

St. Andrew's Preschool Seasonal Gazette

Fall 2025



From the Director

Fall brings so many opportunities to enjoy a variety of pumpkin treats! My new favorite is the Starbucks pumpkin cold brew which was brought to my attention by a parent ordering at one of our parent coffees! It is also time to delight in the beautiful crisp outdoors. Another treat will be after-school programs! For our younger students, being fully potty trained is expected in order to attend after school programs. That means children must come in underwear and be independent in the potty. If you have questions regarding your child being ready to stay for after school programs, please contact your classroom teachers.

Two fall events are just around the corner- Trunk or Treat and Stone Soup. Your participation is requested for Trunk or Treat. It is always a favorite. I'm not sure who loves it more the parents or the children! We will also host a Stone Soup event in November. Your child may invite one special guest to attend with them. Specific information with dates, times, and sign-ups will be in Celene's weekly email.

Victor O'Neil Studios will be sending the proofs to your email address in the next two weeks. If you have any questions about the pictures, please contact them at underclass@vosphoto.com

October finds our students understanding their schedules and routines. They look comfortable and confident walking down the hallway. Our learners begin to notice what's around them and how different parts of our preschool work. They continue to ask great questions when they pass by my office. It's the best part of my day!

We enjoy working with your children each day. They are funny, smart, and curious. Now let's have some fall fun!

Warm regards,
Tami



The Lion Class



Hello Lion families, here is the first edition of “The Life of a Lion”. It has been a great start to our year and we love getting to know our new class! The kids are coming together as a team and we are seeing new friendships form each week. The beginning of each year we focus on transforming our little people into the pre-k wonders that they are today (and they will only continue to grow during the year). In this newsletter, I will try to highlight and give you a “sneak-peak” into the life of your Lion. So here it goes...

In September we keep things simple since we are trying to focus on getting to know our Lions and just teaching the general rules of the classroom. We had learning units about starting school, all about me, families and apples. We completed many projects that were multi-purpose to teach skills, while also assessing what our Lions can already do (cutting, writing etc.). We learn so much sitting with our Lions as they draw and create. They usually talk/narrate as they go which is why sometimes you will see us write something on their paper that helps explain or narrate their pictures. Self-portraits are fun since we use them to see how far our Lions progress during the year. Our Lions loved playing at the Apple Orchard, and it was amazing to see how the kids took turns shopping and checking out all the various apple items. This class loves to sort. They had fun sorting the apples by color and putting them on the trees on the wall. We learned about the apple life cycle and the kids learned how to label the different parts of the apple. We made apple prints to see the core and seeds in the apple and made applesauce to practice cutting. We graphed who liked the applesauce as our morning question of the day and most of the kids liked it! We will do more cooking projects during the year since it is a great teaching opportunity, and the kids love it! On to October...

In October we continued our apple unit, talked about scarecrows, bats, pumpkins and Halloween. October is such a fun month to teach preschool. It is so magical for a child (and for big children who happen to be teachers). There is a reason most of us teachers love teaching this age group! After being in school for a month, our Lions have really adjusted to our routine. The Lions know their jobs and are taking responsibility for them and often remind us of what still needs to be done each day. Scarecrows and bats are great fall units to start off the month of October. We had fun with the puppet theatre in dramatic play and the kids made up fun stories with all the puppets. After the puppet theater our Lions trick or treated at the “pumpkin playground” in dramatic play and had a blast! During October we made many fun projects to celebrate Halloween. I love how unique each project ends up. Our crazy pumpkins and/or witches are always a hit. We read the story “Creepy Carrots” and made our own carrot patch (this is one of Mrs. Nyman’s favorites). Pumpkin bread (really it is cake) is always a hit in October. We love to bake with our Lions. Our Lions are working hard writing their names. We are encouraging our Lions to use initial capital and lower-case letters where appropriate. We are so proud of them no matter how they write their name, but most of all we are just happy to see how proud they are of their success. Seeing their growth is very rewarding, but most of all I am just excited that they are excited to learn and succeed. If you aren’t excited about something you might end up learning it, but it will not be a lot of fun and what’s the point of being a kid if it isn’t fun? On to a preview of November...

The Lion Class continued

In November we will learn about all the colors of fall, stone soup and Thanksgiving. It is a fantastic month to reinforce all the soft skills we teach in the classroom. Kindness, thoughtfulness, and being thankful are just a few of the skills we reinforce every day and there is an entire holiday devoted to this! We talk about red and green choices in the Lion class and this is a great time to support those choices that we taught them at the beginning of the year. We are excited that we get to celebrate Stone Soup as a group again. The kids will get to use a knife and cut our vegetables for our soup (such an amazing fine-motor activity, but obviously it needs to be highly supervised) and the kids get to host a special person to share their soup. December is always a whirlwind and we try to create lots of things the kids can give to you. We teach about giving, not just receiving since that is hard for kids to internalize especially during Christmas. My favorite dramatic play of the year shows up in December – Santa's workshop.

