

# Learning Tree Preschool

## Seedling News

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

October 2016

### Director's Report

*You're off to Great Places!  
Today is your Day!  
Your Mountain is waiting,  
So get on your Way! ~ Dr. Seuss*

We are on our way to a great school year!! The teachers and staff worked really hard to get our classrooms ready for the children. The parent board is busy getting ready for all of our upcoming events and our maintenance committee did a spectacular job cleaning the classrooms. It seems like so much has gone on already and we are just beginning.

The children have been meeting new friends, learning new routines and are busy doing activities and making crafts. The classrooms are starting to look very Fall like with projects like apples, leaves and Fall trees. I am amazed at how eager everyone is to learn and join in the activities. I am looking forward to watching all of them grow and learn throughout the year!

October will be busy with pumpkin trips, a visit from Sparky the Firedog and the Red Bank Fire Department, our Fall Scholastic Book Fair, our first Movie Madness, and Halloween parades and parties. Be on the lookout for flyers about all of these upcoming events.

As the school year progresses, if you have any questions or concerns about anything, please do not hesitate to see or call me in the office: 732-530-5441 or you can also reach me on my cell: 732-778-5292.

I wish everyone an Outstanding October and Happy Halloween!!!

~Kara Crespo 

## Important Dates

October 3rd, 10th & 12th - School Closed

October 5th - Board Meeting 9:30

October 14th - Pumpkin Trip (3's & Pre-K)

October 17th-21st - Book Fair

October 24th - Movie Madness (3's & Pre-K) 11:45-1:30

October 26th - Sparky 10:00 - Mom & Me, 2 1/2, & 3's, 10:30 - Pre-K

October 28th - Halloween Parade 9:30 (Mom and Me (F) & Pre-K)

October 31st - Halloween Parade 9:30 (3's)



## Happy Birthday

### September Birthdays:

7th - Sophie M.

10th - Julia M.

13th - Tyler N.

18th - Isaac M.

26th - Reagan M.

28th - Tyler F.

29th - Ryleigh F.



### October Birthdays:

4th - Henry R.

4th - Liam S.

5th - Kiara B.

11th - Eve E.

11th - Jack C.

23rd Ava G.

27th - Chloe S.

27th - Theo L.

30th - Mia S.

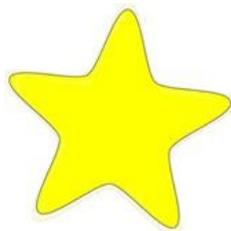
# Classroom News

## Mommy & Me



Hooray for the start of a new year at Learning Tree Preschool! I was very excited to welcome back old friends and lots of younger siblings and eager to share our wonderful school with new friends as well.

Fall is a magical time of year! We started our year with school buses full of happy children and beautiful Learning Trees loaded with apples. We even stamped with apples and tasted a few varieties! Our color for September was yellow and our shape was star. The kids have all gotten very good at identifying both!



In October, we will continue practicing our shapes and perfecting our glue stick skills with some pumpkin crafts. We might get a little fright from our not so scary witches! We will also learn all about fire prevention month with our own Sparky the Firedog puppets! And we will look forward to a visit from Sparky and the Red Bank Fire Department. Our Halloween celebration will cap off a fun filled month. Don't forget your cameras to capture memories of our littlest ghosts and goblins!

-Miss Heather



# Classroom News

## 2 1/2 Year Olds



September has been a great month in our 2 1/2 year old class. I was excited to start the school year upstairs in my new classroom. The kids have really enjoyed exploring and getting to know the classroom and making it theirs with displays of artwork and crafts.

We kicked off the year talking about the color of the month, yellow, and made some great yellow school buses and have enjoyed playing with the yellow playdough as well. We enjoyed learning all about apples. We stamp painted with them, made Learning Trees full of apples and even tasted some too.



We are learning how to spell our names on our super stars and are thoroughly enjoying singing the alphabet at circle time. We are beginning to talk about seasons and months of the year. We will be making beautiful tissue paper Fall trees in October. We will also be practicing our shapes with some cute Jack O Lantern's and other fun Halloween crafts. October is also Fire Prevention Month so we will continue to practice our fire drills and learn about safety and community helpers. We will look forward to a visit from the firefighters in our own community.

