

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

October Highlights:

A personal apology for the glitch of my absence - a health issue I was forced to deal with. As always, the staff just automatically filled in. Other than a weekend of catch-up, everything is back to normal. Thanks for your patience - and, this class was just great.

I hope that you were able to join us for our all school dinner date at Panera. I heard that everything went very well and that everyone had a great time, parents and children. We hope to hear soon how much the school made on the event, we'll let you know. Thanks for your enthusiastic support.

Thanks too for the effort you put into reading to your child, and making your child's costume for the Historical Parade. We were so proud of the creativity of each of them, and impressed by how much they knew about their characters. You did a good job. We teachers understand that an event like this could not happen without your help. Events such as these are one of the things that make our school special.

More thanks to all who contributed to the family party after the parade by bringing treats. The children always get into making those Veggie People don't they? Toni told me that every one of the Veggie People was great. *Our next family party will be the winter holiday party on the day before Winter break in December and we'll have more fun activities for everyone, do plan to come.*

And finally, thanks is due to the families who drove to the pumpkin farm.. Joan's Pumpkin Farm always provides a real farm atmosphere for these city children. My personal mission in life (having come from the midwest) is to make sure that any child who is in my class never confuses a goat with a sheep! We will be finishing up our pumpkin books and our October journals this week and we will send them on their way home.

We finished our second read aloud book, Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and our first poem "Hurt No Living Thing" by Christina Rossetti. The process of copying and performing the poem for the Kindergarten class and the second and third year class was their first experience of doing something to *perfection* - a new word and lots of effort! Hopefully your child had time to recite this poem to you as well.

As part of the steady flow of holidays, we also had a celebration for the Indian Festival of Light - Diwali. We had lights, candles, music, sweets, Indian folktales, and the rangoli designs by the door. The children enjoyed the homemade sweets that Arush brought in to share. - new flavors and customs to enjoy from our diverse community!

Yes it was a very busy month, and only the beginning of the holidays.

Upcoming in November:

The big event in November is our living history re-enactment of the first Thanksgiving. In order to learn about this national holiday, and the important role of the Wampanoag tribe to our history, we will be doing some serious role playing.

Traditionally, the first year students become the Wampanoag tribe that helped the Pilgrims and joined the Pilgrims for the first Thanksgiving. In the next few weeks, we will be learning about this Northeast tribe and their contributions to our present American culture.

Of course we will be making a book (our second book) about Wampanoag life at that time. They will be choosing Wampanoag names for their character roles. They will also be making bead patterns, earning eagle feathers for their headdress, and preparing native foods for the feast, as well as choosing a Chief Massasoit and Squanto - in other words, having a lot of fun.

The Pilgrims (the second and third year class) and the Wampanoags will be coming together on **Wednesday, November 22** to share some traditional foods (all vegetarian) under the big trees outside. We provide turkey from the hot lunch program as an optional item. **YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO PREPARE A LUNCH THAT DAY.**

Our class will be wearing brown (start looking for those brown clothes) and items we have made in class. After our feast there will be the traditional games of Tug of War and Pass the Corn. This event is for the students only, however, you can learn all about it from the book about Wampanoag life which they will be making in the coming weeks.

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER:

Veteran's Day: November 10th Both class and day care programs will be closed.

See's Candy orders due: November

Thanksgiving Feast: November 22 - Wear brown clothing and no lunch is necessary.

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 24 and 25 - no class and no daycare