It has been an amazing start to the year. At back-to-school night, we try and tell you how our day works, but I will be honest we always try and change things up depending on what works with each group of Lions. We are constantly talking about patterns, sorting, counting and we have added math equations to our circle time routine. For language arts, we work our way through the handwriting without tears letter order practicing initial letter sounds and having the kids make sentences with new words. We practice our letter sounds every day and try to incorporate them naturally as much as we can to have it come from the Lions own words vs. just what we do in our morning meeting. Not all Lions will understand everything right away, but the more they are exposed to something the less scary it becomes. We always try and reinforce that we can make mistakes. We are looking for progress in our Lions, not perfection. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

With love and a roar, Mrs. Nyman and Mrs. Jacobs





The Penguin 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, bouncing together on our school bus structure, tossing a ball back and forth between teachers and friends, and playing in the sand box. It is so important that they have this time to move about freely to develop muscles, coordination, and friendships.

We have spent time in our morning circle learning class rules to keep each other safe and happy. The children enjoy all the jobs we do in the morning, some of which include counting the days on the calendar, singing our “days of the week” and “months of the year” songs, identifying the daily weather on our weather dial, and choosing a greeting song to sing.

In addition, circle time is an opportunity to work on learning our letters. By November we will have learned the sounds and proper formation of the letters A, L, F, E, H, T, I, and U. When writing, we start every letter at the top (and there’s a song for that!). We begin with the easiest letters to form and work our way to the hardest ones. We have enjoyed playing the "What’s Missing?" game with objects that start with the letters we are working on in class. This game helps us identify the beginning sounds of the items. We’ve also been learning the "Mat Man" song, which helps children remember to draw all the parts of a person in a picture. The children have learned so much already! You might ask them to sing one of our songs for you.

We continue to work on handwriting using our name cards and spending time with number recognition and cutting practice.

New friendships have formed during our classroom free play time as the children play with playdough, sort items in our digging bin, do free art, play games, build with blocks, or “cook” together in our kitchen. These activities incorporate matching, color recognition, alphabet recognition, counting, sharing and the ability to take turns in a larger group activity. Some favorite toys among the children that you might be hearing about are Magna-tiles (magnetic building tiles) and Alpha-Bots (letters that transform into 26 cool robots).

In October we started Show and Tell every Wednesday. The children love this and it’s a great opportunity for them to learn to listen to their classmates, and they can expect the same respect when it is their turn to share.

In our units so far, the children have enjoyed learning about Halloween, Fall, Apples, and Starting School. We have done many fun art projects geared to these units and read some wonderful books. In November, we will have a unit about giving thanks. We look forward to talking with the children about giving thanks for all the wonderful people, places and things in our lives.



The Penguin Class continued

Some upcoming events for the Penguins: Trunk or Treat, 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 29; Stone Soup, 11:45 am on Wed., Nov. 19; Thanksgiving break, Nov. 26-27, no preschool.

We are thankful for the many children in our care, along with their families!

Mrs. MacArthur and Mrs. Kockler



The Fish & Frog Classes



Hello from the Fish and Frog classroom! It has been a wonderful two months. We love getting to know all of the unique personalities and watching connections and friendships grow. It is impressive how both classes catch on to routines, procedures, and concepts. As we say at preschool, “kiss that juicy brain!” We are very proud of their hard work every day.

The school year began with a couple weeks focusing on getting used to the new spaces and routines. We learned how to take care of our belongings each day, which job to choose, and all sorts of new songs! And that’s just in the morning! We will continue to spend time learning about being in a classroom with friends. By sitting safely, waiting our turn to speak so we can hear each other, and treating each other with respect and kindness.

One of the first things we learned about this year was “Mat Man.” He is a simple person drawing that uses basic lines and curves which are the basis for writing letters throughout the rest of the year! There is even a song that goes along with it (as with most things—you know we love our songs in preschool!). We have been learning our “frog-jump” letters so far, and the children are doing a wonderful job learning how to write and make the sound of a new letter each week.

September was full of nice weather, with lots of outside time on the playground and the outdoor classroom. The children loved playing in the ice cream shop in our dramatic play area and the Magna-tiles have been the hands-down favorite for block building. We spent the last couple weeks of the month learning about apples! We loved learning about the different varieties and parts of apples as well as the apple life cycle. Our classroom had an apple orchard in it! A highlight was tasting apples and discovering whether green, red, or yellow apples were the most liked in each class. We played apple games and created many apple art projects.

