

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

1st Years – Rm 1

September Highlights:

Although it seems many ages ago by now, thanks to all of you who made it to Back to School Night. Hopefully the information you received will help you all throughout the year. Do remember that you have an events calendar and a theme dress calendar in that packet you received.

The children have settled into a class with a firm working routine. Reading groups are established, as are daily chores. They are practicing their math facts with enthusiasm and they have become more independent and confident in their daily journal writing. We have finished our first read aloud chapter book, *My Father's Dragon* and are on to Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

You have had three updates on math homework by now - on yellow paper. Your child's Friday Math Facts test comes home every Monday so you can see your child's progress in memorizing the math facts. Use each score as a baseline for progress.

On the fun side, we have done some serious apple tasting, and we celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday with his favorite dessert, apple pie!

Your child's first journal will be arriving soon, decked out in a fanciful apple print cover. If you can spare a few minutes, read each date's topic and have your child read his or her journal to you. Appropriate (that is, mistakes within their current level of skill) corrections have already been done in class, so this is admiration time from you.

We have learned about protein foods and fruits and vegetables (vitamins) by now. Every child is expected to find the protein food and any fruit or vegetable in their lunch and put it in its proper place on their lunch mat. don't be surprised if your child requests a specific food for their lunch. Next, we go to calcium foods.

Thanks to every one of you for volunteering to drive for our library trip. We appreciate the time you folks take on your child's behalf. Next stop - Joan's Pumpkin Farm in Livermore.

Now that we are settled in, we will be starting our weekly spelling tests and our first poem. There is always something new every day.

Upcoming in October:

October is a very exciting month for the children as it is the gateway to the nonstop holiday season. Our next field trip will be to **Joan's Pumpkin Farm in Livermore** on Tuesday, **October 16th**. We will be leaving right away in order to make our 10:00 appointment.

This is a delightful morning trip to a real working farm in Livermore (it's worth the long haul.) A flyer will be sent out soon with the details. We will need 3 - 4 drivers for this trip, depending on how many parents will be driving only their own child. Bringing a sibling is not recommended, unless the sibling is an infant and completely under the control of the parent.

The pumpkins that they get at the farm will stay at school and be used for a pumpkin book project. Their pumpkins will go home on the day of the parade, when they turn into Veggie People at the family party.

Parent/Teacher conferences for first year students will be on **Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26**, with a few Saturday morning spots. I strongly encourage fathers to attend. Of course, if you both are able to come, that is the best.

The sign-up sheet will be in your red MAIL FOLDER soon. If none of the times work for you, please contact me for an appointment. *Missed appointments cannot be rescheduled.*

The big all-school event will be the **Historical Halloween Parade** on Wednesday, **October 31st** after lunch at 1:30. *Choosing an historical figure, reading to your child about that person, and making a simple costume is a parent and child history homework project.* Try to get a head start on this project.

Attached to the enclosed notice about the parade is a list of possible historical characters which have biographies at school and are available for borrowing. Your child will need guidance with his or her choice. Consider your child's interests when helping him or her choose. Also, don't feel limited by these biographies. The character does not have to be from the United States. *Your local library can be a good source if we don't have the biography. Yes, we are trying to avoid the world of Google.*

We have collected bits and pieces of costumes over the years and have them available to borrow for the event as well. A list of these bits and pieces will be attached to your biography list.

As soon as I receive the notice from you about your child's choice of character, I will send home the biography for you to read to your child.

Our first year class traditionally has a Family Halloween Party directly after the parade. Family means that sisters and brothers and Mom and Dad are invited. Please do plan to stay for the party; the children love to share their special events with their family. We'll have some treats, and you and your child will be busy making a Veggie Person out of your child's pumpkin. A flyer about the party is on the way.

And finally, a word about uniforms. Yes, we have been lax in the past, resulting in people taking great license with our stated code. So now we are insisting on Lands' End only uniforms, as we intended by the clearly stated list given to you upon enrollment, as well as the catalog for ordering, and the summer uniform resale. So we are checking uniforms every day.

We will have another used uniform sale in January to accommodate growth spurts. Check it out - our prices are great.

So we're off to a busy month!

Jo