

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Kris Morris and Karen White

Wasn't October a fun month? We had a great time learning about squirrels. Our favorite was reading "Bob Ross and Peapod the Squirrel". What fun it would be to create a world just for a squirrel. We also learned all about owls. The kids loved looking at all the different nocturnal animals. We even made our own owl. During Owl week we started a unit on creation. We learned that God made dark and light by His powerful words. We used flashlights to make our own light from the dark!

We really had fun stuffing our Scarecrow! Thanks to Mrs. White, he had a lovely pumpkin head! We read the book called The Little Scarecrow Boy, and practiced our scarecrow faces! October wouldn't be complete without pumpkins! Since we had so many sick children during

scarecrow week we did the second day of creation (God separated the sky and the water) and the third day (God made the dry ground and plants) while we learned about pumpkins, seeds, stems, leaves, and fruit. Your children's carpentry skills were honed as they hammered golf tees into the pumpkin. (They all loved this activity!) We also played with the pumpkin's ooey gooey inside, and carved its face!

Your kids are rock stars with our routines! They all know the clean up song, and are singing to our circle song. With some reminding from Mrs. Morris and Mrs. White that it is time to go potty, bathroom breaks continue to go well. They all love to try everything! If one does something, (a craft, or snack, a potty break, etc.), they all want to do it too.

With the weather all over the place, please dress the kids in layers. It might be cool outside but hot inside, or vice versa. Also don't forget as we are getting closer to being potty trained, a spare set of clothes that are weather appropriate

should be kept in the tote bag. (It feels wrong to put a pair of shorts on a child that wore a heavy coat to school.)

3 Year Olds Katie Denisar, Julie Zimmerman and Karen

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



The favorite couple weeks was definitely our 'Fairy Tales' weeks! We read 'Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Cinderella'. The kids loved hearing the stories, retelling the stories with their own take home pieces and most of all acting out the stories in class. It was a great opportunity for some of our shy students to act out parts and talk without having to come up with their own words or ideas. It brought a lot of our students out of their shells and more comfortable interacting with their peers.



We ended our month by making scarecrows and reading The Scarecrow's Hat and Scarecrow Boy. The kids got lots of sensory experiences during pumpkin week by helping to carve a pumpkin and helping to take out the seeds and "brains." Some of the kids loved being able to feel how slimy and cold it was on the inside. Some were happy just to watch. We made orange using red and yellow) finger paint and made beautiful pumpkins with our painting. The students practiced counting 1-5 as we sang '5 Little Pumpkins' and they loved reading Spookly.

The students have really soaked in learning letters through, "Learning without Tears" where we build a letter using wooden pieces and then practice writing them on chalkboards. So far, we have learned letters, **L, F, E, H, T, I and U**. I am continued to be amazed at how quickly they have learned these letters and how well they have been able to remember them!

In November, we will be celebrating fall by doing leaf activities, celebrating Veterans and our fathers, learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and practicing being thankful! We have so much to be thankful for... especially each child in our classroom!



4 Year Olds Brenda Allen and Meagan Luallin

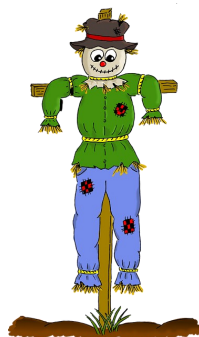
The month of October was a blast in the Owl Friends classroom! We continued learning the Fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)



Joy, peace, patience and kindness! We have enjoyed learning about the time of year changing to autumn, and all of the joys of this season. Changing leaves and darker the life cycle of trees, acorns and busy squirrels! We are training our big, wise, owl eyes to look for fall leaves of all shapes,



colors and sizes. We have had fun learning about bats and spiders, and other nocturnal creatures. We have taken some walks to find acorns, leaves and look for spider webs! Harvests, scarecrows, maize, and crows had our full attention in the third week, as well as fun making our own classroom scarecrow! The end of October was all about the pumpkin! Carving and scooping the



seeds out was a very fun and interesting way to revisit using all of our 5 senses.



October was full of art work. We have continued practicing gluing, cutting, using glitter, and coloring with all kinds of mediums. Coloring with chalk, markers,



colored pencils - stringing beads, sowing scarecrow mouths - so many different ways to use our creativity and to practice our fine motor skills!



We enjoyed playing lots of number games, and the post office was a big hit! Look in their bags for special notes. (Thank you for stocking us up with your cards, envelopes and stickers!) We love our music time every day! We have learned

lots of new silly songs and some good songs for our fruit of the spirit. Best of all we got to smile, giggle and dance!



We have been working very hard on writing our names! I hope you will be able to see the improvement. Every morning we work on the date, days of the week and months of the year. Maybe the children have shared our songs with you?

We read a LOT of books in October. I don't even have time to read all the cute books I want to. They all seem to enjoy going to our "Library" and picking books out to take home.

Our class was able to get a lot done in October, and we look forward to a very busy and productive November as well!

4 Year Olds Glenda Rodriguez and Sarah Medina

With the changing of the leaves, we found ourselves starting the month of October learning all about colors. We discussed primary and secondary colors. One of our favorite units this month was our unit on Nocturnal Animals. We created a nocturnal owl and discussed what owls eat.



We introduced 4 new letters: **E, H, T and I** this month. We continue to work on writing our names, forming letters from the top, shapes, numbers and colors as well as enhancing our fine motor skills with scissors!



Our library visits started the first week of October. Our

Bible verse for October was "**Grow in the knowledge of Our Lord**" from 2 Peter 3:18.

We have seen a lot of growth in our students this month, including their friendships with each other! We are so proud of our little friends!

I hope that you met our soldier scarecrow outside our classroom. All of our students helped stuff him during **Scarecrow Week**.

The end of the month concluded with everything pumpkin. We were able to carve a pumpkin and turn it into a jack-o-lantern. The kids loved being able to feel how slimy and cold it was on the inside.



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 and our special Thanksgiving Feast.

Music with Marcia Lee

October was a fun month in music. We sang and moved to the **Hokey Pokey**.

During Harvest Time, we learned, talked and sang about pumpkins and other tasty vegetables that need to be harvested from the fields. We pretended to add many vegetables to a huge stewpot while singing **Stirring My Stew**.

During "Scarecrow Week", we learned a song about the **Forlorn Scarecrow** who was very sad because he couldn't scare the crows away. Have your child sing it for you.



As pumpkin season drew closer, we sang a lot of songs celebrating this great food item. They include: **My Pumpkin's in the Patch; Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Round and Fat; and Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Happy Pumpkin.**



October wouldn't be complete without our furry friend, the squirrel. You must hear and watch your child sing and do the motions to **Gray Squirrel**.

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

During Chapel this month, we focused on being everything God would like us to be. We compared the 3 parts of an apple to the 3 parts of God. The stem is strong enough to hold the apple to the tree like God, the father, is strong enough to hold us tightly and protect us. The meat (juicy part of the apple) fills us with healthy nutrition, like Jesus fills us with God's love and kindness. Finally, the core of the apple holds the seeds that can be spread around, just like the Holy Spirit fills our hearts with God's love we can share with others.



The book **The Scarecrow and the Spider** by Todd Aaron Smith intrigued us to compare God's love and protection to a scarecrow's protection of the crops in the field or garden. Becoming friends, the scarecrow and the spider aided and protected each other.

The Pumpkin Patch Parable, a Christian book by Liz Curtis Higgs tells the story of how a loving Farmer turns a simple pumpkin into a wonderfully glowing sight.

