

# Teacher Tales

## 2 1/2 Year Olds Katie Denisar and Julie Zimmerman

November was such a fun month! The children loved playing with the leaves we found and they had fun making a 'Leaf



Man' after reading the book and singing the song, Leaves are Falling. We read books about Daddies and made



daddy a special pencil holder and footprint! On Veteran's Day, we made camouflage hearts and read the book, My Daddy is my Hero about



daddies who serve in the military. To prepare for our Thanksgiving Feast, we talked about what we were thankful for by reading, Llama, Llama Gives Thanks. We also read,



10 Fat Turkeys and sang lots of silly turkey songs such as '5 Fat Turkeys', 'The Turkey Pokey' and 'If You're Thankful and You Know It'. The children loved making turkey art by

making turkeys, painting turkey tracks and painting with feathers!

While having so much fun, we focused on sharing our toys, taking turns and using our words when we get frustrated or need help. They are getting used to our routine and our transition times are getting a little better.

We are also focusing on everyday verbal skills such as saying, 'Good Morning' and asking for things or answering questions in a sentence rather than a one-word request. (Ex. "Open" vs. "Help me open this please").

Potty training is coming along - - please be in communication with us about how we can help and where you are in the process. We are so thankful that you are allowing your little ones to be in our classroom!

After Thanksgiving break, we started to prepare for Christmas! In December, we will be learning about a 'character' of the Nativity story each day along with reading the scripture and doing a craft to go along with the story!

We are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' Birthday and having a class celebration at the end of



the month!

## 3 Year Olds Rena Crawford and Stephanie Jenkins

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.



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. Our students had so much fun making headbands and necklaces for our feast! What a great time we all had!

We celebrated one birthday this month. Happy Birthday to Ethan! 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 singing Christmas songs. December will be very busy but exciting as we share a birthday party for Jesus. Look for our Christmas artwork to come home.



## 4 Year Olds Katie Denisar and Kris Morris

We are so thankful we had a fun November! Our first week, we had fun going on a leaf hunt (or 2) and creating leaf people after reading the book, Leaf Man.

After our leaf hunt, we used the leaves to make leaf etchings and sorted leaves by colors and size. All month, we worked on practicing our name, the letters L,D and T, cutting and strengthening our fine motor muscles.



Also, we had fun celebrating dads and Veterans in November! We read the book, I Love My Daddy Because and My Daddy is My Hero. We sang lots of songs about daddy and worked hard at creating art of our special pencil holders that we gifted to our dads!



We ended the month reading books about being thankful, including, A Very Thankful Prayer. We spent a lot of time discussing what we were thankful for and remembering our verse of the month, **"We give thanks to God" Col. 1:13**. We created a 'thankful turkey', painted turkey tracks, made a Thanksgiving bracelet and the Mayflower out of our handprints. Our class prepared for our Thanksgiving feast by reading about the first



Thanksgiving and about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Our favorite songs this month had to be the 'Hip Hop Father's Day Rock', 'The Turkey Pokey', 'The Turkey Hop' and 'If You're Thankful and You Know It!'

We looked forward to coming back after Thanksgiving

and diving right in to preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas! We will be making an Advent Calendar and spending each class day learning about a different 'character' in the Nativity story. We will celebrate Jesus' birthday and have our own classroom party at the end of the month.



## 4 Year Olds Brenda Allen and Meagan Luallin

November was a whirlwind of fun activities and special events!

After the Election Day break, we found out our class squirrel would be named "Squeaky" - it was a very tight race between that and the other most popular name, "Squirreleigh." We learned about the moon cycles, and enjoyed some Oreo cookies in the process! Our fruit of the spirit was 'goodness', using the Bible verse Matthew 5:15-16. We learned to let our light shine (reflecting God's love) in such a way that others will see our good deeds.

'Faithfulness' was our next fruit of the spirit! We learned what faithfulness means, and celebrated our fathers' and veterans' faithfulness all week. Lots of painting, and lots of singing took place! All month we practiced our names and the letters P, B, E, F.

The next week was packed with learning about the Pilgrims, the Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving. The children learned about why the Pilgrims made the dangerous trip over the Atlantic Ocean, how difficult their first winter was, and



how they found friends in the Native Americans in the new world. They learned about how different Native Americans' and Pilgrims' cultures were, and how important it was to be accepting and kind. We learned about Native American friends, like Squanto, who helped teach the Pilgrims how to hunt, fish and grow different crops like corn (maize). We learned about the next fruit of the spirit, 'gentleness'. To be gentle in our actions and with our words. We practiced our scissor skills cutting out feathers for some turkey art work. We had fun making Native American head dresses and Pilgrim hats to wear for our feast!



We ended the month with our traditional



Thanksgiving Feast celebration! We learned that cornucopias are decorations used to symbolize abundant blessings and bountiful harvests. We colored all our **Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)**, cut them out and glued them on our cornucopia of spiritual fruitfulness! Our last fruit of the spirit was 'self-control'! Proverbs 25:16 was discussed about how excess of anything can make you sick, even if that thing is good. A special thanks to all the Owl parents for contributing the delicious food for our Thanksgiving Feast. We had a great time! We also spent a lot of time thinking, and talking about what we are thankful for.

Our last little bit of November was dedicated to the coming winter season. We learned about



and how other animals survive during the winter. Psalm 121:1 was our verse; speaking to how God always protects us, as He does not sleep. nor does He slumber. We had lots of fun with our bear caves, and putting up our Christmas tree. We also got started on some fun decorations! December is going to be jam-packed with arts and crafts, singing songs and special parties. We look forward to this time with your kids!



### 4 Day 4 Year Olds Glenda Rodriguez and Sarah Medina

November was all about faith, family and food for our class. "We give thanks to God" from Colossians 1:3 was our Bible verse for this month, and it so perfectly describes our November. We loved celebrating Veterans Day and honoring Dads on November 11. We sang songs and made special crafts in their honor.

During our "centers time" in November, we learned the letters S, C, O, Q and G. We learned 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.



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



December will be joyous, magical and busy. We are already practicing a lot of fun Christmas songs and look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord.



### Music with Marcia Lee

Music was so 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. We also learned *Daddy, It's Your Special Day* and *Oh My Daddy!* The children enjoyed performing in the gym while the teachers videoed their *Father's Day Program*.

We also sang more fall songs. We are excited about singing songs in December for Christmas. The children are anxious to present this special performance to you, their parents, other family members, and friends by video, much like the Father's Day Program. 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

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, we talked about how many years ago, Native American Indians 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.

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.