

Dover Nursery School

Newsletter

October 2004

October is a month of great energy and anticipation! Literally, our world spins as the wind creates a tempest in colors of red, yellow, orange, and brown. Children chomp at the bit for the long-awaited HALLOWEEN!

Theme: Fall

Learning Goals:

1. Exploring wind as a force of nature
2. Understanding the changing of trees
3. Creating with Nature
4. Observing colors mixing
5. Fall plantings: bulbs
6. Respecting differences: Alfie the Leaf—I'll do it my way!
7. Cooking and baking with apples

Theme: Halloween

Learning Goals:

1. Exploring fears and fun
2. Exposure to music, music, music! through songs and instruments
3. Sequencing, rhyming, memorizing, & counting.
4. Getting in touch with our sense of humor

Fall

1. We will be spending some time exploring outdoors (in our playground and in the courtyard outside of Kraft Hall). What do we see and hear at this time of year? We will take our observations and turn them into a poem about Fall. We will paint what we see from different viewpoints in our schoolyard. We will make fairy houses of sticks, leaves, rocks, and pinecones.
2. Photography as art: Studying some of the photographs of Andy Goldworthy, we will make art in nature (just as he did) and photograph our pieces for all to see.
3. W-I-N-D is a strong force in nature. What is wind? Where does it come from? What does it do? Can we make wind? We will study the force of wind in our classroom and its effect on feathers, paper, leaves, clothes, toys, our bodies, etc.
4. What are bulbs? We will create our own DNS spring garden! We will study bulbs and how they grow. We'll plant tulips and daffodils in the schoolyard and we'll grow amaryllis in the classroom as our science experiments this month.

5. Alfie the Leaf: A grand story that gets told, read, acted out, and created as a mural in our classroom. Alfie doesn't want to leap and jump to the ground as his friends do and urge him to do. He is too scared. All his friends take the plunge—or shall we say “dive”—and Alfie bravely weathers out the winter on the tiptop of a tree. By spring, as new leaf buds appear and look to him for answers, Alfie becomes the wise (and tattered) sage. He is finally ready to “Jump. Jump. Leap. Leap.” And he will show them all how to do it!
6. Art, art and more art: 101 art projects you can do with leaves. Learning about mixing colors through art: finger-painting, Eric Carle's art medium, and copying nature.
7. Apples can be baked, mulled, stewed, and chewed. They can be sliced, mashed and gobbled. How do you like them apples?

Halloween

1. A multitude of skills can be learned when we're having fun!
The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything by offers us a delightful story with sequencing, memorizing, song and dramatic play.
The Five Little Pumpkins song helps us with rhyming and counting.
Windy the Witch by shows us that witches don't have to be scary and mean.
The Ghost's Dinner by teaches us to anticipate what happens next in a story, as well as expose us to colors and foods. It is also great for learning some manners!
2. The students will be encouraged to “scare” mom and dad with some of our songs and poems. It helps children to overcome potential fears about Halloween if we can have fun with bats, cats, black, pumpkins and boos beforehand. We learn not to scare younger siblings and to respect that others have fears that we don't have and vice versa.
3. Instruments will be introduced. Can we make scary sounds? Nighttime sounds? Quiet sounds? Sounds like wind, wings, bells, scratches, whistling, running, and thumping?
4. We are going to have your darlings so wound up for the Big Day that they won't even remember that there's candy involved with this holiday!