

## October 2018 Newsletter



### From the Directors:

#### Tuition:

October tuition is due. Please remember we bill on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month and you have until the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to pay. A \$45 late fee will be added onto the account if payment is received after the 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Field Trip Pumpkin Village:

On Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we will hold our first field trip for the year! This field trip is always lots of fun and the kids love it. There will be **no school** that day, but we will meet at Leesburg Animal park at 10 am for a great time! More information will be emailed out soon including pricing.

#### PJ Parties:

Our PJ parties allow our parents **FOUR** kid-free hours to run errands, go on a date night, or go out with friends while knowing you child(ren) are safe and having fun at school. Your child(ren) will be able to play games, make a craft, eat pizza and watch a movie in our Music & Movement classroom in their PJ's!

**Dates:** Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Price:** \$35 for the first child and half the price for the second child for children 3 years of age and up

#### Preschool Enrichment Classes for children 16 months up to 3 years:

Our Inchworm teacher, Ms. Barbara, would like to create a **Lunch & Learn program** for her students. This program will run from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. The children will be able to eat lunch and learn about a specific theme. The themes taught are different from our preschool academic themes through-out the school year.

Does your little one love to spin, twirl, leap and dance? If so, then **Little Tots Dance Class on Thursdays** is perfect for your little toddler! Come ready to sparkle and shine, while learning different dance styles! Your child will learn basic dance movements through an interactive class full of scarves, bean bags, wands and more! Come have fun and get your bodies moving!

#### Preschool Enrichment Classes for children 3 years and up:

We are excited to add new enrichment classes this school year. These classes extend your child's day at school up to 1:30 pm depending on the class selected. We are offering:

**Lunch & Learn Monday-Thursday**

**Yoga on Tuesdays**

**Little Tots Dance Class on Wednesdays**

**Art Class on Fridays**

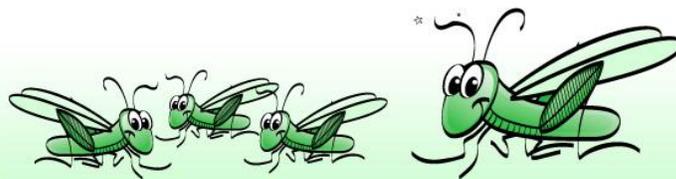
#### DTPT Drop Zone:

We know that life can be busy and sometimes you just need a few extra hours in your day. We are here to help by ensuring that your child is comfortable, happy, and enjoying their time at our DTPT Drop Zone. This program was created to allow our families the convenience of leaving your little one at school for the day on a drop-in basis. Your child will stay and play while you get those few extra hours in your day.

#### Days Off:

We will be closed on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in observance of Columbus Day.

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### Ms. Kristine Says...

**Ladybugs:** Hi Ladybug Families! Welcome back to school! Our first month of school went by quickly but was full of fun! The themes that were highlighted in September were All About Me and Apples. Some of our main focuses were getting to know our new friends, learning our classroom rules, and practicing our daily routines. Each morning we practiced our name writing and letter recognition skills as well. This was done through morning self-check-ins on our Ladybug Tree, repetitive letter tracing on nameplates, and various name tracing crafts. We began using our weekly writing journals beginning with letters M and N. During our All About Me unit, the students created self-portraits to show their ability to locate and identify the parts of the body. In Science, we used magnifying glasses to examine our own fingerprints and learned how they make each of us unique from one another. They really loved this activity! The unit the students enjoyed the most was APPLES! We dove right into that theme by participating in many hands-on activities using real apples. During our apple investigation, we discussed the life-cycle of an apple and even cut one open to identify its different parts while using our 5 senses. In Art, we used those same apples to create our own apple tree paintings. We also used our fine motor skills to create tissue paper apples and even used outlines of our hands as the leaves! You can find these displayed on our classroom bulletin board! In October, the units we will focus on are letters P, B, H and W, Farm/Harvest, Pumpkins, and Halloween. We will take a look at the importance of farming crops and discuss how they grow. We will even use those crops to create some fun art projects. In Math, we will identify and examine these crops and graph them based on the different characteristics they each have. Fire safety is also something we will learn about this month. We will discuss fire prevention, identify things that can cause fires, and what to do if there was ever a fire emergency at school or at home. We will finish out our month celebrating HALLOWEEN! During this unit, we will become mad scientists and learn what chemical reactions are and what they do! We have already accomplished so many things and we are just getting started!



