

November

TEACHERS' BLOCKS

Murnie Leary

Director

Here at HNS, outdoor play is an integral part of our day. Our playground gives children opportunities for large muscle development, socialization, increased imagination and enjoying nature. Children can run, jump, swing and climb. Lots of active play encourages children to use their imaginations. It is a time to create friendships, develop problem-solving skills and play cooperatively. The children enjoy nature and watch the seasons change. We try to go out every day, including cold and snowy days. We will soon be sending home red bags for snow clothes. Boots, snow pants, and mittens fit in the bag! In putting on and taking off snow clothes, the children learn crucial self-help skills. As challenging as this may seem, they all do well with this process! And with the bulkier winter jackets, it's almost time to loosen those car seat straps!

Mrs. Young & Ms. Drew

5 day 4-year-olds

The month of October has been so much fun. We learned lots of songs and stories about fall and Halloween. We have two music teachers and Mrs. Young knows lots of songs too. Mr. Read-Brown comes every other Monday with his banjo and guitar. He teaches us silly songs! Ms. CeCe comes on Monday mornings for 20 minutes and is teaching us songs and rhythm. Our favorite song is Black Cat, and we love a poem called This is Halloween Night that Mrs. Young taught us. We also have been playing a pumpkin alphabet game, and a spider counting game. We are working on writing our names, and tracing and cutting. We are trying to use proper pencil/marker finger positions when we write and color. Ms. Drew plans wonderful art projects that keep us very busy every day! It is really hard to believe that November is here! We will be learning about families. We will also be learning about the importance of Veterans Day and we will make flags. We will also be learning about Native people and the first Thanksgiving. We live in such a special place with Plimoth Plantation so close by. We will also be learning about how animals prepare for winter, and about hibernation. November will go very quickly! As the weather becomes increasingly cold, please make sure you send mittens and hats. So far the children have been asking for lots of help with zippers. Please work with your child on zipping their own coats. We often will have them help each other too! More and more independence is helpful for your child and for us. We are proud of how well the class has been doing their daily jobs, listening at meeting time and working together!

Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Laine

3 day 3-year-olds

Fall has rolled into our room with lots of fun activities and opportunities for explorations. The children have enjoyed making (pretend) caramel apples, jack-o-lanterns and leaf wreaths. We have read many autumn-themed books – ask your child to recite “Five Little Pumpkins” for you. Our next unit is an exploration of pirate life. We will be walking the plank, searching for treasure and playing with our mateys. As the weather changes, please send your child to school each day with a warm coat, hat and mittens. We love to get them outside to run around and play!

Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Sweeney

2 day 3-year-olds

October was a very busy month! First, we are so pleased watching our class begin to gel. Your children are comfortable in the routine, are making friends, and discovering their independence as they move around the classroom engaging in all the different play and activity centers. We had so much fun with our zoo theme. I hope someone came home singing "I am going to the zoo zoo zoo..." We read some wonderful stories and enjoyed our own class zoo in the block area. Next, we were on to fall, talking about the season and all the changes it brings. We have talked about the colors, the sights, and smells of fall. Your children love using their imaginations to make an apple pie or be a fall leaf. In November we will have fun with pirates and talk about Thanksgiving. When we plan our days, we think about the skills the children are practicing. Little pieces of paper that come home are a sign of using scissors. Gluing on paper might be thinking about where things are put on a face, animal or object. Fine motor skills are used with crayons, and painting, sometimes with q-tips or sponges. We want your children to practice skills through fun and play. With this group singing and music and movement are a great resource for learning. We love to seeing the joy in learning and making friends! Reach out anytime with concerns or celebrations.

