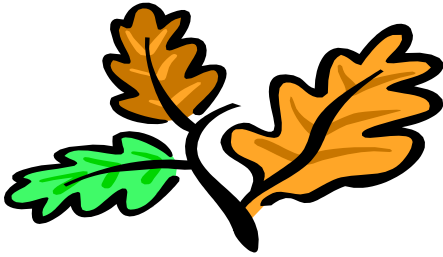


# CLASSROOM NEWS

October 15, 2004



## **In the classroom we are:**

- reviewing long vowels
- practicing consonant blends
- writing about the hats we made in Art
- practicing math strategies
- learning about moon rocks
- learning about the moon cycles
- selecting books to read
- listening to Charlotte's Web
- using Listening Library
- reciting poetry

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**October 22 – No School -**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

**October 28 – Pumpkin Carving**  
w/Sophomore Partners,  
8:30 am – 10:00 am.

**October 29 – Halloween Parade**

## **PUMPKINS NEEDED**

**Each child will need to supply a pumpkin for our pumpkin carving on October 28th. The pumpkin should be no larger than a child's head. Send the pumpkin to school with your child the week of Oct. 25.**

*Thank you for coming to Open House this year. We hope our presentation was informative and helpful. Please refer to your Open House letter and your Program of Studies when you have questions about our program. We are available to answer questions and provide additional information when you need it. Your support is appreciated.*

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the parents who chaperoned our apple picking field trip, and to everyone who contributed ingredients and help for our Apple Cooking Project on Friday. We're off to a great start!

Our room parents this year are Leandra Knes, Anna's mom, Cate Plys, Carly's mom, Patty Bauer, Kate's mom, Larry Rosenzweig, Sophie's dad, and Jennifer Rhind, Benjamin's mom. Beth Fama, Lydia's mom, and Melanie Scarlata, Miranda's mom, are the contact room parents. We look forward to working with everyone this year.

### Halloween Festivities

This month we will take advantage of the abounding holiday excitement and provide fun, educational activities for the children. We will share stories about the evolution of the jack-o-lantern, and continue to observe and record the seasonal changes that set the stage for trick-or-treating. In a safe environment, it is exciting for the children to experiment with disguises. However, please be mindful that young children will be present during the parade and might be frightened by scary costumes. Children should not bring accessories that might get in the way of safe play.

We will be celebrating Halloween in the classroom on Friday, October 29. Teachers and room parents are organizing the class party. If you are a room parent, Beth or Melanie will contact you to share in this effort. Food, treats and goodies are being planned. In the efforts to simplify our celebration, we ask that additional goodies not be sent to school.



### Reading Comprehension Study

Our Book Club program will be part of a yearlong study on reading comprehension conducted by Ms. Griffin as part of her doctoral program at UIC. During Book Clubs, children participate in discussion groups, share ideas and develop written responses. Classroom assessments will show progress in understanding different facets of reading comprehension over the course of the year. Different parts of this program will be videotaped by Ms. Griffin for her educational purposes. The information from this study will be used in the effort to continue to provide the best learning experience for your child.

### Math Facts

This month we begin our review and practice of math strategies. These include learning complements of 10 (2+8, 6+4), doubles facts (7+7), doubles plus/minus 1, (6+7, 5+4), adding ten (5+10) and adding nine (6+9 is really 6+10-1). These strategies will be taught in order to help children become more automatic and more efficient when solving harder problems.

We will be practicing story problems this month. We will look at clues to inform us about appropriate number operations. (How **many more**? How much **altogether**?) The children will practice story problems related to our Read Aloud, Charlotte's Web, and write their own spooky Halloween story problem.

## **CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS**

We use volunteers in many ways throughout the year, to help with specific events and to maintain on-going projects. We will recruit throughout the year according to the on-going needs of the classroom. Even if you did not sign up through the PA, please consider volunteering for these activities on the attached form.

### **Upcoming volunteer opportunities for specific events:**

#### Pumpkin carving

Soon our class will be carving pumpkins with High School sophomores. We will need two or three volunteers to assist with this project on Friday, October 28 from 8:30am to 10:00am.

#### Halloween

Volunteers will be needed to assist in the classroom on Halloween.



### **On-going volunteer opportunities include:**

#### **The Publishing Center.**

This is a major focus of our writing program. We need about ten volunteers to run the Publishing Center. Volunteers are needed to make book covers, type and print stories, make book labels, sew and bind books. To format books, we use a printing program, Clickbook, which we will provide for your use on PC or Mac. If you are familiar with this program, or especially computer savvy, please let us know. Publishing Center projects can be done at home or at school about once a month. Training will be provided.

**Please indicate your interest in volunteering on the attached survey.**

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**Name**

Yes! I can help with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Publishing Center. Training will be provided.

Circle your preference:

- Typing & printing: I have a    MAC    PC    (circle one)
- Making book covers
- Making book labels
- Binding (requires a sewing machine)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkin carving project  
Thursday, October 28, 8:30am-10:00am.

\_\_\_\_\_ Halloween, Friday, October 29

