

Learning Tree Preschool

Seedling News

“Where all the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today”

November & December 2016

Director's Report

October was filled with so many fun fall activities for all of our students from pumpkin trips to Halloween parades and parties, a visit from the Red Bank Fire Department and Sparky to our Book Fair and Halloween Movie Madness.

The months of November and December will probably fly by just as fast as October did. In November, the children will be creating lots of crafts, hearing stories, and singing many songs about turkeys and Thanksgiving! They also will be talking about all the things they are thankful for. We will be displaying their thoughts in the front hallway as you walk in. Please make sure to read them and feel free add one of your own. I love reading about what everyone is thankful for. It makes you think of all the blessings that we have in our lives.

December is my favorite month of the year! It is always so festive and bright and I know our classrooms will reflect that! We also hold my favorite event of the year on December 10th, our Annual Santa Lunch! There will be crafts, games, tattoos, face painting, pizza and of course SANTA! Please join us for this memorable event!

I want to wish everyone a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!** **HAPPY HANUKKAH!!!** **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

May you create many wonderful memories with your families during all of these holidays and enjoy your Thanksgiving and winter breaks!!!

~Kara Crespo 

Important Dates

November 2nd- Board Meeting 9:30

November 8th, 10th & 11th- School Closed

November 23rd, 24th & 25th- School Closed

December 7th - Board Meeting 9:30

December 10th- Santa Lunch 11-1

December 12th - Holiday Movie Madness (3's & Pre-K) 11:45-1:30

December 21st-31st- School Closed



Happy Birthday

November Birthdays:

3rd - Daphne Z.

26th - Owen T.

December Birthdays:

4th- Connor C.

10th- Elijah A.

10th - Violet S.

11th- Chase Z.

13th - Ben S.

23rd- Riley R.



Classroom News

Mommy & Me

Time flies when you are having fun! I can't believe I'm writing the November/December newsletter! All of the children are really getting settled into our routine in Mommy and Me. They have their favorite toys and centers they head to when they enter the room, they are starting to spell their names on their superstars and they have all become masters at "Ring around the Rosy"! We all enjoyed working on our colors and shapes in October and are now experts at spotting orange and black and finding triangles! I think our favorite craft for October was our Sparky puppets! The kids followed lots of directions and were very proud to show off their barking puppies at the end of class!

November will bring the color green and our shape of the month will be rectangle. We will continue talking about seasons and learning about Fall and the harvest traditions. We will talk about our feelings and make some scarecrows when we read "The little old lady was wasn't afraid of anything!" We will culminate our harvest activities with a beautiful turkey out of the cutouts of your children's hands and feet. We will talk about Thanksgiving, sharing, and maybe dress up as Native Americans and Pilgrims for our own Thanksgiving feast.

In December we will start to be on the lookout for Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Santa Claus. Our color of the month of December will be red. The children will enjoy the crafts we will be making in preparation for the special holidays this month brings. They are going to make a special gift for mommy and daddy, no peeking please!! Our holiday festivities will include a pajama party, cookies and milk and be completed with the story "The Night before Christmas". May we all enjoy the holiday season through the eyes of a child and may all of the blessings of the season belong to you and your families.



~Miss Heather

Classroom News

2 1/2 Year Olds

The two and a half's class is off to a great start and some of our friends are starting to turn 3! We are making friends, learning our songs and love sharing during circle with lots of silly places to put our superstars. We loved making witches and reading the not-so-scary witch story "*Room on the Broom*" by Julia Donaldson as part of our Halloween celebrations!

November will bring more practice on colors and shapes. We will learn about green and brown and rectangles. We will review all of the colors we have worked on when we make our scarecrows and our turkeys. We will learn about corn and have our first cooking project when we prepare corn muffins and butter for our Thanksgiving feast.

December will be here before we know it and we will be busy making crafts for the Santa lunch and holiday presents for our families. We will continue learning colors and shapes and talk about red and green and blue and silver being the traditional colors of Christmas and Hanukah. We will learn some traditions for each of these holidays and have lots of fun preparing for Santa's visit and learning how to play dreidel too!

To all,

During November, the month of gratitude, I'd like to take the opportunity to express my thanks to all of you, the parents, who show up every week full of enthusiasm. I am thankful for all of the offers of help and ideas during class and I am thankful for all of the wonderful children in my classes who light up my life by just being themselves. Thank you for sharing their childhood with me.

