

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Paige Ellis and Glenda Rodriguez

Wow! October was another exciting month! The children started to buddy up and settle into our routine. They have been doing a fantastic job saying the pledges to the American Flag and the Christian Flag. We have talked about the letters C, D and E, shapes, and are becoming pros at identifying colors! We enjoyed learning the Bible verse this month, "**He changes the time and the seasons**" from Daniel 2:21.

In October, we talked about the change in the seasons and fall! We enjoyed making fall animal crafts and especially singing *Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Swish Your Bushy Tail*. A favorite book was Owl



Babies by Martin Waddell, which inspired our owl babies painting craft.

The visit from Hidden Pond Nature Center was a real treat as all the children were able to see (and touch if they chose to) frogs, toads, turtles and snakes!! They were



mesmerized and so brave!

Did you stop to say hello to our class scarecrow? The children really enjoyed balling up newspaper to help create him. Their strong hands worked hard and quick to get him stuffed! We also had fun making scary scarecrow faces pretending to scare away the birds.

Pumpkin Week was such fun! We visited the school pumpkin patch and picked our own class pumpkin which was quickly transformed into a jack-o-lantern. We had fun using golf balls to paint pumpkins and using actual pumpkins to paint shapes!



Our Fall Festival was a fun event. Thank you to the parents who helped with the treats!

As we approach November, we look forward to celebrating Father's Day, enjoying a Thanksgiving feast and talking about all the things we are thankful for this season. As the weather gets cooler, we anticipate seeing the leaves change color and fall from the trees.



Please remember to check your kiddos' school bags regularly and make sure their 'just in case' change of clothes are cold weather appropriate. We plan to play on the playground unless it's raining or below freezing, so please remember jackets for your children. We are so blessed to work with them and you.



3 Year Olds Paige Ellis and Glenda Rodriguez

October was a great month to observe change. We truly experienced God changing the season and the times. Fall is full of wonderful things for your preschoolers to explore. October's Bible verse was from Daniel 2:21. "He changes the time and the seasons." Feeling the cooler weather and watching the leaves change helps our preschoolers understand the concept of change and seasons.

The children are doing an amazing job identifying their colors, and we have been diving into the letters C, D and E and the sounds they make. Please continue

talking about letters and sounds at home.

Learning about fall animals was such fun. The children loved creating their bushy tailed squirrels, but



especially loved singing Gray Squirrel, Gray

Squirrel, Swish Your Bushy Tail!

We learned that owls and bats are nocturnal animals and enjoyed creating our own nocturnal creatures to take home. Hopefully they have been flying their bats all around at home!



The visit from Hidden Pond Nature Center was a real treat as all the children were able to see (and touch if they chose to) frogs, toads, turtles and snakes!! They were mesmerized and so brave!



Did you notice our class scarecrow? The children had a great time squishing up newspaper to help stuff and create him. Their strong hands worked hard and were quick to get him stuffed! We also had fun making scary scarecrow faces pretending to scare away the birds.

Pumpkin Week began with a trip to the school pumpkin patch. Together we chose a pumpkin for our class. We explored how pumpkins grow, what they look like (they can be blue and bumpy) inside and out, and even how pumpkin seeds taste. We learned that pumpkins turn into



jack-o-lanterns when carved.



'Magic paint pumpkins' was a favorite craft during Pumpkin Week!

We finished October with the Fall Festival party and parade. Thank you very much to those who brought refreshments to help make this such a fun event! The boys and girls really enjoyed marching around the gym in their costumes.

As we approach November, we look forward to celebrating Father's Day, enjoying a Thanksgiving feast and talking about all the things we are thankful for this season. God has truly given us a lot for which to be thankful.

Please remember to check your kiddos' school bags regularly to make sure their change of 'just in case' clothes are cold weather appropriate.



We plan to play on the playground unless it's raining or below freezing, so please remember to send jackets.

We are so blessed to work with your children!

**3 Year Olds
Renae Crawford
and Jennie Tiffany**

As we entered into our fall season, we enjoyed so many exciting activities. October was a busy month as we learned about creatures such as owls, squirrels, bats, and spiders.



