



**SCIENCE SCHOOL**  
AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

**News**  
**October 2009**

It's October and it's finally beginning to feel like fall. Thanks to everyone that participated in and helped with the field trips. We really appreciate it. Everyone had a great time seeing the animals at the zoos, learning about pumpkins, checking out the fall foliage, walking on trails, and examining pond life. Our trip to Country Critters was rained out twice and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 10:00am. This is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving when we would not be in school. There will be pony rides available for those that come with parents/adults instead of pumpkins from the pumpkin patch.

The last two weeks of October, we will finish our study of animals, then explore spooky science. Some of the things we will be doing are working on the letter z for zoo/zoológico, j for jack-o-lantern, weighing and measuring pumpkins, and counting seeds. On Wednesday, October 28, the children will visit Sparky the Fire Dog in the Children's Museum area about 10:15 and return to our rooms in time for lunch by 12:00.

October 29 and October 30 are our Halloween science party days. We will be doing fun Halloween activities. Each class will also have a Halloween party and go trick-or-treating around the Museum. If your child would like to wear a costume, he/she should wear it to school on her/his party day. If the costume has a weapon, we ask that you please leave the weapon at home. We will have regular school hours. Please label your child's costumes. If your child is staying for extended care on Thursday or Friday and their costume does not fit over her/his clothes, please send a change of clothes. The party/trick-or-treating schedule is:

Class	Date	Trick or Treat	Lunch	Party
T/Th/5 day/K	Thursday 10/29	10:30-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:00-1:00
MWF/ 5 day /K	Friday 10/30	10:30-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:00-1:00

Parents, relatives, and siblings are welcome for trick-or-treating and the parties. We will be sending home a note with each child to bring specific items for the parties. Please let us know if you will be coming to trick-or-treat and to the parties by leaving a voicemail at 214-428-5555 x 1381 or emailing us at [scienceschool@natureandscience.org](mailto:scienceschool@natureandscience.org) Help is always greatly appreciated.

Just a reminder that the next monthly tuition payment is due November 1. You may mail checks or give them to a staff member during carpool in an envelope and labeled with tuition payment and your child's name.

Please remember to stay in your cars during all carpools. If you need to put seatbelts on etc., please pull forward out of the driveway so we can keep the line moving. If someone else is picking up your child, please let them know this procedure. We appreciate your help with this.

Please remember to send jackets or sweaters with your child if it is cool out. We will go outside. Please write your child's name in her/his coat. We often have similar coats and it is easy to mix them up. Also, please send an extra set of clothes for winter. Put these in a zipper bag with your child's name. **Label everything** with your child's name. This includes jackets, lunch boxes, utensils, cups, etc.

Flu season is here. We will continue to follow our hand washing, coughing, and sneezing procedures at school. We have the children wash hands thoroughly, counting at least to ten with soapy hands before eating and after using the bathroom. We use tissues to cover the mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing and discard the tissue immediately. Then, we wash hands or use hand sanitizer. If a tissue is not available, we cough or sneeze into the elbow and use hand sanitizer. If your child has symptoms and/or a fever, do not send them to school. A child must be free of symptoms and fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) before they can return to school. We are emailing a flyer to families about recommended procedures for seasonal and H1N1 flu from the CDC.

Please leave toys, books etc. at home unless we ask the children to bring them. You may need to check lunch boxes or pockets before bringing your child/children to school.

Here's an experiment to try at home. You will need vinegar, baking soda, a spoon, and a cup. Talk with your child about the materials/ingredients you are using before doing the experiment. Ask them what they might want to find out about these ingredients. This is the question or hypothesis. Ask about what might happen if they are mixed. This would be her/his prediction.

Do the experiment. Put 2 tablespoons of baking soda in a cup. Add some vinegar. Watch what happens. Talk about what is happening. The mixing of the two ingredients is producing carbon dioxide. This is a chemical reaction. Note: You may want to do this experiment on a tray or in a bin in case of overflow.

Our first Box Tops for Education deadline is this month. Please remember to cut these out and send them to school. We get ten cents for each box top we send in. You can also register at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for our school and get points for our school. They have coupons for you and online shopping that can get points for us, plus contests that can be entered for more points for the school.



Looking ahead: Mark your calendar for Monday, November 23 for our annual Thanksgiving Open House potluck. More information will be sent in November. Make-up date for Country Critters is Tuesday, November 24 at 10:00am.