-Miss Heather



Classroom News



3 Year Olds: Miss Katie

Happy Fall! Miss Katie's class has finally gotten to experience the many changes brought on by this fantastic season. We recently went on our class trip to Dearborn Farms and picked a perfect pumpkin for our class to investigate. After carving it, we were able to count the seeds and roast them. The class is excited to participate in Learning Tree's Halloween Parade.

We have a good grasp of the rules and class routine now, and are becoming great friends. The class has been very busy learning our alphabet. We have practiced identifying, writing, and making the letter sounds through Letter D. We explored the world of color by mixing colors and making tissue paper color wheels. We counted and cut paper and made candy corn decorations. We created dot art and made dinosaur silhouettes using watercolor paint.

A visit from "Sparky" the Firedog and the Red Bank Fire department gave us the opportunity to talk about different kinds of emergencies and ways to stay safe. We were able to see the firetruck and the firefighter's gear. We understand that firefighters are our friends and help keep us safe. We used our fingerprints to make firefighters in a firetruck.

Our class is always eager to learn! November and December offer many great opportunities to experience new concepts. We will continue our practice of the Letters of the Week. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving remind us to be grateful for our blessings. Colder temperatures will encourage us to understand the season of Winter. The winter holidays will fill us with the spirit of the season and anticipation of our celebrations will keep us very busy at school!

I can't believe how quickly the school year is progressing! We are having so much fun learning and playing. I look forward to watching my friends grow together in friendship!

~Miss Katie and Miss Tricia

Classroom News

3 Year Olds: Miss Kelly

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! The boys and girls are all settled in and ready for some more fun and learning.

The month of October was very busy for our class. We learned all about the Fall season and the changes it brings. We decorated the classroom with fall tissue paper leaves, marble painted leaves, and pumpkins painted with Legos. We had a visit from Sparky the fire dog and learned all about fire safety. We took a class trip to Dearborn Farm and rode on the hay ride, walked through the corn maze and went pumpkin picking. It was a beautiful Fall day and everyone had a great time.

We have been counting down the days till Halloween on our calendar. To get ready for our party we made candy corns painted with pom-poms and jack-o-lanterns to hang in the windows. Our Halloween party will be a lot of fun and everyone will be dressed up in their costumes for the parade!

We are looking forward to the months of November and December to get our classroom ready for the holidays!

Miss Kelly's class has been flying through our alphabet letters! This month we moved on and learned how to recognize letters C, D, and E. We worked on the sounds they make and practiced writing each of them. We made cloud pictures for letter C and made dinosaur tracks for letter D. E was for elephant and we learned a new song called, Elephants Have Wrinkles. The kids had a great time singing the silly song! We also read the story *Elmer*. We will continue with letter F after the November break. Please continue to reinforce these letters at home with your child. All your help and support is greatly appreciated.

~Miss Kelly



Classroom News

Mrs. Ferrugiario's Pre-K

Fall is here and we are enjoying some of the crafts, finger plays, stories, and music that are part of this time of year. We have been learning about the signs of fall. We have been identifying different kinds of leaves, and we have been identifying the parts of a leaf. We made leaf people and painted some beautiful fall leaves with liquid water color paint. As the weather steadily changes around us, the children will learn about the air around us, air pressure, the rain cycle, storms, rainbows, and the three forms of matter. These discussions, which include some simple science experiments, will take us through the month of December.

For Halloween, the children composed and illustrated their own stories about ghosts. The children really enjoyed having their stories read aloud. This is one of my most favorite projects. The stories are dictated to me and I record their exact words. This a valuable experience, as it allows the children to make a connection between the spoken and the written word. Future stories, written by the children, will also be acted out by the children. This will allow the children to see their own words come to life.

Our class enjoyed a trip the pumpkin farm. At our science center, the children observed the inside of a pumpkin. They also named the parts of the pumpkin.

The children have begun learning their phone numbers. This is a time consuming task that will take us through, at least, December. Your reinforcement of this task at home is very important.

During the month of November, we will be learning about the Pilgrims and the Indians. We will also make Pilgrim and Indian costumes, and we will be wearing them for our feast which will take part on the last day of school

before the Thanksgiving holiday. Also in November, our class will have our own little election where the children will vote for one of two types of food. The type of food that has the most votes will be our snack one day.

During December, the children will make special gifts for their parents. The children will compose, illustrate, and act out their second story. We will also enjoy making other holiday crafts.