-Miss Heather



# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Miss Katie



Hi everyone! Welcome to Miss Katie's Class!

It has been such a joy getting to know your children! They are working so hard and doing an amazing job adjusting to preschool and their new classroom.

We are learning the class rules and routines and why School is Fun! We have also spent some time getting to know each other. We talked about our feelings and respect, and we began our Letter of the Week Curriculum with the Letters A and B. We also started to explore our new season Fall. The children are finally able to see and feel the changes all around them.

I can't believe we are already starting October! We will continue exploring the alphabet, and will introduce the letters C, D, and E. We will also spend a week talking about and experimenting with color. Check the calendar as we have lots of days off in October, as well as our Class Trip to the pumpkin patch on October 14.

I am really enjoying my new class; it never ceases to amaze me how quickly the children all grow and change! I am looking forward to another great year at Learning Tree! Thank you for entrusting your children to me!!

~Miss Katie & Miss Tricia



# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Miss Kelly

I hope everyone has enjoyed their first couple of weeks back to school. Miss Kelly's class has been busy making new friends, learning our class rules and our class routines. The boys and girls seem to be adjusting nicely to our classroom. Learning new songs, reading stories, playing in the classroom centers, making crafts, going on the playground and working with Miss Kelly and Miss Nadine keep us busy all morning long.

We will continue to work on one alphabet letter a week throughout the year so be sure to continue to work with your child on these letters at home. We learned the letter A and explored apple trees, alligators, and ants. The children made apple trees and taste tested different colored apples. We also learned the letter B. Everyone enjoyed bringing in their favorite bear and listening to the story "Bearly Neighbors" with our classroom bears. We made bubble paintings with bubble wrap and toilet paper rolls. We will start the letter C in October and explore clouds. We will learn about the Fall changes and make many crafts to decorate our classroom.



Mark your calendars for our first class trip to Dearborn Farms on Friday, October 14th. Everyone is welcome to join us and more information will follow. For those of you who did not get a chance to send in your child's picture, please send it in so we can complete our friend's crayon pack display.

~Miss Kelly



# Classroom News

## Mrs. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K

I am very happy to welcome this sweet little class! The children are adjusting nicely to the rules and routines of our classroom. It is amazing to see how quickly we are becoming comfortable with one another.



In keeping my efforts to establish classroom harmony, I read a book entitled, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud. This book states that everyone is walking around with an invisible bucket. When you are kind to someone, it fills their bucket and makes them feel good. It makes you feel good as well. When you are unkind to someone, you dip in their bucket and it makes them feel bad. After reading this story, we asked the children to think of ways they can fill someone's bucket. Throughout the school year, we will encourage the children to be bucket fillers.

We began the school year by reviewing colors and shapes. Since it is apple season, we will be learning facts about apples. We will make an apple craft and applesauce.

We have begun work on our letter books and have completed the letter "A". This is an ongoing project and will sent home when completed.

I look forward to interacting and working with all of you as I look ahead to what I know will be a fun and successful year.

~Karen Ferrugiaro 

# Classroom News

## Miss Cathy's Pre-K



I am so thrilled with the amazing month of September that we have had. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to spend this year with your children! The children have transitioned to the new school year beautifully. It makes me so happy to see their smiling faces walk through the door each morning! This month we read *The Kissing Hand* and did keepsake handprint projects. We have made new friends and made a special bus project to always remember the new friends that we are making.

In addition to doing wonderful projects, the students made up their own list of class rules. They came up with really great rules and they are all doing their best job to follow the rules! We also talked a lot about having Happy Hearts and doing kind things in the community around us. The students are quickly filling the “warm fuzzy” jar and we are very close to having our first warm fuzzy party!

We all did beginning name papers and cutting samples. The children have already adapted to the new routine of Pre-K folders, clothespins for our centers and how to only have four or five people at a center! I am amazed at how quickly they have settled into their new routine! We are already doing a lot of cutting, gluing, painting, writing and playing! In September we introduced the letters Aa and Bb. We made Applejack necklaces, practiced writing letter Aa and dot painted letter Aa. For letter Bb, we colored in Blue and Brown, painted with Bubble Wrap, had Bubble Wrap Centers, and played with Beanbags!