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Read-Brown

2 day 3-year-olds

During October, everyone really enjoyed the sights, sounds and sensory experiences of fall. The children made sun catcher collage apples which are hanging in our windows. Everyone tasted three kinds of apples and then charted their favorite which you can see outside our classroom door. They practiced counting and using one to one correspondence by decorating an apple poem picture with apple stickers and making their own apple trees using with bath sponges. Finally, everyone helped to cut apples that were used to make applesauce right in our classroom and then divided among everyone to take home. Another project that brought attention to a typical fall sight included painting a sunflower and making it as tall as each child. The children also examined and felt different kinds of leaves when they made leaf prints. During the month, we also talked about and made different Halloween projects, one of which was creating a very unique class pumpkin using fruits and vegetables for the facial features. It's a new twist on an old tradition. There were also fun witch hats made with silly stamping shapes, glowing paper Jack-O-Lanterns made by rolling marbles through paint over them, spooky windsock ghosts that float in the breeze, and real mini pumpkins decorated with a drip painting technique. Our November activities will be quite different than October's. Our thoughts and focus will be on family, Thanksgiving and gratitude. The idea and meaning of "family" will be discussed, presented and shared through several projects. As we get closer to Thanksgiving, the children will make cranberry orange relish to bring home to have with their families. We certainly wouldn't let the day pass without having your child make his or her version of Thanksgiving turkey (a decorative wild gobbler!) to share, too. We would like to "thank" you for sharing your children with us every day they are here and we hope that you will enjoy fully all that Thanksgiving means by spending it with the important people in your lives. Lastly, the season is bringing with it several changes including a drop in temperature. We still play outdoors every day and it is important to send your child with really warm coats, hats and especially mittens that they can get in and out of with relative ease. Another "thanks"...for all your help!

Mrs. Warren & Mrs. Ross

4 day 4-year-olds

The children enjoyed participating in all of the fall activities! Some of the highlights for our class included: apple printing, making apple pie treats to eat together after lunch, painting and printing with real leaves, walking to Lambert's to choose our class pumpkin following a map, decorating their mini pumpkins, counting the votes for our jack-o-lantern face and making ghost toast. The focus for the entire month of November will be families. We will learn about families through a variety of developmentally appropriate and intentional activities. On Tuesday, November 6th, we welcome each child to bring an adult family member with them to school. For further information, refer to the previous notice regarding HNS Family Days. Please watch for our request for family pictures attached to a piece of colored construction paper in your child's folder. Each child will have an opportunity to share their pictures and talk about their family with the class. Finally, we will be making our world famous HNS Cranberry Orange Relish to share with our families during Thanksgiving. We will need one parent volunteer in the classroom on Tuesday, November 20th and donations of the ingredients. Look for sign-up sheet outside of classroom. November will be a very busy month!

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Christino

3 day 4-year-olds

We had so much fun with all of our Fall projects in October! We continued working on the theme of "self" some more by depicting our faces and bodies in a number of different projects. It allowed the children to notice details, parts vs. whole, and similarities and differences between their classmates. For one project, they used various leaves, branches and real flowers to create fun and interesting leaf people. Apples, pumpkins and leaves played a big part in all of our activities. With so many amazing and naturally occurring sensory experiences around us, these *real* objects take center stage as our mediums whenever possible. We also took in the sights of fall as we walked to Lambert's Gardens to choose our class and individual pumpkins. Eventually, we would be able to smell our class pumpkin as it was being carved into a Jack-o-Lantern and get to feel the pumpkin's meat as we helped to scoop it out before the carving. This month we worked on learning a poem about Halloween called Five Little Pumpkins complete with hand movements. Everyone created their own gate with five little pumpkins sitting on top to accompany their recitations of the poem at home. To complete the look and feel of the holiday for our classroom, the children partook in the very messy, goopy and slimy project of creating cheesecloth ghosts which hung and swayed from the branches of our ceiling as well as the eerie bats that were created with a marble rolling technique. As we move into November, our thoughts will begin to focus on how we as individuals make up and fit into our families. In moving from "me" to "us", several projects will include making facsimiles of our homes, painting a picture of one's family and constructing a time piece of "What I like to do with my family." This month brings with it a few school traditions. One of these is "Special Person Day" and it celebrates the importance of family. A member of each child's "family" spends the morning with that child in our classroom. More information about this is forthcoming. Another tradition is making cranberry orange relish that the children will bring home to share. You will also find another Thanksgiving project in your child's bag around this time, too, but it's not for "gobbling" up... it's for decorating your homes! We would like to "thank" you for sharing your children with us every day they are here and we hope that you will enjoy fully all that Thanksgiving means by spending it with those important people in your lives.