



Discovery Zone Gazette

Preschool 12 Focuses on Fire Safety

Preschool 12 became brave firefighters during Fire Safety week. Preschoolers practiced their social relations and sharing experiences as they took turns riding in the firetruck in the dramatic play center. Language and literacy skills

were enhanced as they learned the meaning of the word Exit and how to identify it in a building. Gross motor skills were enhanced as they demonstrated how to stop, drop and roll. Preschoolers were also engaged in a visual discrimination activity as they glued shape cutouts onto their fire engines to resemble certain parts of their truck. At circle time, preschoolers enhanced their singing skills as they learned a new song "Firetruck." Fine motor dexterity was enhanced and math skills were challenged as preschoolers counted and glued spots on their dalmatian dogs. Preschoolers ended the week being good listeners as they patiently waited their turn to tour a real fire truck at DZ from the Columbia Fire Department.



For the second week of October, Preschoolers enjoyed learning all about pumpkins. During circle time preschoolers were engaged in a critical thinking experience as they guessed what was inside the pumpkin. Then their senses of smell and touch were stimulated as Preschoolers scooped out the pulp and seeds. Fine motor skills and math skills were challenged as they counted their pumpkin seeds and glued them to a pumpkin craft. Listening and rhyming skills were enhanced as the children recited the rhyme "Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater" and "Five Little Pumpkins." At the end of the week, Preschoolers were engaged in a sensory experience as they baked, smelled and tasted real pumpkin seeds.

During third week of October, Preschoolers learned all about the Fall season. Listening and singing skills were enhanced as preschoolers learned that Fall and Autumn are the same season in a new song called, "I Like Autumn." Math skills were challenged all week. The preschoolers took turns identifying numbers on the corn stalk cutouts activity. Preschoolers then learned the difference between small, medium and large as they participated in a leaf sorting activity. The children practiced catching an acorn cutout with a number on it, and placing it in the correct matching numbered bag. Lastly, fine motor skills were being developed as Preschoolers participated in the Original Works Art Project where they created a tree

out of their hand prints and leaves made from their fingerprints.

To finish the end of the month, Preschool 12 enjoyed a Halloween theme. The children started the week enhancing their creativity as they decorated their trick-or-treat bags for the Halloween parade. Preschoolers were then engaged in a fine motor skills threading activity by threading yarn through hole punches of a pumpkin, an acorn and a leaf cutout. Listening and singing skills were encouraged during our "Ten Little Scarecrows" fingerplay activity. Preschoolers were also engaged in a problem solving activity as they put a Halloween puzzle together. And to top the week off, the children were excited to practice their social relations skills as they took delight in dressing up, and acting out their character during our Halloween Parade activity.

Lastly, Preschool 12 friends have been working very hard each week learning to identify and write their alphabet letters. So far letters A-G have been introduced. Also, their communications skills, as well as their social relations skills, have blossomed through our Show and Share activities. Please note that every Wednesday is our Show and Share day.

Discovery Zone Learning Center

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Important Dates

- ☺ 11/11 & 11/12 Fun Days for School Ageds
- ☺ 11/16/10 Original Works Orders Due
- ☺ 11/23 Birds of Prey will educate the children about CT native birds
- ☺ 11/25 & 11/26 DZLC is CLOSED for the Thanksgiving

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Toddler 3 Is Full of Our Little Pumpkins

Toddler 3 began the month of October with a theme on "Squirrels." The children participated in a variety of different activities at circle time, such as, "Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel," a squirrel matching game, an acorn hunt and, "Pin the Tail on the Squirrel." Children enhanced their knowledge of science and their vocabulary when they collected different items outside from nature to discuss as a class. Fine motor was increased through a "Squirrel Painting" and a "Coffee Ground Squirrel." Gross motor skills were developed when the children enjoyed dancing to music as squirrels. Toddlers also improved upon their listening skills and body recognition when they played a game of "Mr. Squirrel, Mr. Squirrel."

For the second week of October, Toddlers learned all about "Feelings." At circle time, the children discussed what different things made them happy, sad, angry, surprised, etc. and what those different facial expressions might look like. The children enhanced their math skills when they worked on making their own happy and sad face

patterns. Spatial awareness was enhanced through the children's individual face plates. The children worked as a group when they put together a happy face collage of different magazine clip-pings of smiling faces. Lastly, the Toddlers were told to express how they were feeling through their own pieces of artwork.

