

From the Director



We have been blessed with beautiful weather days where the children can get out multiple times a day to enjoy the fresh air. Just as the leaves are changing our students are beginning to change too.

When you think about how a classroom of children grow into a community of learners it is astonishing. At the beginning of the year children are unfamiliar with each other, not sure of routines, and wonder why they need to leave their house to come to us. Familiarity and trust lay the groundwork for a powerful learning community. Plentiful unstructured and structured playtimes create a place where children take chances, make mistakes, discover new things, build relationships, develop their voice, and ask thoughtful questions. This transformation is beginning to happen in our St. Andrew's classrooms. It is a beautiful reminder of why play is so important to early learners.

We have some changes in our program starting in November. Each class will visit the Discovery Room for one week a month. The other three weeks of the month the Discovery Room will come to them. We will follow the same cleaning guidelines as the classrooms by limiting sharing, cleaning in between rotations, and disinfecting everything each afternoon. I'm sure your children will love being in the Discovery Room.

We will also begin offering a Lunch Bunch in November. One Lunch Bunch for each class. This extends the day to 1:15 pm for a charge of \$10.00. You should have received an email from Robyn with more detail. This is an experiment to see how often we can offer Lunch Bunch in the coming months.

Thank you so much for your generous food donations. The bags were delivered Friday, October 30th. We were able to pack 150 main meal bags and 75 snack bags. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Your children are precious and we continue to feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with them and you. Thank you for your support of our program.

Warm regards,
Tami



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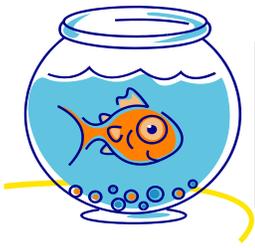


Save the Date!!



- November 2nd and 3rd: **No School. Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Monday, November 9th: Lunch Bunch for the Fish Class
- Tuesday, November 10th: Lunch Bunch for the Lion Class
- Tuesday, November 17th: Lunch Bunch for the Penguin Class
- Thursday, November 19th: Lunch Bunch for the Frog Class
- November 25th to 27th: **No School. Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday!**





The Fish and Frog Class



The children are so excited to be learning all about Fall and getting ready for Halloween. We have been doing some creative art projects and activities to go along with this exciting time of the year. We enjoyed making spooky ghosts, scary bats and fun Frankensteins. The kids have been using play-doh with pumpkin and Halloween cookie cutters. Some children used the easel to paint pumpkins on the vine. The Fish and Frog classes made beautiful fall leaves to decorate our windows. Our Fish class is working on forming the letters F & E . We've been working on free art to include, making pictures of pumpkins, using gems to decorate leaves and painting pumpkins. The kids really enjoy being creative and it's so nice to see how they use their imagination when we put out different art materials.

We have created individual digging bins for the children with miniature pumpkins, spooky spiders and creepy bats and playing with play barns and farm animals in dramatic play. The children especially loved hearing the story Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Toward the end of the month we transitioned to woodland creatures and discussed which animals are "nocturnal." We have been learning fall and Halloween songs which we hope the kids have been sharing at home. Our favorite is the "Five Little Pumpkins" rhyme. Our next unit will be Thanksgiving and food. We just brought back the play kitchen. It's already a big hit with the kids!

Conferences will be held Monday, November 2. You should have received your conference times. Please let us know if you have a conflict or cannot make your designated time. We are happy to accommodate you and discuss other options.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to have your child wear a jacket, sweater or coat on cold days, and mittens and hats if necessary. We still go outside when the weather is cold and we want the children to be comfortable. If you forget, we do have some extra in the office. We have started teaching the children how to put on their coats by doing the "Preschool Flip." We just started, so it will take some time but it's great when they can finally do it themselves!!

This past month has been so much fun for us! We've enjoyed spending time with your children and getting to know them! They make us smile everyday!! Please don't hesitate to email, call or text us with any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Nandita Rebello and Lisa Winand



The Penguin and Polar Bear Class



Happy Fall, everyone. The Penguin class has been enjoying the gorgeous fall weather while outside on the playground. The children love to run around and chase each other as they climb and slide. They enjoy giving each other rides in one of our wagons and also waiting at the "bus stop" to get their wagon ride. It is so important that they have this time to move about freely to develop muscles, coordination and friendships.

During circle time we have been busy working with Handwriting Without Tears. We have covered the proper formation of the letters L, F, E, and H, and practiced cutting in addition to correct pencil/crayon grips for writing and drawing. We've also enjoyed our time playing the "What's Missing?" game with objects that start with the letters that we are working on in class. This game helps us identify the beginning sounds of the items used as well as sight memory. We've been learning the "Mat Man" song, which helps children remember to draw all the parts of a person in a picture. We've had fun rolling two dice, counting up the dots, and then identifying the corresponding number. We have practiced pattern recognition using pictures of pumpkins, leaves and ghosts in different colors.

Our art this month was centered around our themes of Fall and Halloween. The children made glitter acorns, where they glued small pieces of tissue paper on the acorn cap - which is great for fine motor development. We also created fall button trees. We had fun preparing for Halloween by painting pumpkins using Lego blocks and making puffy ghosts with shaving cream and glue. We also had fun making black cats with hand prints.

