

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Katie Corby and Kris Morris

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 colors orange and black, and are becoming pros at identifying/sorting 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 *Little Owl's Night* by Divya Srinivasan, which inspired our little owl paper bag puppets craft.

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 quickly to get him stuffed! We also had fun making our own little stick scarecrows.

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. In class, we had fun reading, 5 Little Pumpkins, and painting pumpkins to take 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! 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, restock diapers/pull-ups as needed 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.

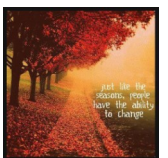


5 Day 3's Stephanie Jenkins and Glenda Rodriguez

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. Learning about fall animals was such fun! The children loved singing "Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Swish Your Bushy Tail!" in music class. We learned that owls and bats



are nocturnal animals and enjoyed creating our own

nocturnal creatures! Did you notice bats flying outside of our classroom?

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 intrigued and so brave!



Did you notice Glen, our class scarecrow? The children had a great time squishing up newspaper to help stuff and create him. They worked hard and were quick to get him stuffed!

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.

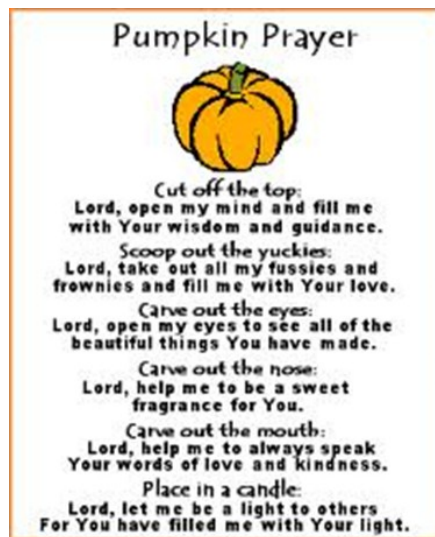
We finished October with the Fall Festival party and parade. Thank you very much to those who brought refreshments to help make this such a fun event! The boys and girls really enjoyed marching around the gym in their costumes.



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 and swap out extra clothes as needed! We plan to play on the playground unless it's raining or below freezing, so please remember to send jackets.



2 & 3 Day 3's 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 exciting as they brought a frog, a snake, and other creatures.



Many children liked touching the frog and snake. We also had "Good Gollie, It's Mollie" visit. We sang, danced and had so much fun. The kids really enjoyed seeing bubbles in all sizes....from tiny to gigantic bubbles. It was so much fun!



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, Elizabeth, Lena and Anton. We hope you had a wonderful time on your special day in October!

In November, we look forward to even more fun and



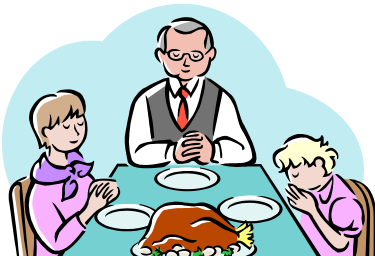
excitement! We will learn about Native Americans, Pilgrims, turkeys, and giving thanks.

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.



4 Day 4 's
Brittany Slaughter
and Sarah Medina

"My favorite color is October." I love that quote, and it describes perfectly the beautiful fall backdrop the

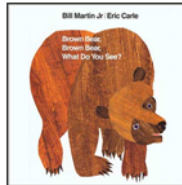


Lord paints for us here in Virginia. How blessed we are to be surrounded by such beauty!



With the changing of the leaves, we found ourselves starting the month of

October learning all about colors. We discussed primary and secondary colors, and we had a color review with Brown Bear



puppets. One of our favorite units this month was our unit on Nocturnal Animals. We created nocturnal animal journals and discussed what owls eat. GRRRRRRR! Our room



transformed into a forest full of owls, mice, bats and raccoons as we thoroughly enjoyed the book *This is Owl* by Jacqui Lee and Libby Walden. We even labeled the parts of a bat using vocabulary sight words.

Our Bible verse for October was "Grow in the knowledge of Our Lord" from 2 Peter



3:18. Ask your child if they can show you the motions we used to learn our verse this month. We have seen a lot of growth in our students this month, including their friendships with each other! We are so proud of our "busy bees."

Exciting visits took place this month when "Miss Mollie," the clown came and shared bubble dancing, singing and scarf play. Hidden Pond Nature Center visited also. The children enjoyed touching creepy, crawly creatures like a snake that



brought many joyful sounds of laughter. Both events were big hits.



