

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Katie Corby, and Kris Morris

We are so thrilled school is underway and that we have the privilege of teaching your children this school year. We love how excited they are to come into the classroom each morning and we strive to help them feel safe, loved, and, of course LEARN while having fun! The school year is off to a great start and the children are settling into their new school routine beautifully. We stay busy through the day with free play, crafts, playing on the courtyard, snack, and music.



In September, we learned that God made us and the rainbows too! We enjoyed decorating our school bags with rainbow handprints and making crafts that represent "All About Me." A favorite song was Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes!

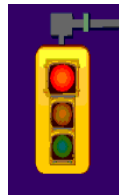


The visit from *Under the*

Sea was a real treat as all the children were able to see (and touch if they chose to) real sea creatures. The students were mesmerized and so brave!



We also talked about safety during our Safety Days and had our first fire drill. Our class did such a great job lining up and getting out of the building quickly!



'Apples! Apples! Apples!' was the theme for the final week in September. We made apple crafts, tasted red, yellow and green apples, sang songs about apples, and read lots of books about apples including The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein.



Just a reminder to bring your child's bag each day with a full change of clothes inside to include underwear and socks (pull-ups and wipes if needed). Also, please check the bag daily for notes and/or crafts. We are learning a lot about numbers, colors, letters, sharing, shapes, and have plenty of fun themes planned for the year.

We look forward to October when we will learn all about fall!

We will explore bats, spiders, owls, foxes, scarecrows, pumpkins and more! The start of Fall also means cooler weather, so please remember to



send your child with a jacket (labeled with his/her name) each school day. We feel blessed to work with your children!

3 Year Olds Stephanie Jenkins and Glenda Rodriguez

Welcome to school! It has been a joy getting to know your little ones in September!

Transition to school can be overwhelming, but your children have done an AMAZING job! It has been wonderful to watch as new friendships blossom in our classroom! We strive to help them feel safe, comfortable and loved as they adjust to their new surroundings.



We are off to a great start with our established routines and the children really love the importance of having class jobs. Make sure to ask them what their job is each week as I am

sure they will be excited to share it with you!

In September we enjoyed learning all about the story of creation and how God created the

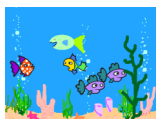


world in seven days and that God made all of us and our families! We have also been working on our numbers, colors, letters and shapes. We are even learning to say and identify our colors in Spanish! Important skills we have learned are, how to use white glue, how to use a glue stick, proper use of scissors, markers and watercolor paint!

Apple week provided a great opportunity to learn more about the colors of the month, RED, GREEN and YELLOW. We sorted, painted, tasted, weighed, charted, and read a lot of books about apples! We even made apple cookies with Mrs. Light!



We had a fun visit from "Under the Sea"! It was a fascinating experience! We even got the chance to touch some of the sea creatures!



Safety Days were all about STOP & GO and being safe. Your children did a wonderful job lining up quickly to exit the building



during our first fire drill. We enjoyed a yummy traffic light snack with graham crackers and colored icing to celebrate a job well done!

Thank you for taking the time to help as we began Letter Bags

this month! It was gratifying to see enthusiasm as the children shared with the class. What a fantastic way to make learning fun!

We look forward to October when we will learn about fall, Harvest, Pumpkins, Scarecrows and more.

3 Year Olds Renae Crawford and Jennifer Tiffany

It's hard to believe that we have been in school for a month already! The children are adjusting wonderfully, and we love to see how excited they are to come in each morning. Our days are very busy as we have art, science, and music. And, of course, they always love being able to play on the big playground outside.



During the month of September we learned that God made us all special and that we are all part of a family.



We enjoyed asking the children all about some of their favorite things to do with their families.

We had our first fire drill for Safety Week and the children did a great job lining up and evacuating the building! We also enjoyed a yummy traffic light snack made out of graham crackers and icing.



We ended the month of

September with our Apple Week. We were able to taste each kind of apple and vote for our favorite color or flavor. We painted apples and read apple stories, including the story of **Johnny Appleseed**. The children loved helping as we made apple pancakes and applesauce.



Happy Birthday, Leopold! Hope you had fun with your friends!

We look forward to another great and exciting month in October. We will be busy with all of our fall activities that include spiders, bats, owls, pumpkins and many other fun projects.

