



Artwork by Zayn "The ghost says Boo!"

Primary 3 Newsletter
October 26, 2011

Dear P3 Parents,

We carved our class pumpkin today and baked the seeds for a yummy snack! The children enjoyed pulling the slimy pulp and seeds out! ☺

Our Fall Party will be this Friday morning at Bonner Park. Thank you to Jeff and Lisa Unger for making preparations and organizing the festivities. Please contact jlo333@tampabay.rr.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.

We went on a nature walk and collected leaves, seeds, flowers, bark and feathers to make a beautiful nature wreath. We also found many things that aren't from nature too... "litter" and made a not so beautiful wreath. This reinforced our message that they can help keep our environment clean. We have planted seeds and a dissected seed to see what is inside to learn how it grows. We are learning to appreciate nature, the butterflies at our garden, our beautiful class garden, fresh air, wind, watering rains and blue skies. Just this week we saw a Praying Mantis on the playground! Tomorrow (10/27) we will be planting in our class garden. Thank you to Monique Jackson (Eme's grandmother) for volunteering to help with gardening.

Visitation morning was a big success! It was wonderful to watch the confident little teachers show their parents the lessons they had learned. They are so proud of their work and to have you come to participate. We are enjoying getting to know you all a little better and to discuss your child's progress at the conferences. The Montessori philosophy talks about the triangle of the child, the teacher and the Montessori environment. I believe it absolutely must be a square, including the parents, all working together for the child's benefit. We appreciate your positive feedback and are thankful for your trust and support!

Our work times have been very productive as the children's attention spans increase and they find the work they love to do. Children have a natural instinct to explore, to learn, to grow and master new skills. They master skills through repetition. The work on the shelves is ever evolving as we observe the mastery of skills and the need for new work. We have recently had lessons on the 7 continents, the seasons, making patterns, color mixing, the triangle box, counting pumpkins and spiders, playing the memory game and scrubbing a table. The children are practicing beginning sounds with the sandpaper letters while others are making words with the moveable alphabet and then writing them on fall leaves to decorate the room.

We continue to have lessons about being respectful of others and using conflict resolution and understanding the feelings of others. We role play using manners and communicating feelings, "Stop, I don't like that!", "Excuse me!", "That hurt my feelings!" and "I'm sorry!" and to give someone room when they're carrying something heavy, to be patient for your turn and to use a quiet voice because friends are concentrating. Children at this age are working hard to understand personal space; giving reinforcement that when someone bumps into them that they weren't trying to hurt them. These lessons are on-going in the classroom and on the playground. We regularly practice ways to relax and calm ourselves using breathing techniques (we fill the balloons that are our lungs), listening to pretty music, walking with the bells and making silence.

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 in North America, 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!

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 – a flowering or butterfly plant to plant in our garden

Thursday, November 3 – Something that sinks and floats

Thursday, November 10 – Something rough and something smooth

Thursday, November 17 – canned food donation for school food drive

Thursday, December 1 – something that starts with "h" and "f"

Thank you to:

- Joey's family for the awesome nuts and bolts board work!
- Our fabulous lunch parents! We really appreciate your assistance!
- Everyone for the healthy yummy snacks!
- Room parents, Lisa and Jeff Unger 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 email Mrs. Metka 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,

Ruth Metka, Kellie Howard, and Nancy Marcus

*"the whole environment is so prepared
that it attracts the child
just as in nature colored blossoms
attract insects to drink their nectar."
Maria Montessori*