During our Center Time the children have been playing and building with foam blocks and waffle blocks. They really enjoy creating things using our magnetic rockets and magna tiles; Alphabots are also a favorite. This time gives the children an opportunity to use their imagination and thinking skills.

They also loved digging in the individual fall digging bins for pumpkins, acorns and leaves and for spooky Halloween things such as ghosts and bats.

We have enjoyed reading many Fall and Halloween books - "The Biggest Pumpkin Ever", "The Pumpkin Book", "Creepy Carrots" and "Stellaluna".

The children also enjoyed Pumpkin Palooza where they dressed up in fun Halloween costumes. We put together our "pumpkin patch" on the playground and the children got to pick a pumpkin from the patch. They had a great time painting their own pumpkins that they picked out.

November will be a special month to give thanks and celebrate families. Our themes for November will be Fall and Thanksgiving. We are thankful for the many children in our care along with their families.

Mrs. Kroeger and Mrs. MacArthur



The Lion Class



Happy Fall Lion families! I feel like time is moving very quickly. We had a great time in the month of October, learning about apples, pumpkins and Halloween. We started the month with a unit about apples. We discussed the different parts of the apple and labeled them together during circle time. We discussed that apples grow in orchards and on trees. We read several different stories showing how apples start as flowers and grow into fruit. We learned that there are many different varieties (or types) of apples and they all have different names. We made apple window sun-catchers, and each Lion painted their own interpretation of an apple tree. We made collage apples using lots of different types of paper and spin art apples using paint and a salad spinner. The Lions had a great time playing in our "apple orchard" and it was so much fun to have dramatic play back in the classroom. With some changes and a plan for cleaning, it's been a welcome addition this month. The kids had fun making applesauce and I'm glad we were able to do a cooking activity. I'm not sure what else we will be able to do in the COVID world, but I'm brainstorming, since cooking is such a great educational activity.

After we talked about apples, we moved on to discussing pumpkins and Halloween. Our week talking about pumpkins coincided beautifully with all the amazing things we were learning with Mrs. Smith during Discovery. During circle time we compared apples and pumpkins. We talked about how pumpkins grow on vines vs. trees, but that pumpkins start as a flower just like apples. Learning how things are similar and different is an important skill as our Lions begin to start making connections from everything in their lives. We painted real and paper pumpkins, and each Lion helped make scary or happy faces to turn them into jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. They are very scary! We replaced our apple suncatchers with pumpkins to help get our room into the spirit of Halloween and eventually Thanksgiving. One of my favorite books for this time of year is "Creepy Carrots" and the Lions helped make our own carrot patch mural for our classroom. Making murals is a nice way to show the Lions that when we work together the outcome can be better than when we work alone. Each carrot is completely different! We practiced cutting by cutting different shapes and making them into pumpkins. The Lions enjoyed digging and finding cool and spooky things in their Halloween digging bins and making monsters with their purple playdoh. We saw a lot of trick-or-treating and pumpkin picking in our "Pumpkin Playground" dramatic play area. It was fun to see the Lions use the cash register and work together. This month we also added two more class books to our collection, How many apples on top? and A Pumpkin Feelings book.

Circle time has become a beautiful collaborative effort with the Lions. The Lions are guided by the teacher, but they lead each activity from counting to writing our letters. It is a great way for them to gain confidence since it is a repeated activity and there is not a "wrong" way to do it from our morning greeter to our math magician. Now that we are a month into school, it warms this teacher's heart to hear the Lions tell ME how to write the letters using the handwriting without tears lingo. If you want more information on Handwriting Without Tears, please let me know. We will do a workshop later in the year as well. We are having a blast in music and our Conductor (one of our classroom jobs) helps lead the group. We have been dancing and singing all different songs about food and of course Halloween! This month we played the triangle, maracas, castanets, and egg shakers. On Fridays we have a dance party, which just means we play fun kid appropriate dance music during music. As we say in the Lion class, every day is a party since we start our day with "Let's get this party started"!

Next month we will talk about Bats, Scarecrows, Fall, and Thanksgiving. We look forward to meeting with you during our parent teacher conferences on November 2nd and 3rd. We will send the zoom information to you on Sunday November 1st and your child will bring home their conference packet the following week. It is getting cold outside. Please remember to switch out the clothes in your child's bag to long sleeves and pants if you haven't already done so.



The Discovery Room "Where no discovery is too small"



The students have adapted seamlessly to the "new" normal of Discovery coming to their classrooms. This month was action-packed as students explored three topics: magnets, pumpkins, and squirrels. Beginning with magnets, students performed numerous hands on activities such as sorting if objects were magnetic/ not magnetic and magnets trapped in ice. New terminology was introduced including north/south poles, horseshoe magnet, bar magnet, attract, repel, metal, magnetic field, and compass. We made many magnetic structures such as robots, tunnels, and buildings. Students even developed writing skills using a special magnetic drawing board. The older Penguin and Lion classes added more pages to their science journals completing a magnetic/not magnetic cut, glue and paste categorizing sheet. I am so proud of the students and how they absorbed such a large amount of new information and vocabulary introduced in this unit.

