

December Notes

I have sent out five E-Weekly Memos to KDD families since October 1. If you are not receiving them, there are two things to do.

First, be sure that you have our address, kidsdiscoverydays@hotmail.com in your contact list. Second, send us an e-mail so that I can check my contact list for your correct e-mail address.

Weekly Memos are sent out Sunday afternoons with important information for the week ahead.

I hope that you all stayed safe and warm last week during our October storm. Now is the time to remind everyone that KDD closes when Jeffco Schools

close. You can always check for closings on radio or TV information, including the stations' web sites.

You can also check the website, [jeffco publicschools.org](http://jeffcopublicschools.org)

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KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

November, 2009



Director's Notes

Calendar

November

- 2 - 6 Monday-Friday "Make It" plates, cups, bowls, made with parents' help before and after class are mementos and cherished gifts
- 12 Thursday Classroom Clean-up Night 6:30-7:30 PM
- 23 - 27 Monday-Friday **Thanksgiving Break - No Classes**

December

- 11/29 - 12/13 Holiday Greenery Sale
- 1 - 18 Holiday Crafts and Activities incorporated in the daily lessons
- 16-17 Holiday Feast Days during snack time, Wednesday, Thursday
- 21-1/5 **Winter Break - No Classes**



Preschool 2/3

Cindy 303-469-1160

Suzanne 303-424-5806

Preschool 2/3 has really enjoyed our fall activities, especially the Halloween parade. It is so much fun dressing up.

We also used the words **symmetrical** and **prediction**. I'll bet that you heard those words around your house.

For November, we will focus on farm animals and Thanksgiving. We will talk about what we are thankful for. Their answers are always fun and endearing. After Thanksgiving, we will talk about animals and hibernation.

Please remember that it is helpful for us to know about changes that occur in your child's life. The death of a pet, or a family member who is away for a long time can be upsetting, and if we are aware of it, we

Toddler News

We had a fun October in the toddler class! We made many Halloween crafts and enjoyed the weather outside! The children are having a good time in our music class with Miss Annie.

In November, we will focus our theme around turkeys and harvest. We will make various turkey crafts using paint and feathers. We will also do some sticker art. This seems to be fun for them!

As the weather gets colder, please send appropriate gear to school. We try to spend at least a few minutes outside each day. Even if we can only bundle up and go out at the end of the morning, the children enjoy it.

Thank you to all my parent helpers. It has been fun getting to know you and your families! Could you please send in a family photo with your child? We are going to put them up in our room. Children love to see their families on the classroom walls. It can just be a casual photo. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me.

Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

can be extra sympathetic and also let you know of any behavior changes.

As the weather turns cooler, please remember to send coats, hats, mittens, and boots. We go outside

unless the temperature is below 20 degrees or it is very rainy. Please encourage your children to put on outerwear by themselves. Even though it takes much more time and patience, it is great for their

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Preschool 4/5 Fridays

The Fridays of October were filled with interesting learning experiences. Autumn was our theme for October 2. We collected colorful autumn leaves on the playground to make beautiful placemats. We also connected number dots from one to ten to make leaves to add to the apple tree on our bulletin board.

On October 2, we learned about fire safety when three firefighters from Arvada Station #4 visited our and Miss Lisa's classes. The children listened attentively as the firefighters showed a video, talked about fire safety, and demonstrated their gear. A highlight of the visit was the "tour" of the fire truck and seeing the tall ladder!

Learning about nocturnal animals in our *Weekly Reader* on October 23 provided us the opportunity to dramatize ***Owl Babies***, by Martin Waddell. The children created their own colorful owl stick puppets to use in our dramatization. Children selected various shapes to make jack-o-lanterns for our "spooky" bulletin board.

Our Halloween celebration on October 30 included books, songs, chants, and dramatizations with jack-o-lantern stick puppets. We also enjoyed a special visit by Dr. Stacey Jones, Emma's mom, who assisted the children in their classroom veterinary clinic role play. The classroom books about Dr. Stacey and our own little veterinarians are fun to read!

Mary Fanyo 303-425-6143

More December Notes

This is also the time to remind ourselves about dressing children appropriately for the weather. We take children outside almost every day, if only for 10 minutes.

Please send **hats, mittens, boots, and warm coats** whenever the weather requires them.

In Colorado, even a stormy morning can turn into a sunny morning before noon. Children love to play in the snow. They benefit from fresh air even on cold days, if they are dressed warmly.

