

# Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center

Children are our ministry!

Director Toni Watkins

Pastor Krzysztof Gazdowicz

## October



### Important Dates to Remember

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| October 8     | Beef O'Brady's Night |
| October 10    | SAS closed           |
| October 15-16 | Fall Photos          |
| October 19    | Rattlesnake Festival |
| October 21    | SAES closed          |
| October 31    | Halloween            |

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| November 1  | All Saints' Day      |
| November 12 | Beef O'Brady's Night |



We would like to thank everyone who supported Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center last month, whether it was by purchasing cookie dough from our annual fundraiser, dropping by the Scholastic Book Fair, treating the family to SHECC's McSpirit Night at the Dade City McDonald's, driving out to Dick Jarrett Ford for the Drive 4 UR Community event, or even volunteering to sit out there a while and greet other participants. It is clear that we have built a supportive and nurturing community with your help, but at times like these, it strengthens our hearts and invigorates us anew for our ministry to see people coming together for the good of our children. So thank you, thank you, *thank you!*

*May the Lord  
bless and keep  
you!*

*October is the  
month of Mary.*



*We welcome all families to join us for weekly  
Mass:*

*Saturdays 7:00 pm*

*Sundays 8:00 am 10:30 am*



## Infants

**This month, we welcome Kayden and Kenzie to the infant's room!** That makes two girls and two boys on one side and two girls and two boys on the other – an even 50-50!

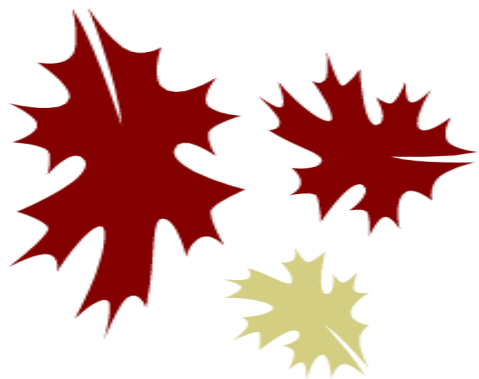
**Sebastian** is rolling over now and loves to talk. He likes to melt the office ladies with his 100-watt smile. **Kayden** is a sociable and contented baby, talking and grinning away. **Kenzie** enjoys swaying in her swing and, even though she just started, we can see already that she is a smiler! **Nicholas** and **Zachary** are crawling all over and exploring everything. They are starting to walk, supporting themselves by holding onto objects. A couple of times we even spied them standing without holding anything at all – it won't be long now! **Carson** scoots around the room and tries to pull up on things. Her favorite thing outside is the sandbox, and her favorite thing inside is to pull up on the music table. **Lily** has started to say a few words! She sings "Happy Birthday" and climbs-climbs-climbs!

We've been exploring the senses with various activities, like reading touch-and-feel books; singing songs and playing music; and tasting foods with different textures. Outside is a sensory adventure as well! We can smell, hear, and see the trees, birds, dirt, and fresh air – and of course there's the sandbox and the water table, where we splash, and fill, and burry!

Thank you so much to our parents for contributing yummy snacks and fresh wipes each month. We hope the weather stays windy so we can enjoy the fall season!

If you have any questions, feel free to ask one of the teachers. We love to talk about our little ones!

Thank you,  
**Ms. Linda, Ms. Teresa, and Ms. Phyllis**



Welcome, Fall!

## Ones

Welcome, Fall! This month, we will talk about fall colors, leaves, pumpkins, and corn. We hope to welcome cooler weather. Along with that, we welcome little **Elijah** and **Isaiah** to the Blue Room!

Fall photos are scheduled for October 15th and 16th, and Halloween is just around the corner! On Thursday, October 31st, we celebrate with our annual trick-or-treat between classes. You are welcome to bring your child's costume to get even more into the holiday spirit.

A special thank you goes out to all those who purchased from our cookie dough fundraiser! As always, we appreciate your generosity and monthly donations of snacks, juice, and wipes.

*Happy Fall, ya'll!*

Ms. Rita, Ms. Ashley, Ms. Sandy, and Ms. Pearl

## September Fundraising

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Cookie Dough         | \$2056    |
| Scholastic Book Fair | \$540     |
| Monthly Recycling    | \$10-\$15 |



## Twos

**September has raced by in the Yellow Room!** We've completed our lesson introducing the colors in English and Spanish, as well as reinforcing our previous lesson on manners. We have said "until we meet again" to our friends **Zaydin** and **Adam**, and we wish them well in their new classrooms. We have also made some new friends: **Carson, Afon, Kaylie, Quinn, and Brice. Colin, Carlton, Anabelle, and Josue** have been working hard to help our new friends get acquainted with the classroom routine and guidelines. We've also been blessed with a grown-up addition: Sister Elizabeth helps with our morning routine! She has tons of energy and a generous spirit that we all enjoy.