The class also had a great time as we made our class scarecrow! You can meet him standing outside our classroom.



Toward the end of the month we were able to carve a pumpkin and turn it into a jack-o-lantern. Some of the kids loved being able to feel how slimy and cold it was on the inside. It was like a treasure hunt as they looked for the pumpkin seeds.



Some kids were happy to just watch.



To add to all our fun in the class, we also had visitors come to the school. Hidden Pond Nature Center was a favorite as they brought a frog, a snake, and other creatures.



Many children liked touching the frog and snake.



Thank you, moms, for the wonderful job you did with the refreshments for the Fall Festival party. The children had a great time and really liked parading around the gym for all the parents.



Happy birthday to Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Tiffany, Teddy, and Micaela. We hope you had a wonderful time on your special day in October!

In November, we look forward to even more fun and excitement! We will learn

about Native



Americans, Pilgrims, turkeys, and giving thanks.

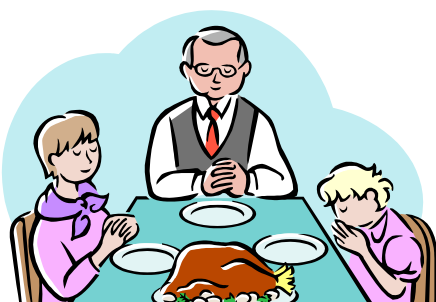


Our Father's Day



Celebration and Thanksgiving Feast are two events we anticipate anxiously during

November. We have so much to be thankful for... especially for each child in our classroom.



**A Very Special
Thank You to
Mrs. Betty Light!**

Very special highlights during the months of September and October were visits from Mrs. Betty Light. Mrs. Light was a teacher at FBCDS for 43 years, and recently retired. During

Apple Week, she baked apple pies with Mrs. Crawford's M/W/F



class, allowing the children to peel the apples first (creating 'apple peel snakes'). With Mrs. Crawford's T/TH 3s, Mrs. Fry's 2 day and 3 day 3s, and Mrs. Kelly's 4s, she baked apple-shaped cookies for the children to ice and enjoy.



Then, in October, Mrs. Light helped Mrs. Mahan's and Mrs. Murphy's classes make chocolate chip "squirrel nut treats," taught them a finger play about squirrels, and read a special squirrel story. The children learned some fun facts about squirrels...their nest is called a 'drey,' and they use their tails for balance.

Thank you, Mrs. Light for sharing your "squirrel fun" and cooking talents with us!



**3 Year Olds
Brenna Fry and
Brittany Slaughter**

Our "busy bees" welcomed fall this month! As we enjoy cooler weather and the days get shorter, we were busy learning and playing in the classroom. We hope

you had a chance to check out the hallway tree our class worked on together. Some of our early fall crafts were on display!

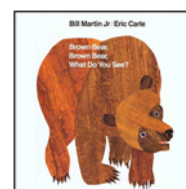
We enjoyed adding science, chapel and library to our weekly routine. We are busy, busy bees for sure! I will continue to send out "Remind" messages for library days; and the **easiest and safest place for library books to remain is in your child's school bag.** That way they'll always have their book on library day.

Our Bible verse this month is "Grow in the knowledge of Our Lord" from II Peter 3:18. Ask your child if he/she can show you the motions we learned to accompany our verse this month.

We have seen a lot of growth in our classroom...including friendships! We are so proud of our "busy bees." We have also been growing our scissor skills. In September, we started practicing cutting Play-Doh using plastic scissors. This month, we advanced to cutting paper and cutting in a straight line. We hope you enjoyed the "rainbow confetti" that we made in class. We will continue to grow our scissor skills by learning to cut objects and shapes in the months to come.

We began the month by studying the book, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. The children focused on colors by creating their own


version of the book. As we study a book, we identify the author, illustrator, characters, and



setting. With Brown Bear, we even practiced retelling the story through our take-home book and props.

Pumpkins were the stars of the month! We built shapes and letters with mini pumpkins, played with pumpkin Play-Doh and counted with a pumpkin stew. We saw and talked about the parts of a pumpkin and talked about how pumpkins grow.

