



Artwork by Bella

Dear P2 Parents,

October 26, 2011

Our **Parent Visitation Day** was a huge success. "What fun it is to bring your mommy or daddy to school with you and show them the classroom and work you have come to know as your own. This is your classroom, your work, and now they get to see how independent you are, and oh how proud they will be!" This is the gift that Parent Visitation is. As teachers, it is awesome to see the excitement of both children and parents throughout the room. Some children played it safe and only chose work that they were sure they could successfully complete. They wanted to impress, and they did. Others chose work they had just recently had their first lesson on, their most challenging work that they are still practicing...they were showing off their ability. Some children were just happy to have their parents with them, in this place they have come to love as their own, even if it was for only 45 minutes, they are proud to have you see them in it. Thank you for participating this year. Those who were not able to come this time will be glad to know we are hoping to have a second visitation time in the Spring!

Our **Fall Gardening** project was so much fun. Thank you to Quinn's mom and Nana for helping us plant our seeds. The beans are already tall plants. The children are learning that seeds need water and light to grow, and they take turns watering the plants when we play outside on the playground.

This month we talked about things that sink, and things that float. We set up a place in our classroom for the children to do the experiment for themselves. It is a very popular piece of work. We learned about Columbus, and the difference between a flat circle and a round sphere. We see the same difference in our planisphere map that has two flat circles, and our solid globes which are spheres. Our focus in the geography area of the classroom is the continent of North America. We are learning about the different countries, their flags, famous places and cultures, and where we live on the map. We will be discussing the Thanksgiving story and Native Americans. We are learning some new songs, "On the First Thanksgiving" and "Pow Wow" and learning about corn, "maize" and how the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims to plant it and pop it!

We continue to have lessons about being respectful of others and using words to solve problems. At line time we discuss how to use **self-control**, a **quiet** voice, having **patience** when waiting for a turn, and taking **responsibility** for ourselves. We also practice our balance and concentration as we 'walk with the bells' on the red line where we try to walk carefully so the bell does not make a sound.

Thank you to the Hubbell Family for opening their beautiful home to all of us at the **Parent Meet and Greet**. Thank you also to Denise and Diane for all their contributions and organization efforts. What a wonderful group of families we have this year. It was a very comfortable night of community building between parents. These parents will grow with you as your children grow through their years at Country Day. They may be young now, but soon there will be birthday parties, play dates, and even sleep-overs! It is a blessing to have a small

school community, getting to know the parents of the children your child calls friends will help you to realize the benefits.

We want to **welcome our new friend Fisher** and his family to our Country Day School Family! All the friends in P2 have been very helpful and kind to Fisher as he learns our routine. He and his family will fit right in with the awesome group of families P2 has this year, we can't wait for you all to meet them.

Our **Fall Party** will be this Friday morning at Millennium Park shelter #5. Thank you to Diane Smith and Denise Suters for making preparations and organizing the festivities. Please contact dianelsmith@yahoo.com to contribute and volunteer for the party. We still need drivers. Please arrive by 9am on Friday so we can leave promptly. We will return to school around noon. Even if you plan to attend the party with your child and drive them there yourself, we still need you to fill out the online permission slip on the schools website at (www.countrydaylargo.com / parents homepage / field trips and events) so that we have an accurate headcount. If your child is not attending, there is a place to indicate that online, as well.

Soon, we will be sending home paper for your child's **family footprint project**. Please help your child to trace one foot of each family member (including pets) and decorate as they wish. We will send home the paper and instructions in communication folders on Wednesday, November 2nd. Children will need to bring their finished Family Footprint to school any time before **Thursday, November 10th for share that day**. Connecting to one another and sharing community is essential for a healthy learning environment. The children all love to talk about their families and hear about their friend's families as it brings us all closer together.

Scholastic Book Club flyers are in your folders this week! It's so easy to **order great books** for your child's library or for gifts.(its easy to order online). There is nothing like owning a book to build a child's enthusiasm about learning to read! Scholastic Book Clubs offer a great selection of books at a great value. Please check out the flyer and order some books today! Points earned from book orders also help the teachers add great books to our classroom libraries. Thank you for your support!

Children's Line:

Thursday, October 27 – Something with a seed inside (we will cut open to see)

Thursday, November 3 – Something that begins with 'f' or 'g'

Thursday, November 10 – Family Footprint (information to follow)

Thursday, November 17 – canned food for school food drive

Thursday, December 1 – something that helps me relax

Thank you to:

- Lori Silvestro for preparing the fall leaves and ghosts for our classroom. Thank you also for always saying yes when we ask!
- Max for the Halloween book for our library and the seeds and soil for our garden
- Quinn for the DVD/VCR players for our classroom
- Garrett for the Clorox
- Fane and his family for the African Clawed Frogs
- Georgiana Marin for preparing leaves for our Practical Life work
- Our fabulous lunch parents!
- Everyone for the healthy yummy snacks!
- Room parents for organizing, and everyone for volunteering and contributing to the Fall Party!

Important Dates:

Wednesday, October 26 – Tonight! – **Parent Ed Series – Learning to Read!**

Friday, October 28 – Fall Party at the park (morning)

Friday, November 18 – **Primary Pow Wow** – 10:00am – don't miss it! More info to follow!

- followed by school wide **Harvest Gathering** and **half day dismissal**

Monday, November 21 thru Friday, November 25 – **Thanksgiving Break**

Wednesday, November 30th – **Parent Ed Series – Montessori Mathematics!** More info to follow!

Wanted - Bananas for food prep. Please sign up today to contribute!

Reminder –

- Please write your child's name on jackets and sweaters, lunchboxes and show n tells!
- Remember to read, read, read to your child every day....it's so important!

Sincerely,

Linda Carter, Debbie Kirkpatrick, and Joan Poppleton

“Plainly, the environment must be a living one, directed by a higher intelligence, arranged by an adult who is prepared for his mission.”

Maria Montessori