October brings about several new learning opportunities. We plan to introduce and learn our shapes and will discuss the question "What is Fall?" later in the month.

In the Yellow Room we do daily sensory activities, always looking for things to touch, feel, pour, and scoop! There is rice, oatmeal, shaving cream, and paint. We would really enjoy some new play dough, dried beans, rock salt, small scraps of cloth, small scraps of felt, batting (fluff), or fine wood shavings for additional textural experiences, if anyone would like to add to our collection. With that said, we wish everyone a blessed October and look forward to some (slightly) cooler weather to make our outside playtimes even more pleasant.

**Ms. Shelley and Sister Elizabeth**



## Preschool II

**Apples, pumpkins, spiders, and nocturnal animals!** These are our exciting themes for fall!

This month, we will discover if acorns sink or float, taste different food made from apples, weigh pumpkins, discuss why spiders spin webs, and learn how nocturnal animals see at night. We are also focusing on specific skills, particularly number recognition, sorting by one attribute, and listening to and understanding spoken language. The children work on these and other skills throughout the day, either all together, “in center,” or in small groups with their teachers. The skills are always presented and taught in a developmentally appropriate manner. You can see in the picture of the girls below how the children practice pre-writing during morning center time.



## Preschool I

**Autumn is here**, and so are **Zaydin** and **Josue!** Welcome to our class!

Our goals for the month of October are to work on positional words (up, under, on, behind), fall colors, counting to five, and number recognition (1,2,3. . .). For two weeks our theme will be Fall/Autumn. We'll dance with scarves, count leaves, and learn about the letter “w.”

Next, we will learn about nocturnal animals. This is perfect for reinforcing our lessons on positional words, as we talk about habitats. Last, we will learn about Halloween by decorating, counting pumpkins, and discussing trick-or-treat safety. On the big day, the 31st of October, we'll trick-or-treat around the center and have a party afterwards! Ask Ms. Vicki about the trick-or-treat guidelines. We'll post more info about it in the weeks to come, so stay posted.

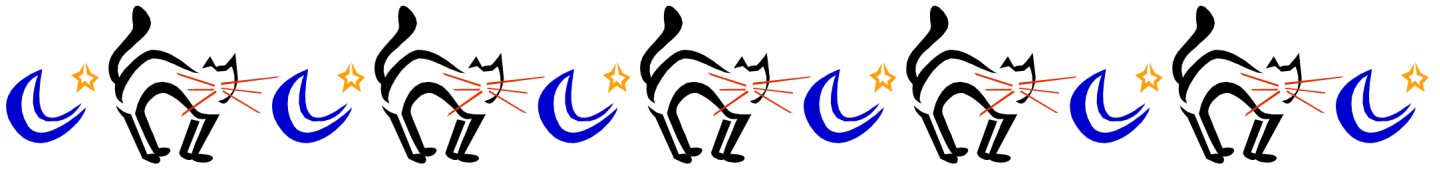
A happy birthday to **Annabelle** and **Maggie!**  
A thank you to **Maggie** and **Nicholas** for donating books to the Purple Room!

Ms. Vicki, Ms. Mary, and Ms. Alyssa

We teachers would like to thank all the parents and guardians who remember monthly snack donations; those who participated in last month's fundraisers; and a special thanks to **Nina, Clayton, and Ainsley** for each donating a book to our class. The children love to hear new stories!

On Thursday, October 31st—better known as Halloween!—we will be trick-or-treating around the Center, followed by a fall party! Please keep an eye out for more detailed information regarding this Halloween shebang!

Ms. Lilliana and Ms. Lexie



## VPK I

**Welcome, October! This month we will watch with anticipation for cooler weather and welcome our fall holidays.**

We begin our month with **Fall on the Farm** and **Harvest** and discuss seasonal changes, different crops grown in autumn, and how animals get ready for the coming winter. Our Big Book *When the Leaf Blew In* and tasty “tree-top treats” will reinforce these lessons.