Since this is our last newsletter before the end of December, I would like to say happy holidays to all of the families. I hope you will be able to spend this special time of year with the people you love the most. There is no better gift.

~Karen Ferrugiaro

Happy
Holidays!

Classroom News

Miss Cathy's Pre-K



We had such a great month of October! We did so many fun fall activities! One of the highlights was learning about leaves changing colors and taking our Fall Nature Walk. We collected many leaves and sticks and then had a ball making our own Leaf People! We loved making fall trees and learning about the parts of a leaf! We made pumpkins out of playdough and we did other fun playdough activities! We had such a fun time at the Pumpkin Patch! Another highlight of the month was taking our class pumpkin and carving it! We learned about the parts of a pumpkin, but had the best time investigating the pumpkin! We talked about new math words and explored the math concept of big, medium and small. We finished the month with a fun unit on Fire Safety and visit from Sparky! We spent the month talking about many Fall things, but the most exciting of all was Halloween! The Parade is always a Huge Hit and I loved seeing everyone in their costumes!

November is also one of the most special times in our classroom. We spend a lot of time during the month talking about what Thanksgiving is. We do many projects and have many discussions about all the things we are thankful for! We make a class turkey with fun decorated feathers stating what we are thankful for! We read Thanksgiving books and talk about Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving!

Each child will pick their own Native American Name and decorate a headdress for our classroom Feast! We will decorate Native American Vests with a lot of feathers and make keepsake handprint turkeys. We talk about the foods that were at the "First Feast". For Science, we will dye pasta noodles for our Native American Necklaces! This class really enjoys story time and this month some of the books that we will read are; *What is Thanksgiving?*, *The Pilgrims First Thanksgiving*, *Thanks for Thanksgiving* (one of my favorites), *Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving* and many other great books. We will conclude the

month with a Wonderful Feast that all parents are welcome to attend. It will be on Tuesday, November 22. (There will be a sign up sheet outside the door as we approach the Holiday!)

November Learning! The children are doing such an amazing job with their letters and their writing! We will continue do centers that build up fine motor skills; such as hole punching, cutting, playdough and many other manipulatives! During the month of November we will be learning Ff, Gg and Hh. Some of the highlights will be Fishing for Letters, Feathers on the letter F, a fun Gumball project, count Goldfish, put Hearts on H and play pass the Heart around! We will also continue to do Word Wall which the children love and are doing so well with!! We will also continue to work on our numbers and shapes. Look for a fun rectangle and square shape project to come home!

December will be filled many memorable crafts and keepsake projects! We will learn about Hanukkah and Christmas. We will learn about the meaning of both. We will learn about Evergreen Trees (Christmas Trees), and their life cycle! We will talk about family traditions and use our language to write our own Holiday stories. We will learn about reindeer and do adorable crafts! We will be having a pajama day in December also! We will end the month of December with a Holiday Party on Tuesday the 20th that all parents are welcome to attend!

December Learning! The children will continue to write their names and we will start our last names in January! We will be learning the letters Jj and Kk in December! We will make our own Jingle Bells and play pass the Jingle Bells. We will make kites and count kernels! We also will continue to work in our letter journals! We will be working on letters 3 and 4! We will also begin to work on more complex shapes!

We will also be practicing many songs; such as Must be Santa, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and Dreidel, Dreidel! Many of Holiday Stories and Winter stories will be read throughout the month! November and December are wonderful months that are filled with memorable moments and happy memories!

Classroom News

3 Year Olds: Enrichment

All About me was our Enrichment unit this past month. We learned about all of the things that make each of us special and different. The boys and girls talked about all of their favorite things and what they wanted to be when they grew up. They drew beautiful self-portraits and made family trees. We also learned about our 5 senses. During this unit we talked a lot about what it means to be a good friend. The boys and girls learned how important it is to be kind to everyone and never leave anyone out. Always share and to take turns. We made a chart and listed all of the qualities of a good friend.

Community Helpers is the next unit we will be working on. The boys and girls will learn about all of the important people that work in our community.

Miss Kelly



Classroom News

Pre-K Enrichment

October was filled with many learning moments! We completed our Sheep in the Jeep Unit! This was a fun literary unit, where sheep were always taking an adventure. The children did an excellent job listening to the stories and picking out the rhymes. We did a fun Sheep in The Jeep Project! We also had a great time getting messy with finger paints. We also had a great time reading Pete The Cat books and doing a Pete the Cat headband! We finished the month by learning about nocturnal animals and learning fun Owl Facts and Bat Facts! This was a fun unit for the children! We are also continuing to learn to write numbers and work in our language journals!

