

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Katie Corby and Kris Morris

Wow! November was another exciting month! The children are definitely settled into our routine. They know where their bag hooks are and they come in each week to discover what crafts we will be doing and books we will be reading. We have



talked about the color BROWN, the shape OVAL, and all the children have worked hard to learn our monthly Bible verse, "We give thanks to God." Col. 1:3. And boy, are we so thankful!

Our Father's Day celebration was a huge success and the children really had fun showing off our classroom to their special dads (and guests) and sharing a special snack. Sharing that time was such a treat for us all. Thank you to all for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us.



In November, our topics of discussion included the continued changes in the season, being

thankful, and the first Thanksgiving. We enjoyed making wonderful painted handprint shirts and cards for our Super Dads. We also made cornucopias, Indian corn, and Native American vests, headbands, and necklaces that we wore to our Thanksgiving Feast!



We enjoyed reading books about the first Thanksgiving and the brave the Pilgrims that came to America. We talked about how the Native Americans were



big helpers to the Pilgrims and how they came together for a wonderful feast to celebrate. We also gathered with everyone in our school to celebrate Thanksgiving. Our Feast Day was such delicious fun! We could not have pulled it off without your food donations - Thank You!

As we enter December, we look forward to learning about baby Jesus and celebrating His birth, Christmas trees and stars.



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 feel blessed to work with each of them!



5-day 3 Yr Olds Glenda Rodriguez & Stephanie Jenkins

November was a great month to learn about being THANKFUL and for celebrating our dads! November's verse was from Col. 1:3. "We give thanks to God." Did you check the



Thankful Tree in the preschool hallway? There are so many things we are all thankful for including family, animals, toys, God, brothers and sisters, and even food!

The children continue to do an amazing job identifying their colors, and we have been

diving into the letters F, G & H and the sounds they make. Sharing their letter bag items has been such fun and they definitely are proud to show their friends what they brought in the bag. Thank you for helping them find their items. As you are out and about ask your child to show you something yellow, brown or green! And please continue talking about letters and sounds at home.

In November we had fun talking about and painting turkeys (gobble gobble), the first Thanksgiving, the brave voyage the Pilgrims took on the Mayflower and how the Native Americans helped the Pilgrims. We enjoyed gathering as a whole school for Feast Day to celebrate Thanksgiving just like the Pilgrims and Native Americans gathered together that very first Thanksgiving. It was a delicious feast filled with many yummy foods. Thank you so much for sending in the feast items.

Thanksgiving Blessings



Another highlight from November was celebrating how thankful we are for our dads! Our Father's Day Celebration was a wonderful event and the children were so proud to share a snack with and present their gifts to their special dads. Thank you for taking time out of your day for this special event.

As we approach December, we look forward to celebrating Jesus and His birthday and

all things Christmas! Please remember to



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check your child's school bag regularly and make sure their extra 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 feel so blessed to work with your precious ones!



3 Year Olds Rena Crawford and Jennie Tiffany

November is a time for Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. Our Bible verse for this month was "We give thanks to God" from Colossians 1:3. We began by giving thanks for our Dads with our Father's Day celebration. The children enjoyed preparing their cards and gifts and being able to spend time with their dads. Thank you to all who came.

The month of November was spent studying about all that the Pilgrims learned from the Native American Indians when they arrived in America. Just as the children learned how much the Native Americans

taught the Pilgrims about planting crops, hunting and fishing, they also learned how the Pilgrims and Native Americans had a big feast on the very first Thanksgiving. All the students in the school were able to come together and enjoy a big feast in the same room. Our students had so much fun making headbands and necklaces for that occasion. What a great time we all had!



We celebrated two birthdays this month. Happy birthday to Adrianna and Gianna! I hope you had a fantastic time celebrating!

As December approaches, we will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus' Birth! We will celebrate as we practice for and then present our Christmas program. The children have already been working hard learning all the songs which they are excited for you to hear. December will be very busy but exciting as we share a birthday party for Jesus. Look for our Christmas artwork to come home.



5-day 4 Yr Olds Michelle Kalapala & Brenda Allen

"Let us be thankful and worship God." Hebrews 12:28, was our Bible verse for the month, and our focus throughout November. We learned what it means to be thankful and talked about all the things we have to be thankful for. At the top of the list for all our children was their families so it was fitting that we started the month celebrating our Fathers. We greatly appreciate all the Dads who took time out from their busy schedules to join their children at school for this special day.



In keeping with our thankfulness theme, we learned about the first Thanksgiving, with Native American Indians and Pilgrims. The children learned about some of the different customs of the Indians and compared them to the customs of the Pilgrims. We talked about things like acceptance and sharing that brought them together and we learned about Indian friends, like Squanto who helped teach the Pilgrims how to hunt, fish and grow different crops like corn.



