



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

OCTOBER 2022 263RD EDITION

From the Director . . .

Hello Families!

As summer winds down and cooler weather creeps in, we expect the usual increase in potential illnesses. While we understand you might recognize certain symptoms in your child as being minor or as being caused by something innocuous such as teething, allergies, or reaction to a vaccination, we must all remember that a fever is not the only indicator of illness. While symptoms may be minor, and we have all dealt with children who are not feeling their best, an ill child is detrimental to not only the health of our staff and students, but also to daily routines and objectives of our classrooms. Other aspects of illness, such as a child being more irritable or more sleepy than usual, can affect the dynamics of a classroom, as well as the workload placed on our teachers and their ability to provide a safe learning environment for the other members of the class. We recognize that our families have a variety of hurdles to jump when a child is ill and that different families have different means for coping with this. We just ask that everyone consider the community here when there is illness in your home.

As we observe National Fire Prevention Week (October 9th - 15th), Shiremanstown Fire Dept. will be bringing their truck over for the children to see up close on Thursday, October 13th. The teachers will also be discussing with the children how to prevent fires and what to do if they're in one. We will also be reviewing our Fire Evacuation plan with the children. If you do not have an evacuation plan at your home, now is a good time to make one and talk about where you would meet outside if anyone gets separated from the family. Is there a trustworthy neighbor your family can go to? What should you do if a pet is trapped? It's never too early to talk about fire safety with you children.

I am very excited for Halloween, as it's such a fun holiday to celebrate. We are going to hold our Halloween parade this year on Thursday, October 27th at 3pm and you are invited to come participate! The rain date will be Friday, October 28th at 3pm. If it rains both days, it will unfortunately be inside and parents will not be invited (but the kiddos still have a lot of fun). We will be sending out more information on the parade in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes open for that. Just a reminder that treats must be store-bought and prepackaged and little inedible favors are encouraged as well. We will also keep some of our other fall festivities going here at the center, including a hayride from Mr. Baer, date TBD.

We had another great picture day with Miss Gil at the end of September! I appreciated everyone's patience as we navigated the different pay format for the Fall photos than what we had experienced in the Spring. I feel confident in Miss Gil's abilities and am looking forward to seeing the photos of all of our little cuties! She has informed me that we can expect our orders within the next 2 weeks.

Happy Fall! October is going to be a very busy month!

MANNERS MATTER

10/03/22 - Cover your mouth when you sneeze/cough, and say excuse me. Don't pick your nose, use a tissue!

10/10/22 - Transitions will be swift, quiet, and orderly

10/17/22 - If anyone is bullying you, let a teacher know

10/24/22 - When a substitute teacher is present, all class rules still apply

10/31/22 - Responding to Adults - "Yes Ma'am, No Sir"

THEMES:

- Pumpkins & Scarecrows
- Fire Prevention & Safety
- Creepy Creatures
- Halloween (Parade 10/27)
- Everything Sleeps/Hibernation

Staff Birthday

Special Events: Mark your calendars!!

October 10th- **CLOSED** for Columbus Day (In-Service day for staff)

October 27th - Halloween Parade at 3pm

MISS KAREN AND MISS JILL'S INFANTS



Isn't October a beautiful month? Now is a great time to help your child experience the crunchy leaves and gorgeous fall colors. We highly recommend a trip to Paulus's Farm Market or Ashcombe's to walk through the pumpkin patch, play in the straw, or go for a hayride. It's family fun, as well as a way to add all sorts of sights and sounds to their senses and memory bank. God's great outdoors can be enjoyed by all ages! Since fall has arrived, please have a sweatshirt or jacket here every day in case we go out for a morning walk. Also, please bring in long sleeve shirts and pants for us to switch out with the shorts and short sleeve extra clothes that we have here for your child.

A big thank you to Ruth, Noelle, and Lacey's parents for logging onto our Zoom parent meeting in September. It's important to know where your child will be in the event that we would have to evacuate the center! Also, it was nice to be able to share some information about us with you, and we hope that you learned some important things about what's going on in our center right now, and in the near future.

