



SCIENCE SCHOOL
AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

News

November 2009

Everyone had a great time at our Halloween celebrations. The children enjoyed visiting offices in the museum and getting their treats. The witch's hand, cupcake walk, ghost lollipops, and other games were great hits with the children. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, and other relatives that helped make everything a success. The time has "fallen back" and we are all adjusting to that. Please send cold weather extra clothes and we will send home the warm weather extra clothes. Remember to label the clothes and put them in zipper bag labeled with your child's name.

The children learned about Dia de los Muertos on Monday and Tuesday. Now we have become young paleontologists and are discovering dinosaurs. We will learn about fossils, create our own dinosaurs, check out T-rex's track, and talk about extinction. We will also do some fall/Thanksgiving activities. Each room will create an "I am thankful for" book that can be seen at our Thanksgiving Open House.

We will have a visit from our resident paleontologists as part of our "research" on dinosaurs. They will visit us on Wednesday, Nov. 11 and Thursday, Nov. 12. After their talk we will go to the Nature Building and visit their lab and round out the morning at the Dino Dig in the Science Building. We will return to our rooms for lunch.

Our annual Thanksgiving open house and celebration will be on Monday, November 23. Mark your calendars now for this day. We will have activities for parents and children to do together and then we will clean up to have a Thanksgiving lunch. We ask everyone to bring a dish to share with everyone else –this can be a family favorite. Choose a main dish, salad, vegetable/fruit, dessert, or appetizers. All of the classes are participating in this, so please bring a dish that feeds at least 10 people. Please call or email us to let us know what you would like to bring. The staff will also be checking with you during drop-off and pick-up. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins are also invited to attend. The activities will be in Classrooms A & B in the Science Building for everyone (A, B, P). We will all eat in the classrooms after we clean up the activities. Please note that this is not a regular school day.

Remember our make-up day for Country Critters is Tuesday Nov. 24. Check in time is 10:00. We will not be getting pumpkins, but they will have pony rides. Attached to this newsletter is the general information sheet about field trips that we sent by email with the original field trip information as well as the field trip sheet. Please read these. Note that #1 on the information sheet and #5 on the field trip sheet explain how to check if a field trip is cancelled and will be rescheduled. There was confusion with Country Critters being cancelled twice by the farm. We did put a message on our school phone both times (as we state we will do in our field trip information) as soon as we were contacted by the farm. The first time the message was on just after 8am and the second time the evening before. We are sorry about any confusion.

Thanksgiving break is November 24-27. The regular schedule resumes Monday, November 30 when the children will become young astronauts as we begin our study of space, planets, and the stars.

Here is a fall activity to do involving nuts in their shells. You will need a bag of mixed nuts, paper, and markers or crayons. Look at the different kinds of nuts in the bag. Sort the nuts by type, color, size, or shape. Draw a bar graph on the paper and label each column by the type, color, size, or shape. Sort the nuts on the graph. Count how many are in each column. Record the graph by drawing a picture of each nut in its column and putting the total number of each column at the bottom. Repeat the activity by sorting a different way.

We have a new licensing law that creates gang-free zones. We have attached the information sheet to this newsletter.

We will be doing vision and hearing screening with the children 4 years old and up in Jan. or Feb. We also have the opportunity for 6 months old through 3 year old to have their vision photo screened by the Prevent Blindness volunteers. This screening is different from what we do with the older children and only takes a short time. The MTI Photo screener takes two photos of the children's eyes. The advantage of the photo screener is its ability to objectively screen for eye disorders in very young children and children with special needs. The test is safe and only takes about a minute. The children simply watch a flashing light near the camera's lens, and the screener takes the photo. Trained staff then interpret the pictures and the results are sent back to the school. If we have enough interest in this we will schedule it sometime from Jan.-May. Please let us know if you would be interested in having your 6 month- 3 year old do this.

Reminders:

- Please remember to send jackets or sweaters with your child if it is cool outside. We will go outside and they need them for carpool. Please write your child's name in her/his coat. We often have similar coats and it is easy to mix up coats.
- **Please remember to stay in your cars during carpool. If you need to put seatbelts on etc., please pull forward out of the driveway/carpool area so we can keep the line moving. We appreciate your help with this.** If someone new is picking up your child, please tell them how carpool works. If you need to talk to a staff member, please call the school and leave a message or email us and we will get back with you. When you tell us things in carpool, we may not remember.
- It is the law that children need to be in a car seat or booster seat depending on their size.
- Please call us or email us when your child will not be attending school due to illness, emergency, or vacation.
- Please remember to have the children wear underwear to school.
- Don't forget to save Box Tops for Education. Attached is a November sheet to collect box tops.
- Remember for naptime: no more than one small blanket, one small travel sized pillow and one small animal/treasure to sleep with all in a pillow case with everything labeled with your child's name.
- Remember to send spoons or forks in lunches if they are needed.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

