

Montessori Pathways School

October 2009

Mini-News

This has been a busy week. Themes revolved around changing seasons and harvest, themes we will continue. A special "thank you" to the families of Aaron Wagler and Kayden Shatzer for sending in dried corn. We have a large supply of corn the children have taken off the cob and it is now ready for grinding to use as bird feed this winter.

*Our autumn song is sung every day:
Fall is in the air
Fall is in the air
Summer is ending
Fall is here.*

Our current speech pattern is "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Speech patterns help children develop the many rhythm patterns found in music. We also change the volume of our voices full range, very soft to very loud and clap the rhythm patterns.

Last week we welcomed visitors from the Early Childhood Program at Elgin Community College. One of their assignments is to visit a Montessori classroom. For both of them, this was their first Montessori experience. They were amazed at the independence and competency of the children. Also the visitors were struck by the "community" atmosphere with children cooperatively helping each other and doing simple problem solving independently. We are on a good path!

HELP: NOW IS THE TIME TO COLLECT AND DRY THE BEAUTIFUL LEAVES WE SEE ALL AROUND US.

- 1. Please collect leaves with your child.*
- 2. Lay them between paper towels or inside the pages of a phone book.*
- 3. Place weight on top so they are pressed while drying.*
- 4. Leave for 1 - 2 weeks*
- 5. Send to school in a box with a note telling us the kind of leaf you have sent.*

We use the dried leaves for a variety of seasonal activities and art projects.

Ms. Karen and Ms. Ambreen

The Kindergarten group continues to learn about sounds in our language and to demonstrate their knowledge of words and how to "crack the code". While we are learning about the language and to further our knowledge, we have been learning about the life cycle of the pumpkin. Did you know that pumpkins grow on vines? They grow in fields. When one is opened there are hundreds of seeds and therefore potential for growing hundreds more?

One thing that is most fascinating about pumpkins is the food you can get from them :(always a learning motivator). Pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, pumpkin seeds and even pumpkin cookies.

Last but not least, the pumpkin becomes a Jack-o-lantern. More on that as Halloween approaches.

By the way, pumpkin is a closed syllable word. It "plays fair". Pronounce every sound in the word and you are saying it correctly. Yes we are using every aspect of the pumpkin to learn more about every subject. Go over this with your child. We are. Pumpkins are fascinating.

On Wednesday, the Extended Day class took a field trip to the Marunde's Pumphouse Flowers(pumpkin patch). Below is a copy of the thank-you note the class is sending to the Marunde's Farm. We thought you might like to see it. We worked together as a group to compose the letter with the children dictating their ideas. Then, the children all drew pictures for Farmer Kenny. We will mail them next week.

We had a great time. Thank you to the moms who drove (Pam, Kathy, Erin and Padma) We couldn't have done it without you.

Ms. Terri & Ms. Laurie

"Dear Farmer Kenny,

Thank you for letting us to come to your Pumpkin Farm. We liked the kittens and the dog. We had fun on the hay ride. Thank you for letting us pick our own pumpkins. We liked seeing the horses, chickens, the donkey, the lamas, the peacocks and the turkeys.

Thanks again!!!

Your friends from Montessori Pathways School"