

# Preschool 1

## 2017 Fall Newsletter

I am so pleased to introduce our new assistant, Tracy. Ms Tracy is here from 10:00 to 5:30pm.

We have just finished our "All About Me" unit. During this unit, the children learned how to treat their friends, found out a lot of information about their friend's families, increased their knowledge of body parts such as elbows, shoulders, hips and ankles, practiced proper handwashing techniques and participated in many activities which allowed them to learn about their five senses.

During the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>, our focus was on apples. We read books about how apples grow and how they move from the orchard to their tables at home. We tasted green and red apples and decided which we liked best. Then we graphed our results with a picture graph which is hanging on the wall. It was decided that green apples were the best! The graph lets the children practice counting and comparing numbers

The themes are infused into all the learning centers. For example, during the Apple Unit, the children pretended to bake apple pies and make apple sauce while playing in the housekeeping center and while working with playdough.

In the block center, they built apple orchards and "picked" apples to take to market using the trucks. While playing farmer, they improved their social skills of using their words to communicate their needs, sharing and waiting their turn. Their vocabulary increased as they used theme related words such as orchard and harvest.

During small group time, children counted apples and used sequence cards to depict the life cycle of an apple. To increasing their fine motor and coordination skills, the children made paper plated apple by tearing red paper and gluing it to the plate. We also made an apple tree for the door using bingo markers to make the apples. This activity also exercised their fine motor skills and improved their color recognition.

Circle time is one of the children's favorite time of the day. Theme related and loved books are read and many song are sung. "Little Pig Takes a Bath" is currently one of their favorite's. It's a simple book about a muddy pig taking a bath which they have memorized. This allows them to participate in "reading" the book. Ask your child about Little Pig's bath and I'm sure they will be happy to share the story with you! "Three Little Apples Hanging from a Tree" is a song which helps the children learn to count backwards, improves fine motor skills and memorization. Ask your child about the farmer who "snatched that apple right out of that tree" and get ready for them to start singing!

### ***The week of October 2<sup>nd</sup> is Fire Prevention Week.***

We will be practicing the "Stop, Drop and Roll" procedure used for putting out clothing which is on fire. We will also learn a song to help them remember the procedure. Graham cracker fire trucks will be made and eaten for snack. The children are going to make paper plate fire fighter hats, fire trucks out of circles,

squares and rectangles, and paper towel roll hoses. I'm sure much fun will be had by all with these props!

***Our Fall Unit will run from October 9<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>.***

The class will be learning about leaves, pumpkins, Halloween, spiders, turkeys, Thanksgiving and squirrels. For each of these topics we will be reading special stories, learning new songs and finger plays, making fun crafts and preparing and eating some creative snacks.

**December brings Advent and Christmas!**

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. Each week we will be "lighting" a candle in the advent wreath and discussing the meaning behind it. We will also be reading about the birth of Jesus, making Christmas Trees, ornaments and a special gift for you. Oops, the gift was supposed to be a secret!

If you ever have any way to add to our themes such as fall leaves from your trip to North Carolina, your spider collection, pictures from your trip to the pumpkin patch or a special theme related snack, please let me know. I would love to have your participation in the class!

**Important Dates to remember:**

Tuesday October 31: Halloween Parade

Your child is welcome to wear a costume to school in the morning and bring clothes to change into after the parade and Trick or Treating. Please bring in a bag of pre-wrapped candy for our class to pass out. Remember we are a nut free school when purchasing the candy. In the morning, we would like to have a small Halloween related snack. Let me know if you are feeling creative and would like to make us something cute. We will have a small Halloween party during afternoon snack.

Friday November 17: Thanksgiving Soup Luncheon

Thursday, December 7, 5:30-9:00pm: Parent Appreciation Night

We will serve Chicken Nuggets, Green beans and Macaroni and Cheese for dinner and have some games and crafts for the children to do and a movie.

**Ms. Sally**

**Ms. Tracy**