We had a fun, happy visit from "Molly the Clown" in October. The children enjoyed her songs, bubbles and games. What fun to see the joy in their sweet faces!

 Hidden Pond Nature Center came to visit us this month! The children were able to enjoy seeing and touching some of God's creatures from around the pond.



We ended our month with a class party and parade! Thank you to those parents who contributed special food items to help make our party special. Our busy bees played lots of fun games and were so proud to parade around the gym.

As the weather cools off, please be sure your child has a seasonally appropriate change of clothing in their school bag. We will continue to play outside on the playground as long as weather permits.

We look forward to more fun in November! Important dates for November are: Father's Day (8th/9th), Picture Day (14th/15th) and Thanksgiving Feast (19th/20th).

4 Day 4 Year Olds Suzanne Murphy, And Victoria Nicely

What an exciting and busy month we had! It's truly awesome when EVERYTHING we do here at FBCDS lines up perfectly. The correlation and consistency between classes helps our children make deeper connections and gain better understanding for the lessons/content. We have been reading about all sorts of creepy, crawly bugs and insects each day in class and they sort of go along with this time of year (Fall/Halloween). Mrs. Myers brought spiders into Science class and Mrs. Lee read the book The Scarecrow and the Spider in Chapel and the songs being sung daily in Music have matched both the season and our content this month perfectly. Our class was also blessed with a visit from a former FBCDS teacher Betty Light. Mrs. Light baked squirrel nests (dreds), (aka cookies), with the children, and read a fabulous Squirrel book with them (I suggest asking your children what they know about Squirrels...you'd be amazed)!

The highlight of October was our visit from Hidden Pond Nature Center where your children learned about many of the little creatures right outside our doorstep and they also got to touch frogs,



turtles and even a snake!!!

If there's one thing a child can never have too much of (besides love), it is books! We start each day with a story that relates to the main lesson of the day. When we do our letter/handwriting practice, we again read/listen to another story ALL about that day's specific letter (these books are so much fun) and then we often have a story that has a social/emotional lesson built into it (sharing, respect, etc). Every day, your child is hearing and discussing AT LEAST two books in class. When asking your child "what did you do today," may I suggest asking them about the books they listened to. Ask them questions about characters in the book, where they went, what they did, etc. Ask for details about the story...this will help get your child to talk and share about their day, will help build their comprehension skills, and you will help foster a love for books and reading. On the topic, of books...be sure to stop by the Kingstowne public library to see your child's work on display.



While all the little creatures we've been learning about and seeing this month might not be one's favorites, they were excellent examples for our class' Bible verse this month: "Everything God made is beautiful." from Ecclesiastes 3:11. We were able to discuss that each of God's creations has a place and purpose in our world.



4 Year Olds Ashelynn Kelly, Cheryl Halla, and Julia Zimmerman

The month of October has been a blast in our classroom. We have enjoyed talking to your children about the season change and all of the joys of fall! Over the last few



weeks we have studied pumpkins and scarecrows, and we have learned four new letters (E, H, T and I). As you have probably noticed, we are also working very hard on writing our names! Our students have been focusing on our fine motor skills this month. We practiced writing with different utensils (pencils, markers and chalk) as well as using scissors!

Your children have worked very hard this month but we have also had plenty of fun! Our library visits started the first week of October. The second week we had a wonderful visit with "Miss Molly" the clown. She taught us a few new silly songs and had the children giggling and dancing! The third week, Hidden Pond came to visit and teach us about a few new animals. The demonstrator brought frogs, turtles and even a snake to show us! A few children were even brave enough to touch the animals!

I hope you all enjoyed seeing our fall crafts and group activities! Our class was able to

build a scarecrow and carve a pumpkin together!



The fall festival was a lot of fun as well! We enjoyed playing games and having some extra special crafts and snacks to celebrate!



November will be filled with celebration and thanking God for everything we have to be grateful for! I am looking forward to all that is in store!!



4 Year Olds Ellen Mahan and Stephanie Jenkins

Fall is finally in the air and the biggest daily question is 'who can collect the most acorns on the playground, the children or the squirrels?'