For Your Information

If you have not already done so, please sign up for **REMIN** using your teacher's code. Important Information is accessible through REMIND, on your monthly calendar, on the dry-erase board outside the classroom doors, through e-mail, and on the main hall dry erase board.

In addition, remember the **school day begins at 9:30 AM**. We don't want your child to miss out on all the activities and art projects that are done daily. Of course, traffic can be a challenge sometimes and we do understand. **IF you are going to be late for pick up please call the school (703-451-7144) to avoid the \$1.00 per minute late pick up fee!** We can also let your child know you will be a little late coming to pick up allaying any fears he/she may have.

4 Year Olds Michelle Kalapala, and Brenda Allen

What a great beginning we have had! The classroom schedules and activities are well underway and the children have adjusted nicely to our routines. Mrs. Allen and I feel truly blessed with the wonderful group of children we have in our class, and look forward to an exciting year full of exploring and learning together!



We began our month acquainting the children with the classroom environment, rules, routines and centers.

The children have created some amazing artwork in the art center, and I hope they have showed you their masterpieces in the hallway! The play center has been a big hit! They have been

creating with playdough, exploring the light table, building structures, playing matching games and investigating objects and textures in our sensory bin. At our brain table we have been working on recognizing and writing our names, the letters L and F and learning the sounds they make. We have also introduced the "at" sound along with counting to 20 and writing numbers 1-10.



Our first guest to visit was "Under the Sea". The children enjoyed learning and touching real ocean

animals! This month we had our first fire drill during Safety Week and learned in class about making safe choices. We enjoyed a short unit about "The Three Little Pigs" and discussed the differences between real stories and fairy tales, the importance of working hard and enjoyed building structures that the big bad wolf could not blow down. Our last week of September was all about apples! We touched, tasted, counted and dissected apples!



We look forward to October which will be filled with fall projects, learning about seasons, changing weather, pumpkins and God's creations. Thank you for entrusting us with your children and giving us the opportunity to work with them!

4 Year Olds Brittany Slaughter and Sarah Medina

Bees are busy, and we have had a busy, busy month. We have truly loved getting to know more about both our new bees and our seasoned bees. It is such a blessing to be their teachers. This month is all about routines. We have been learning about red and green choices to help us navigate how to be a kind friend and classmate. Positive reinforcement is our focus. Our bees have loved exploring our various centers in the classroom.



The sensory center and sand table is a class favorite. We introduced our

"Every day I write my name" books and spent time dedicated to name recognition.

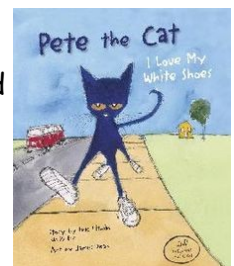


We used playdoh and other manipulatives to create our names. Our Bees also completed their "About Me" books, and our wish is that these books can serve as a treasured memento to look back on for many years. I still love looking at my son's from preschool. Your children did



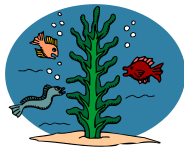
such an amazing job during our Safety Days. We have been so impressed by their ability to line up and exit the building quietly.

We rocked out in our school shoes during our Pete the Cat week. We learned what an author is, and we discussed the author of the Pete the Cat books: Eric Litwin.



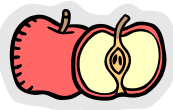
Discovering everything about our five senses came next. We tasted various items like marshmallows, lemons, and salty crackers to decide what was yucky and what was yummy. "Our Five Senses" song helped to remind us that God has given us the ability to see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. What an amazing God we serve.

We enjoyed our first in house event with a visit from *Under the Sea*.



The children were able to touch real sea creatures which our mighty God made. Pictures are up on our Shutterfly share page.

Apples! Apples! We had an amazing week focusing on all things Apple the last week of September. We tasted all the different apples and conducted an apple poll to figure out which color apple was our favorite. Ask your child what they picked. It may surprise you. We learned about the apple life cycle, made apple crafts, and used apples to paint.



Lastly, our Bible verse this month was "There is a time for everything" from Ecclesiastes 3:1. It has been perfect for September.



Preschool is an exciting place, and September was all about learning the ropes and class schedule.