### Ms. Sarah Says...

**Frogs:** What a great start to the new school year! Our Junior Kinders and Ladybugs have done a fabulous job at quickly learning the daily routine, the rules and procedures of the classroom - as well as, what I expect of them as my wonderful students! This has included but not limited to: the pledge, songs in English/Spanish, counting 1-20 & 20 down to 1, calendar, reading comprehension during circle time, keeping track of our weather using a chart, collaboratively working with one another during centers, working on respecting the centers in the classroom, hands on sensory activities, creative/inventive art, gaining self-confidence and learning to love learning! The first two weeks of September mainly focused on daily observations of each child - what their abilities were coming into the class, their prior content knowledge, social skills, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, following directions and basic communication! This was observed through daily worksheets, tracing practice, verbally assessing the children, watching them color/paint/write/eat and socially, during centers. In September we had also introduced sight words, letter cards, math journals and our language arts journals. The goal for the first month of school was to ease into all the activities and basic routines we have set forth to set the children up for great success for the remainder of the school year. October is going to be a wonderful month of really diving into the curriculum! We will be exploring a lot of sciences with experiments and learning about cause/effect. October will also be a month full of process art, prepare your fridges now! I am very excited as we had started our sight words in week three of September, I hope to keep building on these words to lay that foundation for learning and develop a passion for reading. These sight rings will be sent home daily, PLEASE SEND THEM BACK TO SCHOOL EACH DAY (we will be using them DAILY) I am very excited for this upcoming month and PLEASE be sure to check out our room filled with the hard work your children put into each day! The children continue to blow me away with their drive, willingness and hard work they put into each day. Each child has exhibited such growth in such a short period of time since walking through the doors on September 4<sup>th</sup>, I am proud to call them my students.

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### Ms. Barbara Says...

**Inchworms:** Hello Boys, girls, and grownups! September was a month of a lot of adaptation. For some of our friends, this was their first experience away from mommies and daddies in a new place. Thank you so much for your patience, help and trust to letting your little ones be with us, even when they were crying. I have great news, by the second week, our friends were more comfortable, talkative and following our daily routine. In September, we learned our daily routine, the rule to walk in the halls, the rules at the playground, the ABC song, the days of the week song in English and Spanish, the months of the year in English and Spanish, and the colors song in English and Spanish. We practiced our fine motor skills every day. We played with play-doh, and we are learning how to use scissors by cutting play-doh with toy scissors. We are practicing how to hold a crayon and scribble. We practiced our gross motor skills in the music and movement room. There, we played lots of music, crawled in the tunnels, and played with balls. We have great basketball players in the inchworm classroom! We love to play outside, but when the days were not good, we loved to play with the parachute, and dance with bubbles in class. Our favorite book is: Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Our favorite song is: Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes. We also learned about the letters A and B, and the numbers, 1,2 and 3. We talked about friends, our school, and apples. We practiced how to share, take turns and listen. We planted 1 apple seed to grow at home, and 1 apple seed to grow in our classroom throughout the year. Our apple tree will be growing with us. For October, we have so much more to learn. We will learn about the letters C, D, E and F, the numbers, 4,5,6 and 7, and lots of shapes. We will also learn about Harvesting, Farm animals, Pumpkins and Halloween. Parents can expect lots of pumpkin and Halloween artwork. Fall is Ms. Barbara's favorite season, with all the colors changing, the leaves falling, and the Halloween decorations -- there is inspiration for lots of fun!

### Ms. JJ Says...

**Busy Bees:** September was a fantastic month! I can't believe how fast it flew by. The children have been "busy bees" learning our classroom routines and getting to know each other. We read our book of the month *David Goes to School* and it helped us have fun while discussing school rules and conduct. The kids have been participating in circle time, classroom centers, and did a spectacular job for their first show & tell. I was really impressed by how well they listened to each other. I can tell that it will be something they look forward to on a weekly basis. We started the month with learning about ourselves with an "All About Me" project. It was a great way for me to get to know all of my students. We also worked on our apple unit by creating red apples to be hung our apple tree (on our class board) and a book called *Seasons of the Apple Tree*. Most of them thought it tickled when I painted their hands.☺ Everyone did a great job! Then we talked about how apples grow and how many different kinds there are. The kids even had an opportunity to taste different kinds of apples. We began learning our letters with the letters M and N. We will be making letter books all year to coincide with the letters we are working on. If your child is absent, I will always try to get this book done but if time doesn't permit it, I will send a copy home when they return. During the month of October, we will be introducing letters P, B, H, and W. We will be working hard on learning to use scissors. As fall approaches, we will be starting units on farm life, harvesting, and pumpkins. We will also be creating some great Halloween crafts. Please send in a sweater or jacket on chilly days as we will continue to go outside throughout the fall. My door is always open if you ever have any questions or concerns. I know it's going to be a great year, and thank you for sharing your child with me!