Our Bible Verse this month was from Daniel 2:21 "He changes the time and seasons." In keeping with that, our curriculum focused on the four seasons. We learned about the life cycle of a tree, talked about the weather and activities enjoyed in each season, and how the water cycle affects the weather.



We even performed a science experiment to demonstrate the water cycle by watching steam from hot water 'evaporate' and then 'condense' on a plastic lid and drip off like rain (precipitation).



We learned also about animals who hibernate and those that pack up and leave (or migrate) with the change in seasons. We discovered that some animals hibernate all winter long like

wood chucks, and others, like bears, come out for an occasional snack. The children loved creating their own hibernation caves out of shoe boxes for their furry animals.



A special highlight during our hibernation study was a visit from Mrs. Betty Light, a former FBCDS teacher of 42 years. She helped the children make squirrel nests, (actually called 'dreys') out of chocolate chip cookie dough and pretzels. She taught them a finger play and read a special story about squirrels. She taught that a squirrel uses his tail for balance. Thank you, Mrs. Light!

We ended the month learning about farm life. During Show & Tell, the children shared fun facts about their chosen favorite farm animal. We learned about foods that come from farm animals and the crops that farmers produce.

In our circle time, and learning centers, we practiced writing the letters E, H, T, and I. We worked on scissor skills, cutting out triangles (this month's shape), and learned the rhyming sounds "op," "et," "at," & "un."

October ended with a fun- filled "Fall Festival" party and parade.

In November, we look forward to celebrating our special Thanksgiving Feast and honoring our dads with a Father's Day program.



Science with Rebecca Myers

From worms to spiders to bones and pumpkins, October has been a really fun month for science! First, we learned about worms and how they help the soil. The children observed their rings with magnifying glasses. They also got to touch and hold them if they wanted and watched them wiggle.



Next, we learned about spiders and what amazing creatures they are. We talked about how many legs and eyes they have and how they use their fangs and webs to catch their prey. We even got to observe a real spider! The children made their own friendly spiders to take home by counting out and gluing on each of their spiders' eight legs.



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Then we learned about the bones in our bodies. Skeleton decorations are all around this time of year. We learned they are not scary; they are our bones!



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The children learned how bones support and protect us. We talked about what foods make our bones grow strong and worked together on an x-ray puzzle of the human body.



Finally, we got to dissect a pumpkin! We talked about the life cycle of the pumpkin, comparing it to the apple we learned about last month. The



children examined the outside, listened to its hollow sound, and guessed what they would find inside. They discovered many seeds and enjoyed scooping out the slimy pulp. Some even tasted some yummy roasted seeds.



Music with Marcia Lee

October was a fun month in the music room. The children sang and moved around the circle to the *Hokey Pokey* and *The Old Brass Wagon*, where they began to learn their right side from their left.

As we watched the leaves begin to change color and fall off the trees, the children sang *Leaves are Falling Down* while pretending to be trees. Then we raked them up and jumped right in them to the song, *Rake Up the Leaves!*



During this Harvest Time, we learned and talked about

pumpkins, and other yummy vegetables that need to be "harvested" from the fields where they grow. We pretended to add many vegetables to a big stewpot and stir them up in a favorite song called *Stirring My Stew*. Ask your child to sing it for you. You will love it!



During "Scarecrow Week" we learned a fun song about a sad scarecrow called *The Forlorn Scarecrow*. Listen as your child sings it too.



As pumpkin and jack-o-lantern season drew closer, we sang many songs celebrating this great food item. Ask your preschooler to share with you *My Pumpkin's in the Patch*; *Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Round and Fat*; and *Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Happy Pumpkin*.

Harvest Season would not be complete without our furry friend, the squirrel. You must hear your child sing and do the motions to *Gray Squirrel*. Enjoy this season with your child and keep singing together!



We look forward to November when we will sing about Mr. Turkey, our families, and how thankful we are for the bountiful harvest God has provided. He shows His love for us daily.