We welcome Ramona to our class! We also have a new friend named Benjamin who will be joining us around the middle of the month. Conrad has been doing better with tummy time, and working on rolling over. He's also doing great with eating baby food. Noelle has perfected sitting up, and is working hard on figuring out how to move forward while on her belly. She's starting to get the hang of picking up snack food to eat. Teddy is cruising around the room holding onto everything. He's working on free standing. Teddy likes shaking rattles and doing art. Ruth also loves doing art, and she listens intently and looks at the pictures when I read books to the class. She likes to stand at the gate and be the greeter to everyone who walks, or stops by our room! Lacey is doing great with walking all over the room. (No more crawling for her.) She's also been saying a lot of new words lately, such as, "uh oh" and "Teddy"!

The annual Halloween parade is on Thursday, October 27 at 3 p.m. The teachers and children dress in costumes and take a walk around the neighborhood. Hopefully you will be able to join us for the walk, or help hand out donated treats along the way. More information about the parade will be coming soon.

MISS AMY AND MISS KELLY'S YOUNG TODDLERS



Happy fall!

September flew by in a flash and October is now here!

We have a very busy month ahead of us! Our themes for the month include: pumpkins and scarecrows, fire safety, creepy creatures, Halloween, and everything sleeps/hibernation. There are a lot of opportunities to get your child really involved with these themes, from dressing up as a scarecrow and pajama day to a visit from a fire truck (Thursday, Oct 13th) and an annual Halloween parade (Thursday, Oct 27th), so this is always one of my favorite months. Just make sure you're paying attention to the daily reminders we send home for more information as we get closer!

With fall also comes colder weather. Make sure you are bringing in jackets for your child. Even on days it is warmer in the afternoon, it can still be pretty chilly in the morning. We typically, as a center, will go outside as low as feels like 29 degrees, so it is really important to have the appropriate gear for each day. It is also a good time to switch out your child's extra clothes with some warmer attire. Of course, as it goes with everything brought in to the center, make sure to LABEL, LABEL, LABEL!!

Star of the month is back!! Our first star is Kennedy! Kennedy is the oldest kiddo in our class. She also turns two this month, so if you see her around make sure to wish her a very happy birthday! Kennedy has one brother here at the center. She also had another brother and two cousins who have graduated from Circle of Friends, so we are very familiar with the family. Kennedy is a happy and playful kiddo, which at times can get her into trouble. However, no worries, she just whips out that smile and all is forgiven. Kennedy enjoys going out to the playground and playing with the kitchens, but one of her absolute favorite things to do is to sit in Miss Amy's or Miss Kelly's chair and pretend she's the teacher herself. Stay tuned for more Stars of the Month throughout the school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of us.

Once again, Happy Fall!!

MISS DEBBIE AND MISS JENNIE'S OLDER TODDLERS

Focuses

Orange
Circle
Name six body parts
Jumping
Attempt to fold paper
Understand pushing, pulling and hitting hurts others
Play with others instead of by themselves
God protects us



Shewww, we made it through the first month and Fall is finally here!! We can put away our sunscreen and pull out our fall jackets. Our class has transitioned really well over the past month so rest assured your little ones are doing great and having fun. We hope you are all at ease too with the transition! We would like to thank all the parents who were able to attend the Zoom parent meeting. If you missed the meeting and have any questions or concerns please let either of us know.

This month we will be doing a lot of fall and Halloween related activities. Our friend's will all have the chance to help us carve a pumpkin, safely of course, and get to check out what's inside of it. We have a morning planned to go outside and hunt for pumpkins, have a hayride ride, enjoy a special treat and play with friends. The Halloween parade will be October 28th, so be sure to mark that special day, more info will be sent home as we get closer to that time. During fire safety week we will have a special visit from Shiremanstown fire dept. This years visit should be more exciting for our friend's now that they are a little bigger, not so scary this year for them..we hope!!!

