

From the Director



We have been blessed with beautiful weather days which has allowed for more outside time. I love opening my office window listening to the sounds of children playing on the playground. It helps me remember just how powerful learning through play is for a young child. As the children play, I hear them telling stories, pretending, using their large muscles walking up the slide, pulling pumpkins and friends in the wagons, and enjoying the sounds of being outdoors.



When I think about how a classroom of children grow into a community of learners it is astonishing. At the beginning of the year they 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, and ask thoughtful questions. This transformation is beginning to happen in our classrooms. It is a beautiful reminder of why play is so important to early learners.

Thank you parents for the offering of your time and talent to make the Trunk or Treat a spectacular event. We all appreciated your creativity! Our students were over the moon excited. Let's do it again next year!

We have a couple of calendar updates for November. The Handwriting Without Tears ZOOM Parent Presentation will be postponed to January and we will let you know the date as we get closer to January. Also, as much as we wanted to host a school wide Stone Soup event, we don't think it's the right time with new COVID cases higher than we would like to see. Thank you for your understanding.

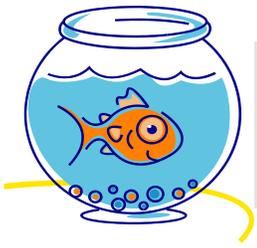
I do have good news for you about the Christmas Program. We will go on with the show (December 15-Fish, Puppy, Penguin and December 16-Frog, Kitten, Lion). Each class will have their own performance during their scheduled music time. This way we do not have to limit family members who want to enjoy the performance. More details will follow as we get closer to the date of the performance.

Music Times
Fish and Frog- 10:00-10:20
Lion 10:30-10:50
Penguin-10:55-11:15
Puppy and Kitten- 11:25-11:45

We feel very blessed to work with such wonderful families. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's educational journey.

Warm regards,
Tami





The Fish and Frog Class



The Children have been excited to learn about Fall and Halloween! We have been creating art projects and activities to go along with this exciting time of year. We enjoyed coloring trees and using Q-Tips to make leaves with the Fish Class. We used play-dough with pumpkin and Halloween cookie cutters. The Frogs got to make Candy Corn art with cut up paper. The Fish weaved black and green spider webs on paper plates and decorated them with creepy spiders. The Fish class also went on a scavenger hunt to pick leaves, sticks and acorns from nature to create their own “leaf man” influenced by Lois Ehlert’s book. Some children used the Easel to paint pumpkins along a vine.

We also made some Fall Fun Crafts. The Frog and Fish Class made stained and dyed leaves to decorate our window. Our Fish continued with HWT by learning how to sound out and properly form letters F,E,P,B and R. Both classes enjoyed making pictures with foam pumpkins, fall stickers and gems. (They unleashed their inner artist through free art by using stickers, scissors, markers, slickers, etc.. It’s great to see how they can use their imagination when we put out a variety of art materials on the table).

We had fun in our digging bin looking for leaves, skeletons, miniature pumpkins and scary spiders. We’ve been playing with play barns and farm animals in dramatic play. We have been learning some songs and finger plays about Fall and Halloween which we hope the kids have been sharing at home. A favorite is the “FIVE LITTLE PUMPKINS” rhyme. Our next unit will be all about Thanksgiving and food. There will be some food related crafts to go along with this unit. We will also read stories about food and Thanksgiving and discuss things we are thankful for everyday.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to have your child wear a jacket, sweater or coat on cold days and mittens and hat if necessary. We still go outside when the weather is colder and we want the children to be comfortable. If you forget, we do have some extra jackets and mittens in the office. We have started teaching the children how to put on their coats on 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 all of us! We’ve enjoyed spending time with your children and getting to know them. They make us smile every day!! Please don’t hesitate to email, call or text us with any questions or concern.

Nandita Rebello & 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 F, E, H, and T, 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 and leaves 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 lots of fun preparing for Halloween by painting pumpkins, making puffy ghosts with shaving cream and glue, and making bats out of toilet paper rolls!

In dramatic play, the children loved our fall pumpkin stand during the first two weeks of the month. They especially loved selling items to each other and using the play cash register! The children later enjoyed our Halloween play area where they could pretend to trick-or-treat using themed bags and empty candy boxes.

