Sometimes small.  
But always round and yellow.  
When children make my famous grin,  
I become a silly fellow!