Next, the children learned all about "Pumpkins" in relation to the class field trip to Hurst Farm they went on that week. The Toddlers were able to choose their own pumpkin to take home from the farm. Toddlers learned in this week a new finger-play called "Five Little Pumpkins."

The children also enjoyed a tasty treat in which the children created their own pumpkins using English muffins, orange cream cheese and raisins. The class enjoyed their creations very much! Toddler 3 enjoyed a sensory experience when they made fingerpaint pumpkins. Fine motor



and creativity were enhanced through their spider pumpkins that they constructed. Gross motor skills were strengthened when the class played a game of "Ring Around the Pumpkin." To finish out the month of October the children's math skills were reinforced through a theme on "Counting and Numbers." The children developed their counting skills through different songs such as "Eight Little Monkeys," and "Five Little Ducks." Math was enhanced when the children made cheerio creations and counted the amount of cheerios they had glued to the paper. Toddlers also created a "Counting Caterpillar" in which they counted the different parts of the caterpillar's body. Toddler 3 enjoyed a sensory experience during this week, when they went digging for numbers in the sand. Toddler 3 ended this month with a Halloween Parade and party. The Toddlers all looked great in their costumes! The children loved the parade and all the special treats that were brought in. Thank you again to all who contributed to our party!

Things Get Spooky in Infant 5

During the month of October the infant room would like to wish Maya a happy birthday!

This month, the babies began by making ghosts with their footprints. Next, using their hand prints and overlapping them, the infants made spiders to sit in a web. The last project they made were pumpkins using



their palms and fingers were used to make the stems. The sensory project this month involved a pumpkin! After it was cut open, the babies explored it by playing with the pumpkin guts.

For language and communication development the infant room focused on dressing to go outside, making babbling sounds to the toys, turning the pages of a book, and practicing animal sounds. Cognitive development focused finding a toy, exploring balls, clap-

ping cups, and a scavenger hunt to find toys. As for social and emotional development, the infant room worked on listening to different music to jazz it up, coping with stranger anxiety, hide and see, and playing a song. Lastly, for physical development, the babies practiced rolling over, propping themselves up, holding onto something to stand, and letting go of an adult to a standing position.

During November the Infants will enjoy learning about Thanksgiving.

Learning "Falls" Into Place in Preschool 11

October began with a theme on "Fall." The children learned about the four seasons and focusing on fall. They learned that the leaves change color because they use up the stored supply of chlorophyll. When the chlorophyll is gone the leaves change to yellow, red, orange and brown. The class enjoyed



several nature walks around the school to learn and investigate. Preschoolers got to see the leaves actually changing and falling. They learned several new songs and read lots of new books about Autumn. During this week the children used their fine motor skills to do leaf

rubbings. They also went on the very first field trip of the new school year. The field trip to Hurst Farm was so much fun, we went on a hay ride pulled by a tractor it took us all around the farm. We stopped and fed turnips to the oxen and goats and picked pumpkins in the patch. To end the day we went to the sugar house and had cider and a cookie for snack. Learning about fall was so much fun!

Next, Preschoolers enjoyed a theme on "All about me." This is a great theme where the children and I get to learn about each other. The children learned about each others families as well as likes and dislikes. The children drew self portraits by looking into a mirror and matching their hair and their eyes to what they saw. They also worked on fine motor and language skills by creating a new book for the library center. Each child created their own page, dictating and illustrating what s/he thought was important to relay about him/herself. To finish off the week, families got to enjoy a project at home. Thank you Preschool 11 families for taking time to do this take home project.

The third week in Preschool 11

was all about Colors and Art Exploration. During this week the children worked on learning about colors. They also learned what colors mixed to create new colors. Preschoolers worked very hard all week on the Fundraiser Art project. During this experience the children got their hands full of paint and fun! Can't wait for your to see them!

Finally, Preschool 11 had a spooky week on Halloween. The class learned a new song "Black Shiny Crow" and it was so popular, the children requested it throughout the week. The children also worked on their spatial awareness skills by putting a Jack-O-Lantern face together. The children lots of scary stories and even decorated real pumpkins thanks to Taylor and her family! To finish up the week, the children had a day of Halloween fun with our annual Halloween Parade and Trick or Treating. Preschoolers had a Halloween party filled with healthy treats and worked on gross motor skills by playing "Jump over the Pumpkin." Fall has been a blast so far and these themes are in store for next month: Space, Nursery Rhymes, Friendship and Manners and Thanksgiving.