From Fall on the Farm, we move onto **Pumpkins and Corn**. We’ll read several stories featuring these vegetables; taste different pumpkin and corn foods; and weigh, measure, explore, and paint with all sorts of pumpkins and gourds. So we are looking for plentiful donations! We’ll also begin some of our Halloween books and sing Halloween songs.

The theme of **Night Creatures** follows next. During this week, we’ll learn the word “nocturnal,” practice our Math concepts of Classification and Patterning, and read stories about nocturnal animals. For our Food Experience, we’ve got something special planned – an owl face with pineapple rings, cherries, and bananas!

Next is **Spider** week, where we will weave spider webs, learn spider movement songs, play a spider web counting game, and practice our rote counting, 1-31. On Tuesday, October 29th, the children are invited to a tea party featuring the book *Miss Spider’s Tea Party*. So watch for more information and a sign-up sheet.

We enjoy being illustrators, so we’ll continue making and reading our little books and will also continue with our letters and sounds of the week, with matching songs!

We observe Halloween each year with our annual trick-or-treat between classes, followed by a special snack! When choosing a costume, please remember we have very young children in our Center. All weapons should remain at home. Please check all labels. Remember – we are a peanut and tree nut free center! Please watch for a sign-up sheet and more information.

Our Seeds Gospel Themes for the month are: *Jesus teaches us to share, wants us to grow, and is always our friend. God wants us to ask, and Everyone is important to God* (Luke 16:19-31, Luke 17:5-10, Luke 17:11-19, Luke 18:1-8). Each week, we read Seeds Gospel Weekly in class and share the stories. Then we bring them home. Please take a few minutes to ask us about them.

A special thank you to everyone who participated in our cookie dough fundraiser! Thanks also to everyone who bought books for our classroom during the book fair. We received some wonderful additions to our library collection and truly enjoy them! Finally, thank you to all who donated to our Weekly Cooking Experience, as well as those who helped with monthly snack. We appreciate it!

**Ms. Kathy, Ms. Katie, and Ms. Becky**



## VPKII

**Welcome, October! We can feel the faintest hint of fall in the air, and soon it will be cooler during our days.** During the month, we will use the change in the weather as a basis for some of our science experiments. We will observe daily what the temperature outside is and keep a running record to compare to next month.

Our “Word Wall” and “Morning Sentence” are a huge hit! The children love coming up for their turn to be the Word Wall Reader for the Day. The children then use the opportunity to come up with words of their own to add to the wall that begin with the same sound. We have some fabulous vocabulary from our children; some examples are *Creation* for the letter “C,” *Exclamation* for “E” and *Hooray* for “H.” The children are expanding their vocabulary along with learning the sounds of the letters. They are also taking turns with the “Morning Sentence.” Each day the children come up and make up a sentence. We use this time to discuss reading strategies, such as reading from top to bottom on a page and left to right, and that spaces are between words. The children have already grasped three punctuation marks—the period, the exclamation point, and a question mark! They are also learning that sentences start with a capital letter, emphasizing the difference between a capital and lower case letter. These are all important clues in decoding when it comes time to start read.

Our morning snack time is great. We have been practicing pouring water out of a pitcher into our cups and serving ourselves. Thank you everyone that brought snacks in for us to share! We can always use snacks! Please make sure that the snacks are peanut and tree nut free.

During our “Fall” unit, we’ll be discussing Farms, Harvest, Corn, Spiders, and Nocturnal Animals. We will explore what grows on a farm and where the products we find in the grocery store come from. As we move further into October, we will learn about how food is harvested and ways in which it is stored for later. We will end the month with a look at spiders and their fascinating webs.

The children will practice counting and sequencing during the month. We are working hard on one to one correspondences. This helps children later with addition and subtraction totals. We are also making some observations about Living and Non- living things. A good question to ask your children when observing nature with them is, “How do you know if it is alive?” The answers may surprise you.

We will continue our Seeds Weekly Gospels and Visits to the Church on Tuesdays. This month our stories are *The Rich Man and The Poor Man*, *Jesus wants us to Grow*, *Jesus Heals Ten Sick People*, *Jesus Tells Us to Keep Asking*, and *Who Does Jesus Think is Best?* As we read these stories, we will learn about helping others, using loving words, expressing gratitude, trusting ourselves, and treating each other with respect.

On Thursday, October 31, 2013 we will have trick-or-treating and a party in our classroom for Halloween! Your child may wear his or her costume to school and bring a change of clothing for the playground. Please leave all guns, swords, wands, and other small parts to the costume at home. We will have a sign-up sheet for treats for our party. **Please remember that all products need to be peanut and tree nut free.** Our party will be at 9:30 am, with trick-or-treating room to room to follow; then we will change and go outside afterwards. If you have any fun Halloween traditions, please share them with us!