We look forward to October and the changing of the seasons. This is my favorite time of the year, and we cannot wait to learn together about colors, nocturnal animals and pumpkins.



4 Year Olds

Ashelynn Kelly, Kathleen Jarratt and Julie Zimmerman

The first month of school has come and gone! What a joy it was to get to know each of your children. Truly, we have a great group of students this year. Thank you for preparing your children to be eager to learn and play!

The month of September was all about learning our classroom routine, meeting new friends, and becoming accustomed to the 'dos and don'ts' of the classroom and school.

Every day we work through 3 rotations. We have an art center, a brain center, and a play center. So far in our brain center, we have learned what our names look like, ocean animals and the letter "L." In our art center, we made jellyfish, self-portraits, and rainbows - just to name a few projects. We have also begun a circle time every day where we go over the calendar and the weather (where we dress up our friend, "Freddy the Frog" so he is ready to go to preschool)! We look forward to memorizing the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the Pledge to the Bible and our selected Bible verse each month.



Our first theme of the school year was "Ocean!" We had a special visit from "Under the Sea" where the children were able to see and touch ocean animals! Our guide



for the ocean adventure, Andrew Wilson, even brought a shark for the children to see! You can imagine the



delight and wonder on the children's faces! During our ocean week, you might have seen our jellyfish hanging on the walls outside the classroom. We talked about different kinds of ocean creatures in our classroom during our "brain center" as well.



This month we completed our first fire drill during Safety Week! The kids did an amazing job listening and moving quickly! We will practice evacuating the building once each month.

The last week of September was Apple Week. During Apple Week we learned the story of Johnny Appleseed and had a special guest



(Mrs. Betty Light, a former FBCDS teacher) bake apple cookies with us - yum!



October will be filled with fall projects, pumpkins and learning about more of God's creations! We are excited and grateful for the opportunity to work with each one of your children this year! Thank you for sharing them with us.





Science with Rebecca Myers



Music with Marcia Lee

We started this school year singing very enthusiastically!! *I Am So H-A-P-P-Y* was definitely a favorite song for all the children. In September, we learned songs about opening and shutting our hands and *following directions* like *Clap, Clap, Clap Your Hands* and *Red Light, Green Light*.

The boys and girls really liked moving to music! Already we have gotten exercise while moving to *Clap Your Hands* and *Sing to the Lord; Jump Into The Light*; and *The Wiggle Song*.



During **Apple Week**, we learned the songs *Appleseed Blessing* and *Apples, Apples; The Apple Pie Song*. The story was told about a boy climbing a ladder to reach the apples at the top of an apple tree. We made our ears work by listening to a xylophone go up and down the scale just like the boy as he would go up and down the ladder. The children closed their eyes, listened, and guessed whether I played "up" the scale or "down" the scale. It's been a great month!

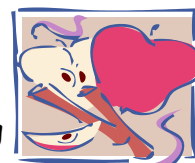
We look forward to singing songs about the changing seasons, some of God's creatures such as cats, bats, and spiders, and Harvest Time in October. We will sing around a big pot of harvest-like vegetables (some of which are actually "shaker instruments"). It should be a terrific time of year!



scientists do, and the many interesting tools scientists use. We played with magnifying glasses, microscopes, beakers, pipettes, and even got to do an experiment with milk, food-coloring and dish soap! It is our Fireworks in Milk experiment and is something you can try at home!



The last week in September was **Apple Week**. The students learned about how apples grow from a small seed to a towering tree. We "dissected" an apple to learn about its parts. We did an experiment to see what solution helped preserve an apple and it turned out that salt water kept the apples from turning brown the best. We then discussed how people in the past used salt to preserve their food before refrigerators were invented. We also watched seeds dance in soda water. The kids loved watching the seeds "jump" up and down inside the glass!



Just a Reminder!



Please remember to hold tightly to the hand of your child(ren) when entering and leaving the building... **most especially in the parking lot**, but also in the building.



UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should a child be left unattended in or out of a car. If necessary, ask another parent to stand by your car or in the hallway while you deliver/pick up your child if you have an infant or toddler sleeping in the car. Otherwise, please unbuckle and bring the other child with you into the building, holding hands. God has entrusted us with these precious treasures. We need to care dearly for them. Thank you for your cooperation!