We learned about the need for religious freedom that brought the Pilgrims to America, about their long journey across the ocean, and their difficult first year in this new land. And we learned how the freedom to worship God is something we can still be thankful for today.



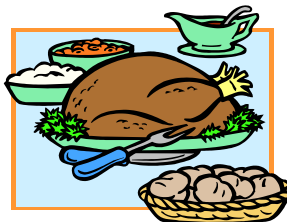
In our learning centers we practiced how to write the letters S, C, O, Q & G. We created simple patterns out of leaves, pumpkins, and turkeys and practiced our scissor skills cutting out feathers for some turkey art work.



When you read your child's library book to them during the week, you can help to reinforce the concept of letter sounds that we're working on in class by pointing out various letters. See if they can name the letter, and then let them hear you make the letter sound in the word you're reading.



We ended the month with our traditional Thanksgiving Feast celebration. A special thank you to all of our parents for the delicious food they brought to share for our feast.



In December, we will focus on the Christmas Story. Watch for information on our Christmas Program December 5th! The children are working hard on all their songs.

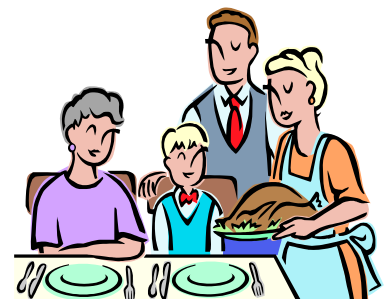


4-Day 4 Yr Olds Brittany Slaughter & Sarah Medina

November was all about faith, family, food and football for our bees. "We give thanks to God." from Colossians 1:3 was our Bible verse for this month, and it so perfectly describes our November. This month we were so thankful for our Fathers, and special 'Father stand-ins' who came to our "football for father's" celebration. The bees were very proud of both the coaster and jersey gifts they created for you.



Our family wall filled up quickly as our bees brought in pictures to share with the class. The joy on the children's faces as they talked about their families was infectious, and we loved learning more about each of you.



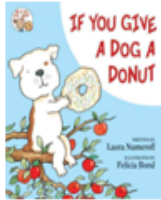
One of the tastiest (and my favorite) units of the year came next with our unit on donuts.

Along with a donut shop dramatic play, we used various donut themed books to focus on both sequencing and manners. We read **If You Give a**



Dog a Donut by Felicia Bond and **Please, Mr.**

Panda by Steve Antony. Other big hits for our class this month were the books



Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader by Christianne C. Jones and **Dragons love Tacos** by Adam Rubin. I love books immensely and we will begin the first of our 'book show and tells' in December.

During our "centers time" in November, we learned the letters S, C, O, Q and G. Our "letter bee" introduces clues to each letter, and we learn about the sounds each letter makes. We continue to work on writing our names, learning our birthdays and practicing our fine motor skills with cutting activities. We practiced color and shape recognition with our Turkey in the Hay carpet game, and we sorted Thanksgiving pictures into categories of Long Ago vs. Today.



We concluded our month with a festive sit down feast with the entire school. We learned all about the Thanksgiving Story and discussed how thankful we are for all of the blessings the Lord has given us.

We wished a big Happy Birthday to our sweet bee Hayden this month. We are so glad you are a part of our class.

December will be joyous, magical and busy. We are already practicing hard for our Christmas Program, and we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord.



**2,3, & 4-day 4's
Ashelynn Kelly,
Kathleen Jarratt &
Julie Zimmerman**

Wow! It's hard to believe that November is already over. During the last month, we spent a lot of time talking about thankfulness. Each child named one thing they were thankful for and we were able to post each response on the painted tree in the hallway. We specifically talked about to whom we are thankful - Jesus! In our class and in chapel, we discussed the meaning of having a thankful heart everyday! Our class participated in Thankful Show-and-Tell. Each child brought in one item they were thankful for to share with the

class. It was wonderful to see their thankful hearts at work!

This month we also did quite a bit of celebrating! Our Father's Day program was a great success.



Thank you to all the fathers who were able to join us! We also celebrated our Thanksgiving feast together. Our class decorated thankful turkey hats that we wore during our feast.



During our "centers time" in November, we learned the letters S, C, O, Q and G. We worked on how to write these letters and how they sound. We also began working on number recognition and counting through different activities and games!

December is going to go by fast! We will learn the letters J and U and continue practicing other letters we have learned. The best part of December is being able to celebrate the birth of Christ together! We look forward to sharing our Christmas program with you on Thursday, December 5th. Remember your camera!





Science with Rebecca Myers

With the Father's Day celebrations and Thanksgiving, November was a short month for science. We had two lessons. The first was learning about volcanoes—how they form and how they erupt!