October brought us another fall product to learn about—pumpkins! Our apple orchard transformed into a pumpkin patch and we practiced counting pumpkin seeds. We learned what makes a pumpkin turn into a jack-o-lantern and what kind of shapes you can use to make a jack-o-lantern face! A highlight was making peek-a-boo pumpkins and leaves with the children’s cute faces popping out. The rest of October, we will have fun with all things Halloween. Our dramatic play area will feature a “Cauldron Creation” station, where the children mix up ingredients and a little “magic” in a cauldron. We’ll enjoy (mildly) spooky art, songs, and close out the month with our preschool Trunk-or-Treat. It is a preschool-favorite event each year, with the teachers and children wearing their Halloween costumes, and a creative and cute trick-or-treat in the back parking lot!

As fall marches on, we will continue to enjoy celebrating all the joys of the season, with themes focusing on Leaves and Thanksgiving in November. We’ll bring back the leaf raking and have a Thanksgiving pie-making station in our dramatic play. We will sneak in some dinosaur fun, to go along with our annual month of “Dinovember” in Discovery class. This month brings us the opportunity to talk about things we are grateful for in our art, stories, and rug time discussions. Please join us for our annual Stone Soup event in mid-November, when we make a pot of vegetable soup to share with our preschool community!

The Fish & Frog Classes continued

It is our pleasure to be your child's teachers and we look forward to many more months of learning together. We are grateful for the blessing of getting to know your children and families and we thank you for the support you give us. We hope you all enjoy the coziness and fun that this season brings.

Kristin Stites and Lisa Winand





The Puppy & Kitten Classes



Hello parents! What a great start to the school year we have had with our Puppies and Kittens! It has been so special getting to know each of their unique personalities over the last two months, and we look forward to watching them continue to learn and grow. We are happy for this opportunity to share some details from our days in class and what is yet to come this fall!

Both classes have done an amazing job adjusting to our classroom and learning our routines. We are impressed by their level of independence already with our morning bag, snack, and hand sanitize routine. In September, we began our year with our “Welcome to Preschool,” “Puppies and Kittens,” and “All About Me” themes. We slowly worked in all our routines and special classes. We spent time each day practicing sitting in a safe way (criss-cross applesauce,) knowing when it’s our turn to talk, raising hands when we need something, using walking feet, keeping safe bodies and personal space while in line (when we’re walking and stopping), and taking turns. We learned songs and catch phrases to help us remember what to do with our bodies i.e. “Stack your pancake hands” to prepare to catch hand sanitizer or the call and response, “Macaroni and cheese! Everybody freeze!” for whole group attention getting. Each day we spend time talking together and getting to know each other while we are eating our snack. We love chatting about Halloween! We have heard all about your decorations and all about their costume plans! This has been a favorite topic across both classes.

We are enjoying this fall weather, now that it has cooled down, and spending time in both the indoor (on rainy days) and outdoor playgrounds. Most of our friends especially look forward to that time of the day! Fall also brings some of our favorite units of the year— Apples, Pumpkins, and Halloween Friends. We have spent time in the art center creating all sorts of fall magic. This year, our art projects will focus on exploring different materials and sensory experiences, and the processes of making something. We aim to create process art, not product art, so our goal is creation through exploration and is less focused on a picture perfect end product. The result may not be realistic and some faces may be a bit Picassoesque, but they will be the result of your child’s hard work which is precious!

A highlight for both classes has been our dramatic play center. We had a kitchen and baby dolls, an apple stand, and recently, a Pumpkin Patch for a couple weeks. The children took turns picking and buying pumpkins from each other, and being the cashier. The register was a much-coveted spot. Currently, we have a Magic Potion/Creative Cauldron Shop where we have three little witches/wizards at a time mixing some very creative potions! We have been reading fun fall and Halloween-themed books and have learned a few new songs. We started the year learning the classic “Open Shut Them.” We sang “Way Up High In The Apple Tree” where we shake an apple tree and five apples fall down one at a time so we can eat them. Then we sang “Five Little Pumpkins,” which talks about pumpkins showing different emotions on their faces. We all laugh when we pretend to have grumpy faces! To round out October we learned “Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate,” to go along with our Halloween Friends theme. We will end month with another yearly favorite, our Trunk or Treat. It is so



The Puppy & Kitten Classes continued



fun to see the children in their costumes and to parade around the darling decorated trunks to collect goodies in their bags. What a great way to end October!

