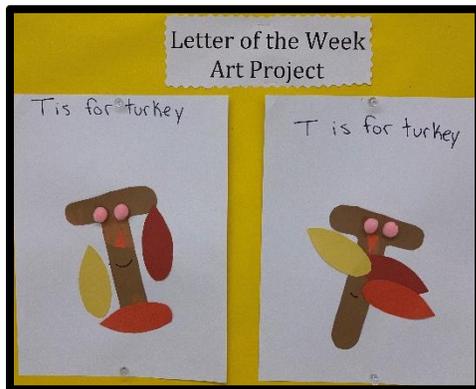


October / November 2019



The past two months have been packed with fun fall activities and community events!

In October the entire school enjoyed our Fall Fest which transformed the school into an autumn wonderland. Our Parents Association provided face painting, pumpkin decorating, fall crafts, music, an obstacle course and lots of pizza, apples and doughnut holes to round out the event! These events are a great way for our families to meet one another, build our preschool community and provide the children with non-stop fun! Additionally, when families come together at events such as these, it helps to reinforce the connection between home and school.

Ms. Katherine, our school librarian, coordinates our annual book fair and once again it was a great success! The children enjoyed visiting the books carts each day and knew many of the books by their covers. Refreshing our library and classroom bookshelves is an important literacy event and affords the teachers and children the opportunity to discover new titles together. This year, the book fair was planned so that families had an opportunity to shop during our Parent /Teacher conference day which allowed them to keep their purchases a secret for holiday gift-giving.

As a school we collected candy for Operation Shoebox and food for the New York Common Pantry. These are “teachable moments” about kindness, empathy and gratitude. When we encourage the children to add their donations to the collection boxes, we are helping to reinforce the importance of “giving back” and are setting the stage for children to learn about being charitable. Perfect lessons just in time for Thanksgiving!

Our **Twos** have been hard at work carving pumpkins, making corn fields and learning all about fall. The Twos will be celebrating Thanksgiving by sharing a “feast” within their own classrooms. Friendships are continuing to grow as the year progresses and the children look forward to seeing their teachers and friends each day. Most of our two’s have made the shift from parallel play to cooperative play- an important developmental milestone. Our Two’s teachers facilitate this by staying engaged with our youngest learners and scaffolding their experiences. Some new materials were brought out for hands on, open-ended play. The Two’s now have many fall themed sensory bins, additions to their kitchen areas and are even participating in the wonder of science experiments such as dancing corn kernels! Process based art experiences are also encouraged, as students explore a variety of materials throughout the room. As the year progresses, the Two’s teachers will continue to challenge the children by extending on and modeling pragmatic/social language, participating in their play and incorporating the children’s interests and ideas into their lesson plans. We look forward to continuing to support the Twos as they blossom!

The **Threes** have begun their “Letter of The Week” activities, learning that all letters are created from a series of lines and curves. This is based on some key components of the Handwriting Without Tears program. Letter shapes are coming alive in the rooms with both group activities and individual projects. The letters correspond to the themes such as T for Thanksgiving, C for community helpers, and F for Fall. Each week, the Threes work together to create one large letter for their classroom Letter Wall. Soon the children will understand that when these “shapes” are put together *just the right way* that they can create words. We look forward to them “cracking that code”!

One of the highlights of the past month was learning about what it means to be a Community Helper. We made lists of all the people that help us each day. As a very special treat, two police officers from the 19th precinct came out to visit our Threes’ classes. The children learned all about how the police keep us safe, what an emergency is and more importantly what the children can do to in case of an emergency and to keep themselves safe. The children’s favorite part of the visit was getting a chance to look at real police badges and take a turn wearing a police hat!

Fours are bringing home their “class pets” for the weekend and creating a journal with photos and writing to show all the things they did. “Cutie” the cheetah and “Truckie” the iguana are making their way through the city and beyond with our intrepid Fours. In Letter of the Week activities, the letters are being attached with their phonetic sounds and children are using a combination of dictation and sounding out words to write in the journals each day. These classes have tackled books by both Amy Kraus Rosenthal and Mo Willems as part of our Authors of the Month series. Math and science come alive through experiments in STEAM and our ongoing 100 days of school count. The children are so excited that we already have over 4 bundles of tens! Spanish is being introduced through stories and games and our Fours are doing muy bien! “Friendsgiving” will be celebrated with both classes joining together to enjoy delicious food and to talk about what they are grateful for.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you will take a moment to reflect on what you are grateful for. The classrooms will be busy preparing for the Winter Holidays and discussing how families celebrate.

Visit us next month as we say goodbye to 2019 and welcome 2020!

Warm regards,

Carissa Canovas & Nancy Baldaro