In our sensory bin, the children searched through dried green peas to find pumpkins, acorns and leaves, and then in black beans for spiders, skeletons, and other spooky Halloween things. The Halloween themed rubber ducks were a big hit in the block area where the children built structures for the ducks. The students are also having a lot of fun putting together floor puzzles as a group. This cooperative play is a fantastic skill for children.

The children loved Pumpkin Palooza where they dressed up in fun Halloween costumes and got to go trunk or treating in the parking lot. Thank you so much for all your help with this activity! We had special Halloween activities on the playground this day and the children chose a pumpkin from our “pumpkin patch.” Halloween is always an exciting time!

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

Mrs. MacArthur and Mrs. Kockler



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 spin-art apples in a basket. The Lions made apple trees using different colored leaves and apple cut outs. The Lions had a great time playing in our “apple orchard” and they worked on their sorting skills by sorting the apples by color and separating the apple sauce from the apple juice. The kids had fun making apple cake. Cooking is such a great activity for their fine motor skills and it also incorporates math, language arts and following directions. The Lions helped cut the apples and mix up the batter. We went as a class to the kitchen to put the cake in the oven. This was a great opportunity to talk about kitchen safety.

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 pumpkins at the easel, 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 sun-catchers 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 their own creepy carrot. Each carrot is completely different! The Lions looked adorable in their Halloween picture frames. The digging bin and tinker tables were a hit as the class found lots of spooky things to play with and they made monsters with our playdoh. We saw a lot of trick-or-treating and pumpkin picking in our “Pumpkin Playground” dramatic play area. 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. I’m so glad our Linear Calendar has worked out so well! You never know how something will work until you try it. I have plenty of things that don’t work, but this is exciting that has worked in the way I hoped. I think the Lions have a better understanding of time looking at our Calendar in a line. They count how many days until various events and they can see the days they will be at home or at school. Our morning table top activities have worked well as we wait for our friends to arrive. It’s been a nice way to ease into the day and give the Lions an extra opportunity to cut, color, play with manipulatives or read.

Next month we will talk about Bats, Scarecrows, Stone Soup and Thanksgiving. It was so nice to meet with all of you during our Conferences. It is always nice to hear your point of view since we are a team to ensure the success of your child. It is finally 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.

With Love and a Roar, Mrs. Nyman and Mrs. Jacobs



The Puppy and Kitten Class



The Puppies and Kittens had a fabulous October! Our themes this month were Apples and Farm in the beginning of October and Pumpkins and Halloween the last part of the month. We learned all about farm animals and we sang fun songs to practice our animal sounds. The children played with Little People barns, farm animals and farm vehicles. Our sensory bin this month changed a couple of different times. We filled the bin with rainbow gravel, colored beads, apples and farm vehicles. We then switched it to corn kernels, plastic farm animals and added pumpkins, bats and spiders for some Halloween fun.

In our dramatic play area we set up an apple stand which then converted into a pumpkin patch with a cash register and baskets. The children had a lot of fun pretending to pick and buy apples and pumpkins.

For our crafts, we painted pumpkins, and made our own pumpkin patch out of orange colored pasta. We also made sheep and ducks. We sang and read the book Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate, learning the song in music and in the classroom. We learned the associated hand motions, too. During the final week of October, the children wore their costumes to our Pumpkin Palooza celebration. We also went “trunk or treating” in the back parking lot. Afterwards, the children got to pick their own pumpkins from a small pumpkin patch outside. To wrap up, here are some of the activities we did this month that helped our Puppies and Kittens work on important developmental skills:

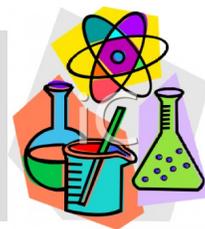
- **Books:** All About the Farm; Down by the Farm; Five Little Pumpkins; It's Pumpkin Time
- **Fine motor/eye-hand coordination:** Halloween stamping with farm and fall stamps, peeling the backs off stickers to create a Halloween scene. Putting beads and straws on bead trees.
- **Hand strength:** Using pinchers and scissors in the play dough area and other play dough tools.
- **Gross motor:** Various playground activities such as pulling friends in the wagon, climbing on the playground equipment, and walking across the balance beam.