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### Ms. Lindsey Says:

**Ladybugs:** We have had a wonderful first month in our ladybug room. I have enjoyed getting to know your children. They are so sweet. Our first month has been busy and fun! Your children are adjusting well to new routines and new faces. They are making new friends and having fun learning! The children are very excited to be a ladybug this year! In September our themes were Back to School, Apples, and All About Me. We learned about the letters Mm and Nn. We practiced letter recognition, letter formation, and letter sounds. We learned all about our school and our teachers. We talked about friendship and making new friends. The children are very excited to learn! We learned a new song during circle time called "Hello Friend". We went around the circle and sung hello to each child so the children can get to know their new friends. We also clapped to a beat during this song! The first week we tried to reinforce listening, following the rules, and manners. If the students are working very quietly, they will have the opportunity to earn a "Sparkle" that will be placed in our class Sparkle jar. Once the jar is full, the students will earn a class reward. During the first month of school they have already earned some Sparkles! Please praise your children for this accomplishment! We have been very busy with Art as well. If you have the chance please check out your child's artwork outside of our classroom and on our classroom bulletin board. They have made Ladybugs and Apple Trees. We have also been exploring with play-doh, sensory bins, scissors, and glue this month. We will continue to use these items next month. Play-doh and sensory bins have been a favorite this month! In October our themes will be Harvest, Farm Animals, Pumpkins, and Halloween. We will be learning about the season of fall and all of the wonderful things that grow during the season. We will also be having a lot of fun with pumpkins and Halloween activities. We will continue to work on name recognition and familiarizing your child with writing his or her own first name. Please practice writing their names at home with the children, using a capital letter at the beginning of the name and keeping all other letters in lowercase. Please continue to practice this at home as well. Thank you for sharing your children with us. I look forward to playing and learning with them this year.

### Ms. Teresa Says...

**Busy Bees:** In September, the Busy Bees class has been a fun and very buzzy active time! We introduced ourselves to each other, learned some of each other's favorite things, and made some new friendships along the way. We also learned about our 5 senses and discovered some interesting things in the world around us by using them. We talked about how children grow and change, and about how apples grow. They discovered that apples grow from seeds to a fruit and that there are many different kinds of apples. We played some fun games that helped us learn that we tell our feet, hands, mouths, and bodies when to move and when to sit still. The children worked on learning why we stand still when we say the Pledge of Allegiance (to show respect). Our letters of the month were "Mm" and "Nn" which the children have been learning to trace, recognize, and reinforce through art projects, air writing, phonic sound, and a variety of other activities. We had fun with rhythm through clapping and singing. In Math, we started counting in English and Spanish, and started working on patterns, such as the stripes on our bees. Finally, we worked on how to be a good friend by using our manners and helping others; being a good friend by following the rules and trying to do our best work.

In October we will be learning about harvest time and farm animals and singing Old McDonald Had a Farm. We will be learning how even the farm animals have a family, and how each animal helps us. Cows give milk and chickens lay eggs. We will discover some new things as we take an up-close look at pumpkins, outside and inside. We will open a pumpkin and explore how it feels and smells. Fire Safety Rules will continue to be reviewed while the children learn about "Stop, Drop, and Roll", practice for fire drills, and other safety rules. In Math we will be learning about the shape of numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. We will be practicing counting quantities for each number too. Our letters for the month will be "Pp", "Bb", "Hh", and "Ww". We will continue to work on our Circle Time skills, such as listening, sitting crisscross applesauce with our hands in our laps, and turn taking. I am looking forward to a wonderful month ahead with my Busy Bees and know that we will have a lot of fun learning together!



## October 2018 Newsletter

### **Ms. Shawna Says...**

**Ladybugs:** Hello Learning Ladybugs! We are SO proud of your children on how well they adapted to the school environment, their new friends and their new teacher. We know starting school was a transition within itself but also switching teachers as well. But, we would like to stress how PHENOMENAL all the children are doing!! The first two weeks of school Ms. Shawna taught our "All About Me" and our "School" themes. She did so by incorporating our little people sensory, having her students create a self-portrait and graphing the characteristics of each student, playing games to know each other (for example: the name game), and by discussing the rules of the school. She also used different centers and activities to access each child's fine motor skills and abilities. The children's favorite art project was using apples as a paint brush to create process art. It was creativity at its finest. We know it was sad to hear about Ms. Shawna's leaving, but we wish her the best for her family and in life. Prior to leaving it was very important to her, to transition her students into Ms. Sarah's classroom. She made sure Ms. Sarah/Ms. Kristine knew the children's strengths and weaknesses, gave the work she collected, and helped each child transition into the new classroom. Ms. Sarah/Ms. Kristine has enjoyed getting to know each Ladybug and where they are at academically. They are eager on how far they can take them. Please read Ms. Sarah's section if your child comes in the morning and please read Ms. Kristine's section if your child comes in the afternoon in our newsletter to let you know what your child has done in their classroom this month. Thank you for your understanding during this transition!