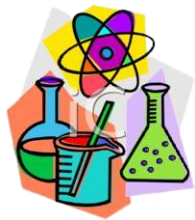
Coming up in November, we will start with a unit on the season of fall, including leaves, acorns, and forest animals. All the things that make fall so fun! Our dramatic play center will have nature pizza making and a mini leaf-raking center. We love fall art projects, especially when we can include nature items we collect ourselves on nature walks! This month we will begin to spend more time in our outdoor classroom. Now that the children have an understanding of our routines and rules, we can add in adventures to the outdoor classroom. It is a wonderfully unique and special part of our school! As we get further into the month, we will dive into our themes of Thanksgiving and gratitude. We will, of course, have plenty of turkeys, in art, song, and all throughout our classroom!

We want so say a very special thank you to each and every one of you! We are so grateful for everything you do to support us and your child. It is a privilege to be their teachers!

We hope you enjoy this beautiful fall!

Holly Welty and Aline Steele Puppy and Kitten Class Teachers





The Discovery Room

“Where no discovery is too small”

Why did the germ cross the microscope? To get to the other slide! Our September unit began with an introduction to class rules, materials, terminology, and safety. We learned about scientist parts (such as the scientist's nose to smell and four other senses); utilized scientific tools (pipette, microscope, beaker, magnifying glass, balance scale, etc.), and I introduced the experimental method. We read a book about Einstein and students enjoyed conducting their own experiment testing how a chemical reaction is generated using baking soda, oil and colored water to make our version of lava lamps. We concluded the unit with a nature hike and identified trees using handheld charts matching which leaves they dropped were associated with them. In case you are wondering, we have many different species of oak trees in the woods behind our school.

The next unit we covered was "Colors." Students were excited to mix colors using pipettes and "primary" colored water within ice cube tray compartments to create "secondary" colors. Pipetting is a fabulous way to develop pincher grip skills and I will include more experiments developing this skill throughout the year. Students sorted color balls into different test tubes and even ground colored cereal using a mortar and pestle. We read "Mix it Up!" and everyone reviewed their color knowledge using colored overlays. We learned more in-depth color terminology including: shades, tints, and complementary colors.

October was action-packed as students explored three topics: magnets, pumpkins, and spiders! Beginning with magnets, students performed numerous hands-on activities such as sorting objects to determine if they were magnetic/ not magnetic and painting using magnetic balls. 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. Ask your child to recite the informative jingle accompanied by hand motions to describe how magnets attract and repel!

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. I introduced different types of pumpkins and gourds to show how many variations existed in nature. 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. We were generously supplied with a colossal sunflower and the students practiced extracting seeds using tweezers from it as well. I am saving the seeds for students to plant in the back lot next spring. The pumpkin unit culminated with a final large group experiment called "foaming pumpkin" during which

The Discovery Room continued

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.

The last week of the month we will increase the spookiness factor by studying spiders. Powering a remote-controlled tarantula all around the school's hallway will surely make their arachnophobia disappear! I look forward to embracing the Halloween spirit by dressing up as Ms. Frizzle this year and I can't wait to see all the spectacular student costumes.

November will be extra exciting since it will be time for our month-long celebration called "Dinovember!" I will begin the unit explaining that Dinosaur means "terrible lizard." We will review important dinosaur related terms including herbivore, carnivore, predator, prey, oviparous, extinct, paleontologist, fossil, and reptile. The classes complete a fact or fiction identification sheet to demonstrate cumulative knowledge. We sort dinosaurs into herbivore and carnivore categories using a Venn diagram. It always surprises me how students in the past were incredible at distinguishing that a carnivorous dinosaur ate meat, walked on two legs, moved fast, had sharp teeth and claws, eyes in front, and was predatory. Herbivores were prey who ate plants, walked primarily on four legs, had flat teeth, and eyes on the sides of their skull. We learn that the purpose of spikes, plates, and fancy spines were to protect themselves against predators. During the latter part of the month, we will focus on individual dinosaurs including the Iguanodon, Ankylosaurus, Triceratops, T-rex, Velociraptor, Apatosaurus and Stegosaurus. Students will complete individual chitchat sheets within their science journals by filling in missing words after listening to in depth articles discussing each dinosaur. Usually, an exceptionally popular activity is playing in Dino Land, where students recreate dinosaur habitats through dioramas using wood pieces, rocks, figurines, and fake plants. Students will transform into paleontologists with brushes and sifting tools in hand to excavate dinosaur skeletons and fossils from sand at the digging bin. Students will create their own fossils using molds and magic sand. Another popular station tends to be disassembling and reassembling a T-Rex and Triceratops using a battery-operated 'power drill.' Students will learn to match dinosaur figurines to their names and even just dinosaur Toob skulls to identify them. We will watch a few YouTube clips of dinosaur episodes from a show called Storybots. If you have the chance, check them out. You won't be able to get the songs out of your head! One, two, three, check out my horns! Dinosaurs are going to take over the entire Discovery Room. They will be in the digging bin, on the light table, and in each of the building buckets. A special dinosaur named "Trixie" always makes an appearance at the end of the month. The dinosaur unit concludes with a paleontological dig challenge using chocolate chip cookies to determine how many chips students are able to excavate using miniature "tools" without breaking them apart!