Next month we will be learning more about Fall and Leaves. We will be talking about all the changes that happen as the weather changes and becomes cooler. We will also discuss the idea of thankfulness. We will be making a friendship fruit salad closer to Thanksgiving. More information will be sent out. We will also do some fun Thanksgiving crafts.

Mrs. Kroeger and Mrs. Stites



The Discovery Room "Where no discovery is too small"



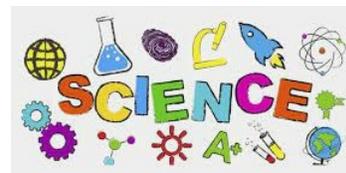
What did the science teacher say to the student who was experimenting with magnets? May the force be with you. This month was action-packed as students explored two topics: magnets and pumpkins. Beginning with magnets, students performed numerous hands-on activities such as sorting objects into magnetic/ not magnetic categories. 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 explored a magnetic digging bin with my favorite magnetic rock, hematite. Popular centers included testing magnets trapped in ice and making miniature cars drive around using only the repel side of two magnets. We added a page to our science journals by completing a magnetic/not magnetic comparison sheet. Magnets were used to make howling balloon "ghosts" by spinning an inflated balloon in a circular motion with a Lugnut trapped inside. 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. The students picked "ripe" orange pumpkins from a large faux pumpkin patch and identified the life cycle with card labels. Real pumpkin dissections using tweezers were performed to aid in pumpkin parts identification of its skin (rind), stem, blossom end, ribs, flesh (pulp), fibrous strands, and seeds. The pumpkin unit culminated with a final large group experiment called "foaming pumpkin" during which I mixed vinegar and baking soda to show the process of a "chemical reaction" placed inside a jack-o-lantern resulting in spooky oozing from its mouth. It was so much fun to hear the students giggle as they observed this creepy experiment. In addition to these units, a "Fall Scavenger Hunt" will be taking place from the final week of October and into the first week of November. Students explored the woods looking for items on their individual lists including leaves in three colors, pinecones, acorns, tree bark and rocks amongst other items.

The next unit we will focus on throughout the subsequent 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.

Yours in discovery,

Karolina Smith



Music



October filled the music room with spiders, bats, witches and bones!

We started the month with a complete week of spiders. Students learned several versions of the Itsy Bitsy Spider while playing with plastic spiders and pretend water spouts made from PCV piping. We used yarn to create giant webs in the music room and listened to stories about spiders with our plastic spider friends.

The next week was all about bats and witches. We moved like bats while listening to Halloween themed songs and heard nonfiction and fiction stories about bats. We talked about witches brew and what yucky stuff could be in the witches pot. We passed the witches broomstick and stirred the witches brew with our claves.

Bones completed our Halloween unit. We sang songs about skeletons, read books about bones and talked about the difference between cartilage and bones. The students had fun feeling their own arms and legs to discover their own bones!

The finger play for the month was Five Little Pumpkins.

Mrs. Bailey



St. Andrew's Preschool Chapel News



We are really on a roll now! The kids have gotten the hang of coming to our chapel to hear God's stories and are learning our new songs. We even get to join chapel and music once a month for EXTRA songs!!

In November we will learn about The Ark and the Tent, Jonah the Backward Prophet, and discuss our Thanksgiving Blessings. We will have lots of wondering questions and think about all of God's gifts.

Chapel Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday	Story Sequence
Wednesday, 11/3	11/4	The Ark and the Tent
11/9	11/11	No Chapel
11/16	11/18	Jonah
11/24	None (Off for Thanksgiving)	Thanksgiving Blessings

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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



Christmas Program

We will be hosting a Christmas Program in December in the Parish Hall.

December 15

Fish 10-10:20

Penguin 10:55-11:15

Puppy 11:25-11:45

December 16

Frog 10-10:20

Lion 10:30-10:50

Kitten 11:25-11:45



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH

Messy Church

Please join us at St Andrews for our next Messy Church on Sunday Nov 28th at 3:00 pm. Messy Church is a kid-friendly, short service with a chapel story as the sermon, followed by a family craft/activity. This time each family will be making an Advent wreath to use this Advent season. We have it outside in our front parking lot, so it is weather dependent. If you are interested in participating, please email Amy Dutton at amy@standrews.net.

Contact: Amy Dutton (amy@standrews.net)