We also talked about the seasons changing and how Fall is here. We made fun Fall Trees for the classroom and the hallway. We also learned all about Apples. We learned the parts of an Apple, the Life Cycle of an Apple and

we tasted three different types of Apples! For Math, we graphed the favorite apples of the class! We also made homemade Applesauce in the class! Many of the children wanted more!!

October will be even more exciting! We are going to explore the wonders of Fall. We will take a nature walk and gather a bag full of leaves, acorns and sticks to make our leaf people. We will learn about different types of leaves and sort the leaves from our nature walk! We will talk about why leaves change colors and all the beautiful colors of Fall. We also celebrate Christopher Columbus by decorating telescopes and learning about Spices! The month of October is also Fire Safety Month. We will talk about Fire Safety and practice fire drills at school. We will also get a visit from the Firemen and Firetruck and hopefully Sparky!

Another wonderful unit in October is learning about Pumpkins. The children are already very excited to go to the pumpkin patch! We will be taking a class trip to Dearborn Farms on **Friday, October 14**. For Science, we will talk about the life cycle of a pumpkin and we will also carve a pumpkin and take turns looking inside! We also do a Math Pumpkin Investigation where we measure our pumpkins and guess how much it weighs!

We cannot forget the highlight of October which is Halloween! We will do fun crafts to get ready for Halloween and look for fun ghost projects with our feet!! We will also do projects that involve language and we will also graph our favorite Halloween candy! We will also learn fun Halloween songs! Our Halloween parade will be on **Friday, October 28**. We will also have a class party and a sign-up sheet will be posted outside the door!

For letter learning we will be learning Cc, Dd, and Ee, look for fun letter crafts. We have started our ABC journals and our writing program, using the words "skyline, planeline, grassline and wormline!" The children are really able to understand this writing program.

We really are having a great time and I look so forward to a wonderful and special year!

~Miss Cathy 



# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Enrichment

My afternoon friends and I have been having a great time in Enrichment! We have been busy with our All about Me unit talking about what makes each one of us special. We talked about body parts and made a body out of different shapes. We also talked about all different kinds of families and created an apple family tree. I enjoyed hearing about all of their brothers, sisters, and pets!

During the next few weeks we will learn about our five senses and perform many experiments using our different senses. I bet the children's favorite sense to discuss will be taste, because I will be providing some tasty treats to try! We will wrap up the unit by talking about all of our favorite things. This will allow me and all of our friends to get to know one another much better.

~Miss Kelly 



# Classroom News

## Pre-K Enrichment

We had a great month of September! The children have transitioned beautifully to the longer day. They have done a great job of settling into a new routine!

We had a great time dotting our names and practicing how to write our names!

We spent the first couple of classes talking about how to use the supplies in our classroom. We worked on reinforcing how to hold a pencil and scissors!

We do a lot of Science in Enrichment and the children loved learning about Science tools. We talked about the difference between a science tool and a toy!

We also learned that we are all Scientists and did some fun science experiments. Our first Science Experiment was “how many drops of water can fit on a penny?” We learned a new science word; “prediction”. We all took turns predicting how many drops it would take to cover the penny!

We also read the very fun book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, by Drew Daywalt!

We talked about what a postcard was and who sends a postcard. We also talked about how there are so many different colors. We all made our own crayons that are hanging in the class and talked about our favorite colors! We also read, *The Crayon Box That Talked*, by Shane DeRolf. This book reinforced colors but also the importance of working together and friendship! All the students used their imaginations to make a picture with crayons.

We also started our Language Journals which will go home at the end of the year. This is an activity which encourages the child to use their imagination and use their language skills! We also started reviewing and writing our

numbers. Numbers are very hard to learn to write and the children are encouraged to try and write them at home also.

We will do a lot of fun and exciting activities in the month of October! We will begin the month by doing our first take home read aloud book about apples! The children will love for you to read them their first book. We will also be doing a short unit with Pete the Cat books, as they reinforce rhyming. Rhyming is a very important pre-reading skill. The children are already able to point out and say rhymes!

We will also do a literacy unit with the Sheep in A Jeep book series! We will talk about parts of a book, the title, the author and the illustrator. These books are wonderful for talking about rhymes and thinking about what adventures the sheep will go on. Look for fun Sheep in A Jeep projects! We will also do a fun unit on nocturnal animals. What is October, without learning about Bats?

