

Southminster

Early Learning Academy News



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November/December 2019

From Michele

After just two months of school we can already see the wonderful adjustments are children have made. They have conquered the scary good-bye at the classroom door. They have started making new friends and have become re-acquainted with some old friends. They are enjoying being in school. Each one of our children is ready to move on to new things and to take on new challenges. Of course, as they are ready to take on more challenges we too should be ready for what these changes may be and how it will impact our lives. We watch our children go through many different stages and phases throughout their lives. Sometimes they pass through these phases with very little difficulty while other times us, as parents feel that we may not survive. Just as we successfully navigate through one phase, we are already being put through another change. Change often is a difficult time in our lives and in the lives of our children. Change can cause a lot of stress in our lives. Change can be big, like a move or the birth of a baby, while other changes can be small and occur almost daily. One thing we know for sure is that change is a process that is the ending of one thing and the beginning of something different. How we manage these changes is what will determine how successful the outcomes will be.

When dealing with our children and their ever changing needs and personalities, we need to realize that the way we did things before or even last week may not work the same way: we may need to step out of our comfort zone and explore different solutions. We as parents need to grow and change right along with our children.

What I am saying here is that when raising children we are constantly going through change, sometimes more quickly than others. As our children grow they need us for many things, but they also begin doing things for themselves. Just when we figure out how to cope with our preschooler we find ourselves with a grade school student, who requires much less help and a little less supervision as they become more independent and begin to move out into the bigger world without us.

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APAT News

Thank you to everyone who attended the Halloween parade. We hope it was fun for all.

On **Monday, October 29th**, Sarris Candies catalogs will be delivered to your child's mailbox. Orders are due **by Friday, November 16th**. The delivery date will be **Monday, December 10th**.

We are looking forward to the APAT Cookies with Santa on December 5th from 6:30-8:00. Look for emails with more information.

We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

Jess, Kelli, Devan & Miranda
APAT Co-Chairs



What we need to remember is that ultimately what we want for our children is for them to grow into independent, decision making adults. In order this to happen we need to step back and allow our children to make choices throughout their lives. Sometime we need to allow them to make mistakes and learn from these mistakes. If we always try to control our children so they won't feel disappointment, we are not showing them that we trust them to make good choices. Allowing our children to make choices lets them know that we trust them and believe in them.

I think it's in our nature as parents to always want to look out for our children and to protect them. Except the problem with that way of thinking is that someday the time will come when you have to let them go off on their own, without you, and you have to trust that you have done your job and prepared them for their journey. You have to know that you raised them to be independent so that when this day comes, they will be ready for it.

If the ultimate goal of raising children is to raise independent, self-sufficient adults then we must remember that raising them is a process ultimately leading to this goal. Supporting them throughout their lives, advising them when we can and stepping away when we need to is an important and at times very difficult process. There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to raising our children. Children need to be loved, respected and nurtured. Allow them the privilege to make choices along the way and step back and watch them grow. They are sure to amaze you.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all!

-- Michele

Important Dates in November:

November 5	No School
November 6 and 7	Conference forms sent home for 3's, 4's and Pre-K classes
November 11	Dr. Michele Borba to speak at USC High School. 7:00 PM – Unselfie
November 27-29	No School Happy Thanksgiving

Important Dates in December:

December 2	No School Thanksgiving break continued
December 5	Cookies with Santa 6:30-8:00
December 18-Jan 1	No School, Happy Holidays



Two Day Two's

October was a lot of fun in the 2's class! We learned so much about the farm, animals and of course pumpkins! The children especially loved carving our pumpkin and touching the pulp and seeds.

Everyone has done a fantastic job adjusting to our school routine and forming new friendships.

In November we will talk about our families and what we are thankful for. In December we will focus on holiday fun.

Thank you so much to all of our snack and play doh helpers and those who have donated supplies!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Cozzens & Mrs. McCormick



Parent/Tot

Our Little Tots class continues to enjoy the school routine. They are especially excited about our weekly story, especially when it is a Lift the Flap Book. They are learning to take turns and be the teaching assistant for our stories. The children look forward to the weekly "project", outside play, music and most importantly snack time. In November and December we will explore colors and textures as we learn through play. We are very thankful to have our time together each week!

Mrs. Nave



Three Day Three's

We have had a very busy October! The children have all come a long way in adjusting to the routine of our day. We are very proud of them!

Our class spent time learning about our shape this month, the circle. We also focused on the color orange and had lots of fun with the farm theme! Everyone especially loved examining the insides of our pumpkin!

In November and December we will be learning all about trees! We will also focus on the square and brown in November and the triangle and green in December.

Many thanks to all of our snack, play and party helpers!!



Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Cozzens & Mrs. Zappone

Building Security

Every family has received their Fob card please remember to use your Fob when entering the building. The staff on the second floor has to stop what they are doing to answer the door. This is very disruptive if it happens a lot. Please help us help them by using your Fob every time you need to enter the building.

Drop Off

Please be sure to read the drop off section of the family handbook. This will help our drop off program run extra smoothly.

Treat Bags

Please also remember we do not allow treat bags of any kind for birthdays or room parties. Please read the family handbook for details.

Two Day Two's

October was a fantastic month in the Two's! The children are doing beautifully. They are learning the routine, playing and interacting more with each other and welcoming new experiences such as Music with Mrs. Klein. We even started to learn how to "flip" our coats!