The next unit focused solely on pumpkins, their composition, and life cycle. Terms in this unit included the life cycle process beginning with seed, seedling (sprout), vine, flower, green pumpkin and finally the orange pumpkin stage. This process was brought to life with many nonfiction pumpkin life cycle books and pumpkin activities. The most popular science station was pumpkin hammering. The students used mallets to hammer golf tees into pumpkins while practicing counting skills. Other activities included pumpkin tangram puzzles, pumpkin number and shape recognition games, pumpkin stacking balance game, and pumpkin juice pipetting. The students picked "ripe" orange pumpkins from a large faux pumpkin patch and identified the life cycle with card labels. Students also used a balance scale to weigh various mini pumpkins until the scale was balanced. Real pumpkin dissections using tweezers were performed by students to aid in part identification of pumpkin skin (rind), stem, blossom end, ribs, flesh (pulp), fibrous strands, and seeds. Students added another page to their journals by completing their own cut and paste pumpkin life cycle pages. The pumpkin unit culminated with a final large group experiment called "foaming pumpkin" during which I mixed two chemicals to show the process of a "chemical reaction" placed inside a jack-o-lantern resulting in spooky oozing from its mouth and eyes. It was so much fun to hear the students giggle as they observed this creepy experiment.

During the final week of October, we switched gears to discuss everything squirrel. I introduced a unit with a non-fiction book titled Gray Squirrels by G.G. Lake. The students learned numerous fun facts such as: squirrels are rodents, their homes are called dreys, they can have up to 16 squirrel babies per year and run up to 20 mph. Some of the students are interested in testing this last fact with claims that they might be able to outrun the squirrels! Predator, hibernation, and nocturnal were the primary vocabulary terms of this unit. Hands-on activities included drey building, acorn tunnels, water coloring squirrel pictures, and felt fall tree leaf placement. My favorite part of this unit was the numerous personal squirrel stories students had to share. They really identified with this unit finding holes on the playground where squirrels buried their nuts in the mulch.

Next month, I am eager to finally introduce my classroom to the students. Each class will have a week to explore the Discovery room followed by thorough cleanings during the weekend before the next class has a full week with their turn to enjoy the space. The unit we will focus on throughout the entire month doesn't need any explanation because the title says it all--DINOVEMBER! I cannot emphasize enough how grateful I am for this opportunity to work with your children.



Music



During the month of October the St. Andrew's music boxes contained food themed lessons with a few songs thrown in for Halloween.

The students heard songs about apples, bananas, ice cream, lasagna, and candy- just to name a few! They played egg shakers, drums (made from to-go containers) and triangles. Students "stole cookies" from the cookie jar and hop, skipped and jumped to a song titled Pepperoni Pizza.

Students flew like bats, crept like cats, and danced like skeletons. They also learned how to limbo and walk in a circle. Their five finger play for the month was Five Little Pumpkins and they also learned a call and response song titled The Boogaloo.

Mrs. Bailey



St. Andrew's Preschool Chapel News



This month in chapel we will tell two of the better known parables - The Good Shepherd and Jonah and the Whale. We will also talk about our Blessings in preparation for Thanksgiving. Think of ways you can remember your blessings at home. One idea is to get a big posterboard and write all of the dates down the left side. Then take turns writing something you are grateful for every day. Then read the list at Thanksgiving dinner. Another idea is to get a large pumpkin and some markers. Start at the top and write your daily blessings around and around the pumpkin. Then at Thanksgiving you will have a centerpiece for your table!

Remember to ask your child about the story they heard on Chapel day. Ask them what their favorite part was or how the people in the story felt.

Chapel Schedule

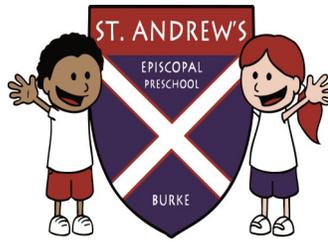
Tuesday	Thursday	Story Sequence
Wednesday, 11/4	11/5	Good Shepherd
11/10	11/12	Jonah
11/17	11/19	Thanksgiving Blessings
11/24	None (Off for Thanksgiving)	TBD

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*Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family*

As the weather is changing please make sure your child has a seasonal change of clothes in their bag as well as jackets and appropriate shoes for



Parent/Teacher Conference

Parent/Teacher Conferences are Nov. 2nd and 3rd. For some of you it may be your first conference experience and you want to find out as much as possible about how your child is doing in school. Here are some questions to get you thinking about so you can maximize your 15 minutes with the teachers.

- * How is my child interacting with others/teachers?
- * Does my child interact well with others?
- * Does my child share with others?
- * Does my child stay on task/finish tasks?
- * What are my child's strengths?
- * What does my child need to work on?

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church service is scheduled for Sunday, November 8th, at 3:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring a snack to eat during the service, and remember to wear clothes that could get messy. Chairs and tables will be set up for each family registered, so please remember to sign up.

Link - <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcaal4>

Contact: Amy Dutton (amy@standrews.net)