Chapel with Marcia Lee



In October, during Chapel time, we focused on being the kind of friend God would like us to be by "sharing" and by showing love. We read a book entitled *God Loves You*

Barnabas by Royden Lepp. It told the story of a little bear who learned that his God-given gift was how to be a good friend. God wants us to be a good friend to others just like Barnabas!

We were challenged to not be "blind as a bat" to the needs of others; but rather to open our



eyes to see the needs of other people in our own community who are very hungry. We learned about ways we can help provide food for them.



The Bible verse to help us remember to open our eyes to see

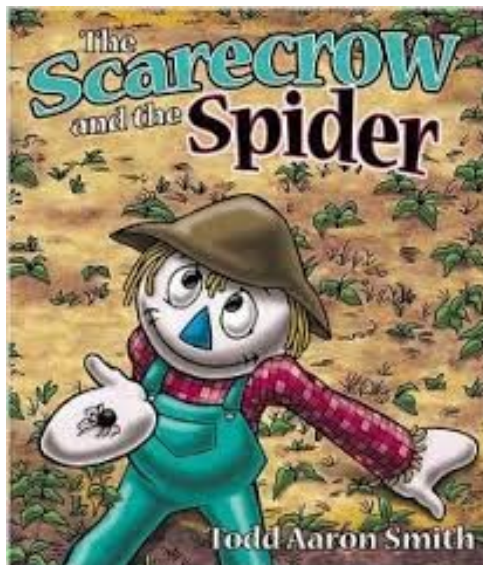


the needs of those around us came from John 9:25. It



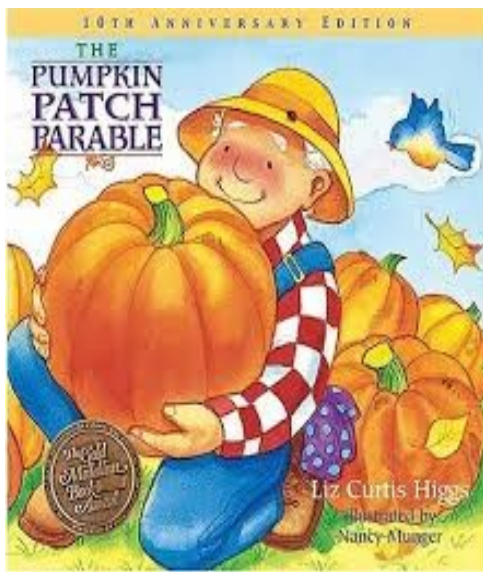
states, "I was blind, but now I see." The children were invited to bring canned foods for ECHO, and to collect money (with your permission) in **Bread Loaf Banks** for donations to the World Hunger Drive.

The thought of having a personal protector and comforter was intriguing when we learned God, who lives in our hearts, is our "hiding place," and will always protect us and be with us when we are afraid. He can "scare away" our fears like a scarecrow scares away birds in a field!



The book **The Scarecrow and the Spider** by Todd Aaron Smith intrigued us to compare God's protection to a scarecrow who protects the crops in the field or garden.

The Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs tells the story of a how a loving Farmer turns a simple pumpkin into a wonderfully glowing sight, using Bible verses on each page to illustrate the message of how God can fill our hearts with love, joy, and light so we can shine for Him! We enjoyed reading it together.



Each student received a bookmark with **The Christian Pumpkin** poem written on it, which goes through the steps of carving a pumpkin in a poetic way. It also tells what each step represents to us as Christians. We all enjoyed reading through it.

HAPPY HARVEST!

The Christian Pumpkin

I'm a Christian pumpkin
With a smile upon my face;
Planted by the Lord above
And glowing in His grace.

He scooped out all the mush
And washed away the dirt.
He took away the seeds of doubt
And other things that hurt.

He carved my eyes and mouth
And placed His light in me.
I'm like the Christian pumpkin
Shining for the world to see.



FIRE DRILL



As a school, we are required to conduct one fire drill for each class monthly. In addition, however, we will be implementing the practice of other drills such as "shelter in place" to familiarize the students with the plans for other emergencies.

This plan of action is not intended to alarm you. Rather, it is our goal to provide for you the assurance that FBCDS is a safe and secure environment for all students.