I hope that you met our silly scarecrow Ben. All of our bees stuffed him during Scarecrow Week. He helped to introduce our pumpkin center and circle time units. Thank you for sending your child in orange on our "Orange Day" on the 22nd. We sorted everything into orange and not orange things that day. The end of the month concluded with everything pumpkin and shinning a light for Jesus. We hammered pumpkins,



made pumpkin pancakes, sang the "Pumpkin Picker" song and studied the guts of the pumpkin. Thank you to all of you who sent in a special treat and costume for our Fall Festival. It was a huge success, and we had so much fun.

We celebrated a very special Happy Birthday to Teddy Oh this month. We feel blessed to have him in our class.

We continue to work on writing our names, forming letters from the top, shapes, numbers and social skills.

As the weather cools off please check your child's change of clothes to make sure they are seasonally appropriate. November will be a fun filled month of celebrating our fathers, our blessings and "the donut."



2, 3, & 4 Day 4's Ashelynn Kelly, Kathleen Jarratt and Julie 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!!



5 Day 4's Michelle Kalapala and Brenda Allen

Fall is in the air and the children are enjoying the cooler weather outdoors and the many discussions about all things Fall! Our Bible verse for October was Daniel 2:21 "He changes the time and seasons." In keeping with that, our curriculum focused on the four seasons. The children created their own character out of leaves and made wreathes with their hands using the colors we see in Fall.



We learned about the changing weather, the life cycle of a tree and the different animals that hibernate, migrate and adapt. We focused on bears and had lots of fun doing bear art, making bear in his cave treats and going on a bear hunt!



We had a special guest visit, "Good Gollie, It's Miss Mollie", who thoroughly entertained the children! During Scarecrow Week, the children helped build a "real" Scarecrow, learned about the job of a Scarecrow, harvest time and the life cycle of a pumpkin. The children



helped dissect pumpkins, painted pumpkins and tasted pumpkin treats!

In circle time and brain center we practiced writing letters E, H, T, and I. We worked on scissor skills, cutting skills (cutting out triangles) and learned the rhyming sounds "op", "et" "at" and "un". October ended with a fun-filled "Fall Festival" party and parade.

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





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 watch 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.



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 being 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



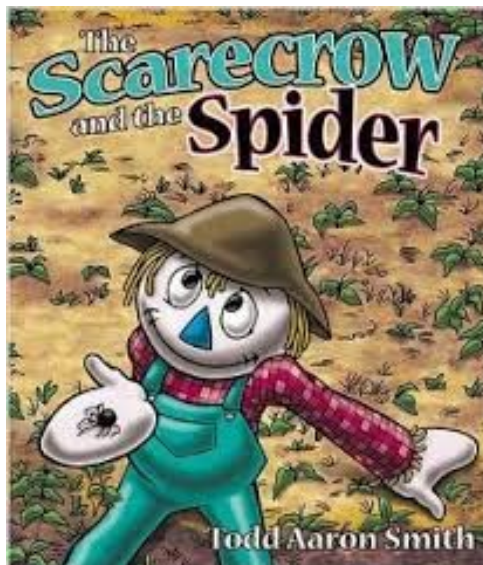
eyes to see the needs of other people in our own community who are very hungry. We learned about ways we can help provide food for them.



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

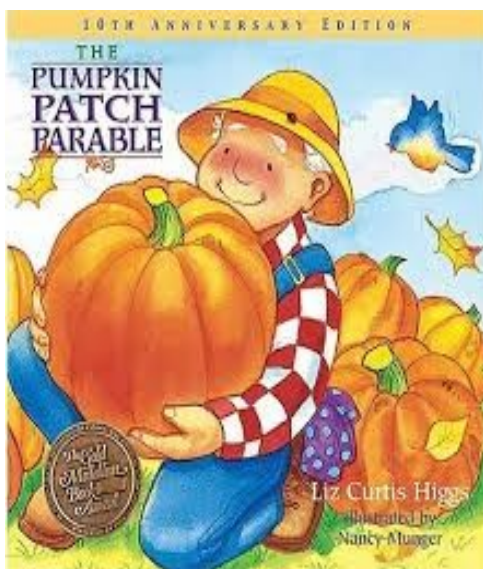
the needs of those around us came from John 9:25. It states, "I was blind, but now I see." The children were invited to bring canned foods for ECHO, and to

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.



He poem entitled **The Christian Pumpkin** 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.