In November, we will continue to focus on learning each other's names and practicing skills such as taking turns with toys. We will also spend time talking and reading about family since many of us will be with family during the upcoming holidays.

Even as the days grow cooler, we like to spend as many days as we can outside on the playground. Please dress your child for the chillier weather so that they are comfortable spending about fifteen minutes outside.

As we get closer to Thanksgiving, we are thankful to have such supportive parents and grateful that you trust us with your precious children.

Lori Guenther & Nicole Gilberg



Two & Three Day Three's

Dear Families,

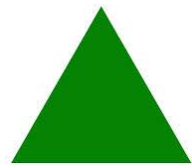
Welcome to November and December! The children will explore the color BROWN and the SQUARE shape in November and the color GREEN and TRIANGLE shape in December. For the crazy caterpillar your child will bring in a small brown object in November or a small green object in December that can be glued on the brown square or green triangle - a ribbon or sticker will be fine Please do a search around your house for the color brown and green for the square and triangle shapes

We will explore the subject of trees in November and December The children will touch the roots, bark, trunk and branches of the tree They will complete a leaf painting art activity For science we will do an experiment to see how the roots pull up water Into the tree They will compare a variety of leaves, and we will talk about what animals live in the trees They will also see if there are any items in the classroom made from the wood of the tree

Feel free to let your child bring in leaves for sharing at the science table Also, in December the children will study evergreen trees and complete paintings using parts of the evergreen tree

The last week of November we will also focus on giving thanks for many things We are thankful for you: the wonderful families that bring their children to school and support them in their education by creating a loving environment for learning, discovering, and creating

Kindest regards,
Mrs. Tischuk, Mrs. Santos, Mrs. Moon and Mrs. Hannan



Three Day Four's

October was a bountiful month filled with exploring and asking wonderful questions together. Our unit theme was "Farms" and the students focused on learning about apples, pumpkins and various animals that live on the farm. We measured ourselves with apples, baked a pumpkin bread (with a sprinkle of love from each friend) and even stood on eggs as part of our math and science studies. We began our number book and are learning about the letters in our first names. At the end of the month we had a special visitor from Japan who helped us fold farm animals with origami paper. During playground and ballroom time friends set up apple washing stations, pumpkin patches and farms using their magical imagination. The month ended with a cold but fruitful visit to Simmons Farm and our wonderful Halloween party. We are looking forward to November with great anticipation, when we will begin our 'Trees' unit and explore ways to be grateful for all that we have with and in each other.

Mrs. Bosbach and Mrs. Frederick



Music

October was a busy month in Music class. We played with bean bags, our stretchy octopus and our large gathering drums. Our 2's started coming to the music room and we are having a great time learning new songs and playing with instruments.

We learned some new fall chants and songs, and many Halloween songs. Ghosts, skeletons, pumpkins, jack o' lanterns, and monsters have all made an appearance in the music room.

In November we continue to experiment with different instruments and props. In December we will learn many fun holiday songs. .

Below are the words to a favorite new chant. Ask your child to demonstrate!

Mrs. Kline

*I saw a ghost
He saw me too
I waved at him
And he said....Boo!*



Four Day Four's

What a wonderful month we have had! We have gotten to know each other better and have enjoyed our study of farms. The children have learned about the animals that live on farms, different types of farms, and the jobs that farmers do. They had the opportunity to experience some of these jobs in the classroom through our day of "planting" a farm. They also held a class farmer's market where they "sold" the harvest from their farm. In November and December, we will be doing a study of trees. Be on the lookout for tree art on our November bulletin board. Enjoy these lovely fall days!

Mrs. Kontos and Mrs. Moses



Kindergarten Enrichment

In November, Kindergarten Enrichment will focus on South America. We will concentrate on learning about the Amazon Rain Forest. The students will learn the layers of the rainforest, discover which animals live in each, and why. We will create our own Amazon Rainforest in the hallway. We will experiment with color blending and each child will mix their own shade of green to paint leaves they make for our rainforest "umbrella". The importance of preserving the rainforest and all it provides will be discussed. The kindergarten kids will make a chart of how many things we have in our homes that came from the rainforest. We will also study the culture of some South American countries, including celebrations and music. The kids will make Carnivale masks, pan pipes, and their own "worry dolls". We will wrap up November with a self-portrait of each student in the rainforest.

Mrs. Guenther & Mrs. Gallo



Eat + Play = Learn

Wow, it's November! We are going to be very busy this month in Eat Play Learn! We will put our baker's hats on and make delicious apple pies to share with our families. We also will put together a cookbook of our favorite Thanksgiving foods. We will study Henri Matisse and recreate and recreate some of his iconic works.

December will bring snow, ginger bread men, Grinch Dust and some handmade presents for our families.

Happy Holidays to all our friends and their families!

Mrs. Gilberg
Mrs. McCormick
Mrs. Zappone



Pre-K

Another month has flown by! We have enjoyed getting to know each other better. Our study of farms has been fun as well. Students had the opportunity to learn about different types of farms, animals that live on farms, and the jobs farmers do. The children also were able to "plant" a vegetable farm and "sell" their harvest in a class farmer's market. Another highlight was our conversation about foods that can come from farms and our baking of pumpkin muffins to wrap things up. In November, we will begin a study of trees, which will conclude in December with evergreen trees. Fall is finally here! Enjoy these beautiful days.

Mrs. Kontos, Mrs. Moses & Mrs. Frederick