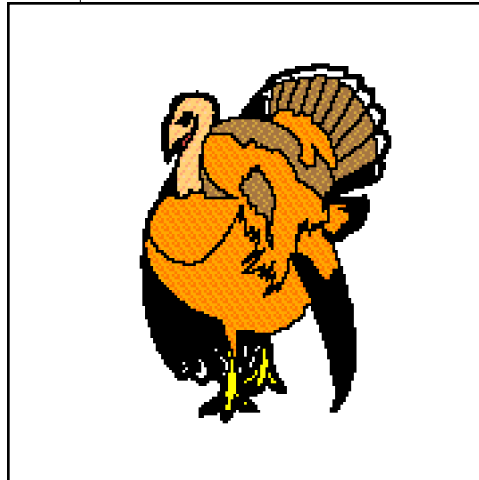
self esteem and self sufficiency.

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Turkey Pokey

Put your turkey toes in, put your turkey toes out.
Put your turkey toes in & you shake them all about.
You do the turkey pokey and you turn yourself around. That's what it's all about!

Gobble, gobble.



November Song

Did you ever see a turkey, a turkey, a turkey,
As he struts around the farmyard with feathers so bright?
With red ones and brown ones, and yellow ones and orange ones.
Did you ever see a turkey with feathers so bright?

Preschool 4/5 Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

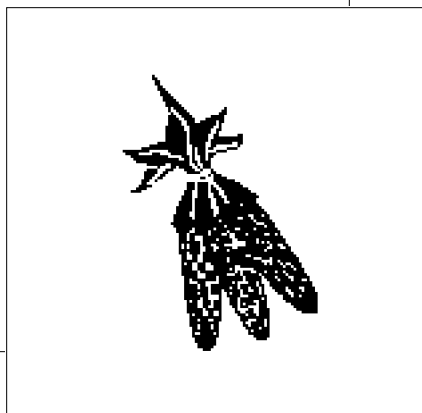
Although our snow days cut short our Halloween stories, we'll still read the book, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, and then dramatize it. Its repetitive pattern makes it easy for children to remember key parts of the story and recite them together.

We'll read a few more books about pumpkins, work on mixing colors to match developing and mature pumpkins, and then following a pumpkin poem, we'll bake some "goodies" with freshly cooked pumpkin.

And speaking of baking, we have one child in class Monday through Thursday who is allergic to eggs, a common ingredient in most breads/muffins. I'll send home some recipes for breads and muffins for snack time that contain no eggs for families who like to bake snack treats. (Otherwise, the child always has snack products from home.) We also have a child who is quite allergic to peanuts, but our snack guidelines do specify no peanut products.

We've read stories about bats and spiders; there are a few more nocturnal animals that we'll read about and study. You might ask your children why we should "be nice to spiders," based on a book that we read in October.

There is a beautiful book, *Mystery of the Navajo Moon*, that I'll read this month. We'll learn a little about American Indian culture and grind some corn to make pancakes. We'll try grinding with stones as the native people did and then progress to a hand cranked grinder. We'll also paint pictures in the style of those in the book.



Preschool Three

What an exciting time of year to be in Preschool 3! In November, we will focus on Thanksgiving themes. We will learn about American Indians and have an American Indian dramatic play area set up in our room. We will make tepees and paint with corn!

Three year olds love to model the behaviors they experience in their daily lives, so we will set up a grocery store in our classroom for the children to take turns shopping and playing cashier. We will also read Pilgrim and Thanksgiving stories and make log cabins out of pretzels.

Our mornings are filled with enriching activities, and we thank you so much for your participation. We are continually amazed at the growth we see in your children. At home, you can work with them using scissors, throwing and catching a ball, and holding pencils or crayons to draw and write. And they love listening to a good story with you.

Marsha Schultze 303-423-8638 Katie Meeks 303-429-5574

Preschool 3/4 Lisa Newkirk 303-420-2888

The snowstorm was a crazy way to end the month of October. It was a fun month filled with leaves, pumpkins, and Halloween songs and stories.

Our playground was a wonderful place for piling up the leaves and jumping in!

The Friday class enjoyed playing with the parachute with the seniors and decorating ghost cookies at our Halloween party. It was great to see and hear the children and seniors engaging in some lively conversations. Most of the children enjoyed seeing the play, *Honk*, at the Arvada Center.

We will continue our fall theme in November by learning about squirrels, turkeys, sharing, and Thanksgiving. We will dramatize the story of the First Thanksgiving and learn how to set the table.

Fall weather is an excellent time for children to practice the self-help skills of putting on coats, hats, and mittens. They are always so proud when they are able to do these things for themselves.

Buttoning, snapping, and zipping are excellent ways to build those fine motor skills that are necessary for writing.

Our Friday Friends visits will be November 6 and November 20.

We are still signing up children for the Thursday Lunch Bunch if anyone is interested.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!