Yours in Discovery,

Mrs. Karolina Smith

Music



What's in the mystery box? What could it be? I have loved getting to know your children in the music classroom just as much as they come ready to guess what mystery item might be in the box to jump-start our time together. Some of my favorite recurring guesses are that I am actually hiding in the box, or that I have a rainbow unicorn kitty lollipop (this guess gets longer and longer as we go through the year).

Our first mystery guest was a bee puppet that helped us sing "Hickety Pickety Bumblebee" to learn one another's names. Then we had a rainbow in the box and spent the day reviewing colors throughout several songs and games. Everyone enjoyed dancing and singing along with our rainbow ribbons!

We've talked about using our voices and our bodies to make music while finding different ways to keep a steady beat. "Shimmy Shimmy Cocoa Puff" was a favorite to get everyone moving, and the older classes love going a bit faster each time and seeing how long they can keep up! We carried the idea of a steady beat into lessons with claves and rhythm sticks. They were able to practice tempo, tap along to our songs, and use the instruments in silly ways when we "made a pizza". Our older friends played some listening games and repeated patterns with the rhythm sticks.

As we've moved into Fall, we have begun singing songs and reciting rhymes about apples. It was a delight to watch them play "Apple Tree," a game based on Duck, Duck, Goose, but with a gentle song attached. We have continued to explore Autumn with songs about "Autumn Leaves" and "Five Little Leaves". Some are acted out with vibrant silk leaves, while others have used scarves to dance around like the wind and the leaves. They are really connecting with the wonder and beauty of the season around them, and it's fun to see them make connections to inform their guess on what may be in the mystery box. We have listened to and acted out some squirrel sounds.

Our friends are beginning to hear more stories in Chapel, so we have started reflecting that by taking some time to sing songs that connect to their chapel lesson each week. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" was adapted to help them act out their story about Creation.

Soon we'll be marking Halloween with songs about spiders, pumpkins, and skeletons. Then we'll work on some songs for Stone Soup and Thanksgiving before we begin preparing for our Christmas program. It's so lovely to see, hear, and dance with your children.

Mrs. Campbell



Chapel News



Happy Fall to all! I wear two hats this year; some days I see your children for music, and the other day I get to share Chapel stories with them. I got to know them for several weeks through songs, dances, games, and playing instruments. It has been lovely to see other sides of them through our Chapel Stories. I get to see them make connections, ask big questions, share what they are thankful for, and find themselves in the stories we tell.

We use a method called Godly Play for chapel which has roots in Montessori education. It really values the independence and personal experience of the children. There is emphasis on letting them choose how they would like to explore the stories they've heard. For example, after hearing the story about the Holy Family, they were given options like working with the wooden story-telling materials, puzzles and coloring pages related to the story, looking at related picture books, or free drawing or creating something with waxy strings called WikiStix. It was fascinating to see each class gravitate towards different responses based on age, how they connected to the story, and the unique individuals that make up each class.

I've worked to create a space for them this year that allows a little more choice and freedom on the days where they respond to our stories. We are thinking about the gifts in creation now, and soon we will explore the Ark and the Flood, the Exodus, and Jonah. I look forward to hearing their thoughts and questions as we continue wondering about these stories together.

Mrs. Campbell

Church News



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant service (all children are invited to participate in the pageant)

9:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude/Carols

10 p.m. Holy Eucharist II Service

Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Christmas morning service





Trunk or Treat

October 29

Puppy, Fish & Penguin classes 10 a.m.

October 31

Kitten, Frog & Lion classes 10 a.m.

Stone Soup

November 19

Puppy, Fish & Penguin classes 11:45 a.m.

November 20

Kitten, Frog & Lion classes 11:45 a.m.



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
outside everyday!!

Christmas Program

December 17

Puppy, Fish & Lion classes 11:45 a.m.

December 18

Kitten, Frog & Penguin classes 11:45 a.m.

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