Last but not least, Tate Publishing is releasing a book of poetry by our own Cindie Wise, (working title) *The Path!* It will be available in the spring of 2014, so look forward to that. We are so proud of you, Ms. Cindie!

Enjoy the changing weather, and have a safe Halloween!

**Ms.Cindie & Sr. Donna**



## Cookie Dough Drawing Winner!

Those who sold six or more items from the cookie dough fundraiser were entered into a drawing to win \$100 free tuition credit. Congratulations to **Tristan Kallis!**

***Look for future SHECC newsletters delivered straight to your inbox!***

## Before and After School

October brings cooler weather and shorter days—we have lots of fun things planned for this refreshing time of year!

For the first week, our theme is **Fire Safety**. We've already been practicing fire drills, and we'll be discussing how to avoid fire hazards and acting out fire department dramas!

The second week's theme is **Fall**. We'll discover all the neat things you can do with autumn leaves in art projects and exploration, and in food prep we'll sample applesauce with cinnamon.

The third week is **Pumpkins**—look for our pumpkin banner and ask us about playing pumpkin patch, how to grow a pumpkin, and what the inside of a pumpkin looks like. There are so many things to learn with just this one special gourd! We'll round off the week's activities with Ms. Debbie's favorite, a viewing of *It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown!*

Then it's **Halloween** time! We're going all out: there's going to be black cats made out of handprints and festive necklace-making, costume dress-up, trick-or-treat safety discussion, spirited party music, and lots more! Parents, please bring healthful snacks, such as caramel apples, popcorn, and pretzels. If you'd like to bring **one** bag of candy, Ms. Debbie will provide all the rest, and we'll put together candy bags.

Look for more information in the following weeks, and as always, feel free to ask us any questions. We encourage parent involvement!

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Cindie, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Lexie



## Notes from Toni

**We would like to welcome our new pastor, Father Krzysztof Gazdowicz.**

Fr. Krzysztof came from Saint Frances Cabrini parish in Spring Hill. Welcome, Father!

You've probably heard the expression "it started with a bang." This year, we've experienced just that! The *bang!* was the onset of many activities and fundraisers. We've been busy, busy, busy, and enjoying it all the while!

The annual book fair is usually in October, but this year it came early. We also had the opportunity to participate in the Drive 4 UR Community fundraiser at Dick Jarret Ford in Dade City. Thank you to Dick Jarrett Ford and the Dade City Rotary Club for setting it up!

If you are new to our Center, you may wonder why we do fundraising. **Sacred Heart ECC is a not-for-profit organization, and we depend on the charitable donations of friends and family to keep us running.** We usually raise between \$18,000 and \$19,000 during the year. Some of our top fund-raisers are very labor intensive—such as our kumquat pies for the Kumquat Festival, our themed baskets drawing in spring, and traditional fish fries! We need lots of help with these activities. Please put them on your calendar and look for more information when the time approaches.

We received revised standards and codes from the Department of Children and Families (69 pages!), the Office of Early Learning, and VPK (88+ pages!). We try to learn all the revisions and apply them to our center policies *as soon as possible*. We don't like "non-compliance" on our inspections.

Last Friday, I attended an administrators' meeting with the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers. The topic was "Addressing Learning Diversity to Close the Achievement Gap." It was *excellent!* The message was relevant *and* useful—one that anyone in education can implement. One of the statements our speaker made was, "to own or master something, a child must hear it 24 times with 80% understanding." So . . . I know you may get tired of the *whys*, but know this—that's your child's way of learning! Our diocese provides excellent in-service training for professionals.

A letter from the Early Learning Coalition said **CONGRATULATIONS!!** *Your child care program scored 96% or above on your School Readiness Provider Assessment two years in a row!* Our actual scores were 100% and 98% for the past two years. Congratulations to our wonderful staff—you're the best!

**Parents—are you taking care of you?** The demands of parenting are greater than ever. Most schedules leave little down time for parents to recoup. Make it a priority to schedule time for this! A few hours is better than nothing. It's difficult to take care of others if you don't take care of yourself. Case in point: when traveling by airplane, the emergency procedure is to put on your own oxygen mask first. Then you can assist others. It's the same for everyday life. **You must first take care of your own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being in order to see to the well-being of your children!**