November will be filled with Science activities! We will make a Fall Wreath with different color leaves. We will also learn about the Lifestyle of Native Americans and learn new vocabulary. We will make a fun tepee project using patterns and Native American symbols. We will also be making keepsake Thanksgiving Placemats!

We will also continue to work on math skills exploring the concepts of short and shorter and long and longer. We will be measuring a lot of items in the classroom! For Science, we will be doing a fun experiment with sweet potatoes that we will observe for a couple of months.

December is a great month! We will be making centerpieces for the Lunch with Santa. Will also do a great literary unit with the Gingerbread Man series. We will read The Gingerbread Man, retold by Jim Aylesworth, and we will read Gingerbread Friends. We will talk about the title, author, illustrator and the characters in the book. These are excellent pre-kindergarten readiness skills! We will also begin to talk about the beginning, middle and end of a story. The children are doing an excellent job picking up on all these concepts! We will learn that gingerbread decorations are very popular in Germany. We will be

making fun keepsake gingerbread ornaments! We will also be making our own Gingerbread stories. We will also be decorating Gingerbread Cookies.

For Science, we will see what happens when a candy cane goes in different types of temperatures of water! We will also be doing letter reinforcement sheets and begin to decode some simple sounds.

December will be filled with many memorable and fun moments. It is amazing to see how much the children have grown in all areas in such a short period of time. I am looking forward to a great couple months with the children!

~Miss Cathy



Committee News

A Message from the Parent Board Chair

Happy Fall everyone! I just love this time of the year!

Last month was filled with lots of fun fall events. I would like to say thank you to the Library Committee for putting together our book fair. I loved watching the kids get excited about books and reading! I also want to thank the Events Committee for our first Movie Madness of the year. The kids had a great time doing their Halloween crafts and watching a Halloween movie with their friends.

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner! I can't wait to see the kids deck the halls with all of their Christmas crafts! Learning Tree will be doing its annual pajama drive in December, and of course we have our annual Santa Lunch to look forward too! This will be held on December 10th from 11:00-1:00. It is always a great time for everyone!

I hope everyone has a very happy holiday season!

~Shannon Schneider



Committee News

Fundraising Committee

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Thank you for all of your orders to date! The Yankee Candle catalog sale will run until November 3rd. You will also be able to take advantage of the online ordering program.

Yankee Candle will accept your fundraising orders until the end of the year. Remember this option as you begin your holiday shopping. LTP will still receive 40% profit and you can take advantage of \$5 flat rate shipping! All orders will be shipped to the address you provide. So if you haven't already, set up a sellers profile and share it with your family and friends!

Check it out at: <https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com>

Group Number: 99477569



Make your own Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

We will be hosting our first make your own Christmas Wreath party fundraiser! Join us for a festive night of fun, friends and wreath making! Your 50.00 donation includes wine, lite fare and all materials needed to make your beautiful wreath. Spots will be limited and will fill up fast so please make sure you grab friend and sign up as soon as you receive your invitation. This is going to be a great night and 100% of all money raised will go back to Learning Tree Preschool.

Santa Lunch Auction Fundraiser

This year at the Santa Lunch LTP will be auctioning off a piece of artwork created by each class at LTP. The week prior to the Santa Lunch all artwork designed will be displayed available for bidding in the hallway. Final bidding will close the morning of the Lunch and all winners will be announced. 100% of all money raised will be donated to the Learning Tree Preschool. A special Thank You to all the teachers for all the hard work they put into these projects to make this event so very special and successful!!

Public Relations

Thank you to all who donated Granola Bars to the Backpack Crew in October. I had the honor of helping pack the backpacks recently and it surprised me to hear just how many families are in need of food in our area. Teaching children at a young age the importance of helping others is so important.

Upcoming collections:

Backpack Crew: November - Rice a Roni

December - Tuna or Tuna Helper



Pajama Program: In December, we will be collecting pajamas to donate to children of all sizes, but they especially need sizes 8 - adult XL for the older children.

I want to thank all of you that have been spreading the word around about our preschool. We have Learning Tree postcards in our front hall with information about our school. Please take a few and hand them out or post them in areas where you think others will see them. Thanks so much!

Church Notes

The church will be holding their Trash and Treasure Sale on November 19th. If you are cleaning out and want to donate any items, they can be placed on the stage up until November 16th.