We even had our very own pretend volcano (made of baking



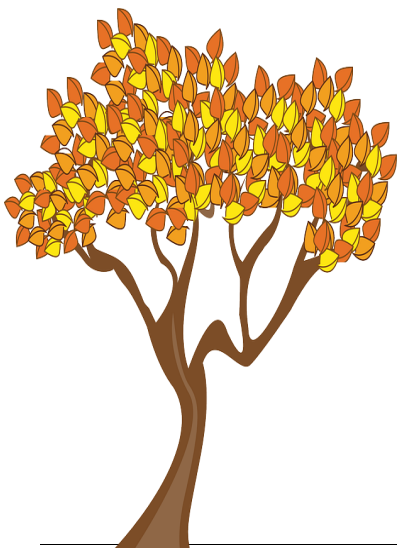
soda, red food coloring and vinegar) which the kids loved making explode over and over again!

We also made pinecone birdfeeders to help feed the birds that do not migrate in the winter. We saw and listened to



some of the songs of the birds in our area so we could identify

who comes to visit our feeders by the sounds they make as well as what they look like.



LIBRARY NOTICE

December will be a short month due in part to our holiday schedule. The classes will be extremely busy, participating in



activities such as practicing and presenting our annual Christmas program, experiencing a participation play production by Ms. Cathy



(or Mother Goose), having class parties, and sharing in a birthday party for Jesus with the whole school.

We will not visit the library in

December. If you still have a library book owned by FBCDS at your home after that



date, please return it so we can log it in to our system. Once all our books have been returned, we can get ready to check out books again in January after the Christmas holiday break. If you cannot locate a book, please contact Rebecca Myers in the Day School office. Thank you for your understanding.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Fire Marshall of Fairfax County recently examined the church and preschool hallway. In order for FBCDS to be in complete compliance with fire codes, we will be practicing our fire drills each month using various evacuation routes. It is good for us to have several 'safe routes' to know in the event one route is blocked by fire (should a fire actually occur). Safety is our number one priority. Thank you for your understanding.



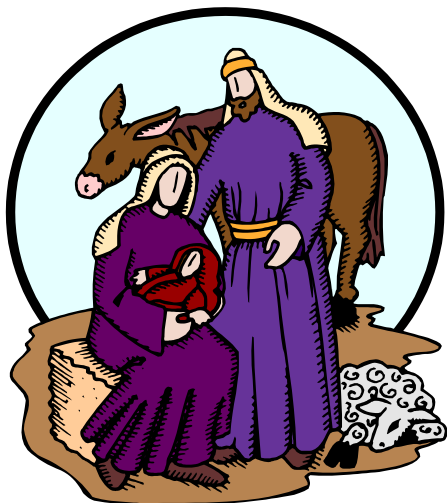


Music with Marcia Lee

The Music room was fun this month! In honor of our fathers, we learned ***My Daddy Works Hard Every Day*** and ***Thank you, God, For Daddy***, which were two favorites.



The children enjoyed ***The Wiggle Song***, where they started by wiggling their thumbs, and before long, were wiggling all over! They also sang about more falling leaves, but mostly enjoyed singing songs in preparation for the Christmas program. The children are anxious to present this special performance to you, their parents, other family members, and friends. Remember to mark this date on your calendar. On Thursday evening, December 5th, the children should be in their classrooms no later than 6:45 PM and the program begins in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM.



Later in December, we will concentrate even more time on our songs about Jesus' birth, and then we will enjoy some fun, popular, old favorite songs, too!



Chapel with Marcia Lee

At the beginning of November we were so excited to see dads and dad "stand-ins" come to share a special time of celebration at the school. We talked during Chapel time about how our Heavenly Father loves



and takes care of us all the time, like our earthly daddies take care of us in our homes. We read a wonderful book entitled **Thank You,**

God, for Daddy by Amy Parker. Thank you, DADS!!! You are so special!

In November, during Chapel, our focus was on **sharing** and **being thankful**. We learned how important it is to share the knowledge about God and Jesus and how much they love us. We learned how people can be compared to crops ready to harvest. In Luke 10:2 the Bible says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." We need to go out into God's 'field' and teach others about Him.

We talked about how many years ago, Native American Indians gladly shared with the Pilgrims the knowledge they had about planting and harvesting crops, fishing, hunting, and using the earth's resources wisely. We learned that the Pilgrims saved



5 kernels of corn each Thanksgiving to remind them of God's love and promise to provide for their needs.

Our next Chapel lessons this month were about being thankful. The book **I Thank God for This Day!** by Phil Vischer was read to the children. This is a favorite ***VeggieTales*** book. The



"**Thankful Tree**" in the Day School hallway displayed leaves on which each child shared things for which he/she is most thankful. I hope you found and read your child's leaf.

Just before Thanksgiving, we read the book **Thanksgiving Graces** by Mark Kimball Moulton. It reminded us of the great meal we were about to share with our families and friends, and made us feel very thankful to God.