

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

October Highlights:

I hope that you enjoyed our all school dinner date at Panera. The children have been talking about how much fun they had - that's a success. We also made a spot of money - \$ 345! Good job as we say in class, and thanks for your enthusiastic support.

Many thanks for the effort you all 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. We teachers understand that an event like this could not happen without your help, and 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 were so excited about having their families at the party. The children *always* get into making their Veggie People. The pumpkin books are on their way.

And of course, thanks is due to all 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 has been in my class never confuses a goat with a sheep!

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, with lots of effort! Hopefully your child had time to recite this poem to you as well.

And finally, 100% of the parents attended their parent conferences. We are indeed lucky teachers to have this parent support. I hope your conference helped you to feel closer to your child's educational experience. As for me, these conferences help me better understand your child - I learn so much from you. I come into class feeling refreshed and renewed after speaking with you.

Upcoming in November:

The very first item of news is the introduction of our new assistant teacher in Room 1, **Ms. Gloria Ramirez-Perez**. Ms. Gloria is a certified AMS Montessori teacher who has previously been teaching in preschool classrooms. She is now finishing up her Montessori elementary training. We all welcome her fresh face and enthusiasm. We are lucky to have her join us.

It's official, Halloween ushers in a non-stop series of holidays. . . so, the first will be Diwali on **November 8th**. There will be Indian music and folktales, rangolis, Indian sweets and lots and lots of lights. Children are invited to wear their Indian (south Asian) clothing if they wish.

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) 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 21** to share some traditional foods (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 to look authentic. After our feast there will be the traditional games of Tug of War and Pass the Corn. This historical 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:

Diwali Celebration - November 8 All children may wear Indian (south Asian) clothing if they wish.

Veteran's Day: November 12 Both class and day care programs will be closed.

See's Candy orders due: November 16

Thanksgiving Feast: November 21 - Wear brown clothing, and no lunch is necessary.

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 22 and 23 - no class and no daycare.

We are off to another full month! Jo