Infant 6 Is on the Move

Infant 6 had such a wonderful fun filled month. During just this pasted month so much has changed, Infant 6 now has crawlers that are using and working on their gross motor skills and all over the place. Now I have been able to introduce new physical development activities such as, "pulling it around," "Where is it ?" and "Come and get it."

As always in Infant 6, the children enjoy plenty of tummy time and floor time. The children enjoy this time to interact with the teacher, each other as well as building gross motor skills. While doing floor time the children also work on their ulnar grasp by

holding onto toys and others pulling at them and even moving toys from one hand to another.

Infant 6 made spooky Halloween art projects, by using the infants hand and foot prints they made Jack-o-lanterns , hand print spiders and Halloween wreaths.

The month was ended with a wonderful Halloween party and parade. All the children in the center including us here in infant 6, wore costumes and joined in the activities. The infants



really enjoyed seeing the older children in there bright colorful costumes. During November Infant 6 will look forward to the arrival of new friends and "Turkey Day."

Just a reminder to all parents, please make sure that your child's

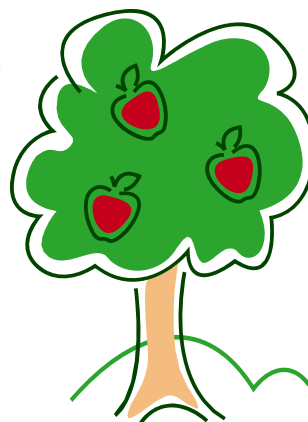
cubby is fully stocked with weather appropriate clothing (you can never have to many extra clothing in an infant room!) I'm looking forward to spending the holiday season with your family!

Preschool 10 Is the Apple of Our Eyes

Preschool 10 jumped into October learning about pumpkins. The children used their fine motor skills to create their own pumpkin, cut it out and to make a "My Little Book of Pumpkin Faces." The class also read lots of books about pumpkins. The week ended with a trip to Hurst Farm. There, the children got to go through a hay maze, enjoy a hayride, pick turnips and feed them to the goats and oxen, pick their own pumpkins and then end the trip with some apple cider and cookies. Thank you everyone for making the field trip a great day to remember. The children really enjoyed it. It was also fire safety

week and the fire department was nice enough to bring a fire truck and fire fighters to our school to talk to the children. The children were fascinated and had many questions for the fire men and women. The children even got to go in the fire truck and see what the interior looked like.

The second week of October was all about apples. The children got to do a



variety of hands on sensory activities with apples and had a lot of fun learning about them. They tasted test 6 different kinds of apples and discussed the taste and texture. Next, the children painted with apples and made apple prints. Preschoolers learned math and science skills as they made applesauce. The children measured out the ingredients, stirred and mashed the apples. They had a blast making it and a even better time enjoying their delicious treat!

Next, Preschool 10 focused

Toddler 2 Is Sweeter than Cookies

To start off the month of October, the Toddler 2 class explored a theme all about leaves. During circle time, the children learned many new songs about leaves and enhanced their math skills by counting leaves and doing a color match. The children played a hide and seek game with the leaves in the beginning of the week, and throughout the week they made different projects involving leaves, which are displayed on the fall bulletin board. The children were kept very busy during half the week that the rainy weather kept everyone inside. The sensory table was filled with leaves and acorns and the children were encouraged to explore. To finish off the week, the Columbia Fire Department came to show the children a little something about what they do and what their day is like.

As we entered the second week of October, Toddler 2 did a theme on apples. The children made apple trees using paint dabbers, sang many new apple songs, and enhanced math skills with matching and sorting apples. Since the children of Toddler 2 love to try different things, they did a taste test using different types of apples. The children always enjoy taste testing. The class did several activities involving paint throughout the week as the chil-

dren got to finger paint and make apple prints. During circle time, the children engaged in an apple toss using foam apples. The children also improved on their gross motor skills during the apple toss and bubble wrap popping.

Towards the end of October, Toddler 2 learned all about Fall Things. Each day, the children were introduced to something different that has to do with the fall season. The children also learned a new song every day during circle time. The children got a chance to enhance their math and art skills as they put together an acorn puzzle and were then asked to paint it. They learned how to work together in a group as they colored and then put together a scarecrow, which you can find on the bulletin board. In the middle of the week, all three Toddler classrooms got to go on a field trip to Hurst Farm in Andover. The children in Toddler 2 had such a great time. While at the farm, we walked through a hays maze, went on a hayride, picked pumpkins, fed the oxen and goats and finished off with a special snack of cookies and apple cider. The children all got to take the pumpkins that they picked home with them. The trip was perfect for our theme about fall things.