We are having a great time making new friends and learning the routine of our day!

~Miss Cathy 



# Committee News

## A Message from the Parent Board Chair

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I hope everyone enjoyed the back to school breakfast, and that all of the kids are adjusting nicely into their new classes. In case you don't know me, my name is Shannon Schneider, and this is my third year as Chair of the Parent Board of Directors. I am always around the school if you ever have any questions about being involved with the board or about the school. I can definitely point you in the right direction if I am unable to answer your question.

October is full of fun activities. We have our Book Fair, Movie Madness, Sparky the fire dog will visit, field trips to the pumpkin patch, and of course, our annual Halloween parade!

There are two walks/runs being held in October. The first walk/run is the Race Against Hunger. This 5k/10k run benefits the Backpack Crew which is a charity that feeds local children on the weekends when they do not have their school lunch to rely on. The race is going to be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. You can find out more information about this wonderful organization and race information at [backpackcrew.com](http://backpackcrew.com). The next walk is the 46<sup>th</sup> annual CROP walk, which will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The funds from this event go to 15 local hunger fighting partners in Monmouth County and through church world service to global partners' relief response. This year they are hoping to get a huge "Stroller Brigade" going so bring the whole family! You can find more information about this event at [redbankcropwalk.com](http://redbankcropwalk.com). These are two awesome events for wonderful causes, and make for a great day out with the family. I hope to see all of you there!

Also, I wanted to remind everyone that you are all invited to attend the monthly board meetings. The first one will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in room 107. Please don't forget to take pictures of the kids at the school's events. These will be used in their class slideshow at the Seedling Revue/Graduation. I am looking forward to a fun school year ahead!

~Shannon Schneider



# Committee News

## **Fundraising Committee**

This is a very emotional year for me, as it will be my last year at Learning Tree. One of the best things I did when I started here was to volunteer to Chair the Fundraising position for the school. I have met so many wonderful friends and have truly enjoyed every event that we held to help this school continue for future generations. Although it saddens me I will need to pass this role on to someone who will be here next year so that you too can continue to help LTP moving forward. If you are interested in finding out more about the role please feel free to reach out to me at [yjkelly@gmail.com](mailto:yjkelly@gmail.com).

In other news, we are already off to a great start fundraising for the 2016-17 school year! Thank you so much for your continued participation! We would not be able to do this without the support of all our families. We look forward to an amazing year at the Learning Tree.

### **Family Donation**

Throughout the year, there will be various opportunities for you to support LTP through fundraisers. Please feel free to make a tax-deductible donation to Learning Tree Preschool in lieu of (or in addition to) participation in these fundraisers.

Make checks payable to the United Methodist Church and write "Learning Tree Donation" on the memo line of your check. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### **Kidstuff Fundraiser**

Thank you for your support for our Kidstuff Fundraiser for 2016 school year! If you have not put your order in please do so as soon as possible.

# Committee News

## Fundraising Committee (cont.)

### Yankee Candle Fundraiser

You will be receiving your Yankee Catalog soon! The Yankee Candle catalog sale is scheduled to run from October 11th until November 3rd. Please submit your completed forms along with payment to your class teacher.

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

-Yvonne Kelly, Chair



## Public Relations

Every month we will be collecting something different for the Backpack Crew. They will be our main charity this year! Thank you to all who donated fruit cups in September. We will be collecting granola bars for the month of October.

Our school enrollment is based almost solely on the recommendations of our families. Please share information about our school with your friends, family and neighbors. We start with children who are 2 years old in our Mom and Me and 2 1/2 classes and then have our 3/4 year olds in preschool and 4/5 year olds in Pre-K. We still have a couple of spots available in all of our classes so please spread the word.

Some of our classrooms vacuums are in need of replacement. We would greatly appreciate any donations of bagless vacuums that are in good working condition.

## Church Notes

Sunday, October 16th is the Crop Walk. This event is to bring awareness to ending hunger one step at a time. The church collects food for this event. There is a box in the hallway as soon as you walk in the door. They are collecting rice, beans, and peanut butter, if you would like to donate. If you are interested in more information or want to walk in this event, you can visit their website [www.redbankcropwalk.com](http://www.redbankcropwalk.com)