Our friend of the month is Hannah. Hannah told us that her favorite color is purple and she said her most favorite animal is a zebra. At circle time she likes to sing the Frog song. When Hannah is at home she likes to play with her dolly and watch Bluey the TV show. Her favorite things to eat are cookies, noodles and broccoli.

Please be sure to label any jackets that your child wears in to the center. Also be sure to check your child's clothes that we have here as extras and please be sure to check your daily papers that are sent home. Thank you!!!

Happy 3rd Birthday to Caleb and Happy Halloween to all!!!!

MISS SHELLI'S PRESCHOOL



Focuses

Mental - Letters D, E, F / Color black/ #2/ triangle shape

Physical- Walking while avoiding obstacles/ picking up small objects

Emotional- Understanding and showing love to others

Social- Increasing attention spans, to sit through longer activities

Spiritual- Jacob and Esau/ Joseph and his brothers/ Moses/ Joshua

Hello and welcome to one of my favorite times of the year!

We will be spending lots of time learning about some of those fun, and sometimes spooky things that are associated with Halloween!

Along with our annual Halloween parade, we will be having a small treat party on Monday afternoon, October 31st. There will be a sign- up sheet placed in the hallway, for anyone who would like to bring in one of the treats, that are listed!

Thank you to everyone who donated an item, for last month's apple salad. The combination of items that the children had chosen turned out very tasty!

I would also like to thank everyone for beginning to help their child remember their Friday show and tell items. Everyone is doing a good job at beginning their alphabet recognition.

A reminder to please continue to encourage both gross and fine motor skills. This includes cutting. If your child does not own a pair of children's safety scissors, it would be a great idea to purchase a pair. Give your child some extra paper, and let them practice cutting. They will have a great time!

With the weather getting cooler, it will soon be time to change the outfit in your child's extra clothes bag. Please have your child place the change of clothing in their cubbie, and I will send the clothes, that are presently in the bag home.

Our star of the month for October is Rosalie! Rosalie's favorite colors are pink and purple. She enjoys eating both broccoli and macaroni and cheese. Please do not try to give her a carrot, or she will not be happy! Rosalie enjoys reading Llama Llama books and singing " Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star ". Her favorite activities are riding her bike and going on walks!

I'm looking forward to the beginning of November, we are planning to have a pajama day! Please keep an eye out for the date, on your fridge calendar!

Have a great month and a fun Halloween!

MISS CATHY'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Happy fall from Prek! We have been talking about, and observing, signs of the season. We made a checklist and have been marking off each item as we experience it: leaves changing color, the start of football season, geese migrating south. We've also noticed seasonal changes NOT on our list, such as cooler weather, and the fact that it's dark outside sooner than it was in summer. We'll keep checking!

Thank you to all who "attended" Parent's Night via zoom. It was nice to see you, even through a screen! Hopefully the information presented was helpful to your family.

We are settling into our school year. So far, everyone has memorized every Bible verse presented (we're on "D" as I type this newsletter)! The children are also doing a great job remembering our Bible stories. Each week, there is a corresponding color sheet to help reinforce the story. Ask your child to tell you the story each week, and talk about it as a family.

We continue on the path to kindergarten, which means learning more self-help skills at home as well as at school. Prek children should be dressing and undressing themselves independently. Sometimes a garment has a tricky fastener; practice together until your child masters it! He or she will be proud of their accomplishment. It is not too early to start practicing with fall and winter jackets, gloves/mittens, scarves, and boots (unfortunately, winter weather will be here before we know it!). That way, your child will be prepared ahead of time. Note: children should be putting on their own shoes, but shoelace tying is a skill that is usually acquired around age 5 ½. Of course, you could try now and see how it goes!

Two reminders: first, please be sure your child has everything they need for lunch, which may include a fork, napkin, etc. Second, please be sure that the items in your child's bag of extra clothes are seasonally appropriate and of correct size. These children have definitely grown since spring!

I hope you're enjoying this beautiful weather as much as we are! Get outside with your child and take a walk, throw a football, or, soon enough, rake a pile of leaves and jump in!

Until next time, Miss Cathy