To finish off the month of Octo-

ber, Toddler 2 did a theme about cookies. Throughout the week, the children learned new songs and heard different stories about cookies. The children did a few activities this week that involved following directions and using their gross motor skills. They also practiced fast and slow passing skills with their friends during circle time. The children enjoyed some art projects this week as they decorated their own "cookies" and made a gingerbread man using glue, cinnamon, and nutmeg. To enhance their language and math skills, the children did a sorting activity using cookies and a cookie shapes puzzle. All the children did very well with both activities. The children really enjoyed the last activity of the week which involved cookie cutters and play-dough. To end the entire week, Discovery Zone had their annual Halloween Parade and each classroom had their own party. The children all looked great in their costumes and had tons of fun with the Halloween activities that day! Thank you to the parents of Toddler 2 for bringing in healthy treats for the children to enjoy.



Toddler 1 Gets Creative With Costumes

As fall moves on we can finally see the color of the trees changing, with this change come the cold weather and the beginning of many goals that we wish to meet before the year ends. A theme on apples was introduced to the children for the first week of October and they sharpened their math skills as they counted how many apples on the trees. The children also explored their senses as they made applesauce. The children enjoyed using the masher to puree the apples and it was a very tasty experiment. To conclude the week, Toddlers were able to see how apples can be used to make apple prints. The children were excited to dip their apples into red and spreading them on paper.

Toddler 1 quickly moved along in the month with a week on pumpkins.



The class started by discussing the life cycle of pumpkins then were able to use their sequencing skills as they placed pictures in the appropriate order from seed to pumpkin. The children enjoyed a day of sensory play as they dissected a pumpkin to discover what was inside. The children explored language as they guess what could be in it. To reinforce literacy skills a series of books was introduced such as Pumpkin Eye, Pumpkin Pumpkin and Grow a Pump-

kin Pie. Toddler 1 ended the week discussing the exciting upcoming field trip.

The topic for the following week was costumes. The children were encouraged to use their imaginations as they dressed up in the different costumes.

They also practiced self help skills as they attempted to dress them-

selves in the costumes. As a creative art expression Toddlers made their own illustration of The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything. They particularly enjoyed creating the page

where the jack o lantern appeared at the door. Finally, it was time for the trip to the Pumpkin Patch. Everyone had a great time feeding the oxen and goats and on the hayride, but they especially loved the cookies and apple cider! The excitement was so big that the children were exhausted by the end of the trip.

As the month came to an end Toddler 1 focused on the changing leaves and brought the outdoors inside to learn about Autumn. The children were able to explore with the different textures and color as the sensory table was made available for all of them to explore. This week was full of songs from the old favorites like, "Leaves are Falling" to the new "I'm a Furry Squirrel." The children made many discoveries along the way such as the beautiful patterns that an acorn makes when you use it to make rubbings. Toddler 1 ended the month with a better understanding of the natural world.

November will be full of excitement and new knowledge. In November Toddler 1 will explore spiders, Hibernation, Turkeys, and food. Toddler 1 will like to welcome Izabella and her family back to our class room.



Preschool 10 Continued

on "All About Me." The children learned a lot about themselves and each other this week. The children looked in a mirror and drew themselves looking at their hair color, eye color skin color etc. During circle, the children passed around a ball to a different friend and they each had to say their name and one thing about themselves. The children also practiced writing their first and last names. Preschool 10 ended the week by making all about me collages where the children brought in pictures

of themselves, their families, their favorite things to do and they also filled out a paper about themselves which they put in their collage, too.

To end the month the class celebrated Halloween. The week was started by talking about Halloween and safety when we are out trick or treating. A big thank-you to Terri Bogan (Dominic's Mom) for her invaluable help with making spider t-shirts. The children also made hand print bats and made spider webs out of Popsicle sticks,

string and spider rings. They had a blast creating their own webs that we hung around the room. The week ended with decorating the bags for trick or treating and enjoying dressing up and trick or treating around the school and having a Halloween party. The children had so much fun, thank you to everyone for helping out, bringing in treats and making it a success for the children. Preschool 10 hopes everyone had a happy and safe Halloween!