

# The ExCEptional Times

November 2016

Dear Families,

What an exciting time we had in October! We started music with Mrs. Cooper, Chapel time with Miss Katie and Pastor Reggie, and we experienced our first Rainbow Days! For those who don't know what Rainbow Days are – this is when we open up all of the classrooms to the children and each room has their own theme. For the month of October, we had a Farmers Market room; Sensory table room – with slime, pumpkin “guts”, fall “soup” and hammering tees into pumpkins; Corn room with chutes and pools filled with lots of corn to play with, and an art room for making colorful processed fall art! Everyone had a great time!

Our next Rainbow Days will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will again open the classrooms with different themes. We will also be having our Thanksgiving Feast for the children in the school during their lunchtime. Starting next week there will be a sign-up sheet posted outside of each classroom with items needed for our feast. All of the children will be having this feast together in one room, just like a large family! We will need several volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up. It is a wonderful time for the children!

Also in November, the teachers will begin phone conferences. Please keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet with the best times to contact you.

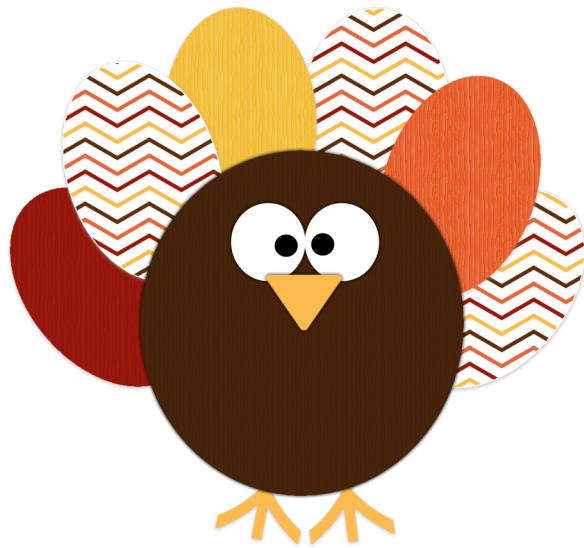
In December, we will be having our famous Sing-a-long and reenactment of the Nativity scene performed by the Shining Stars and Blazing Comets. There will be a lot of singing and bell ringing. Make sure to save the dates of December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Start time is 1:30. This is open to all the parents, grandparents, sibling... you get the picture.

Please remember to drive carefully in the parking lot and to stop at all stop signs. It can get a bit crazy. Please also note that on November 23 both Accotink and CEP are releasing children at noon. The parking lot is going to be extra crowded that day. You may want to consider parking behind the car wash/McDonalds. Hopefully things will go smoothly!

The weather is starting to change-so please make sure to update the extra clothing in your child's bag and Label, Label, Label.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Elees and Julie



# November 2016

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

	1	2	3 Ms. Louise's Birthday!	4 <b>CEP closes at noon</b>
<del>7 <b>CEP Closed</b> Election holiday</del>	<del>8 <b>CEP Closed</b> Election Day! Go vote!</del>	9	10 <b>Chapel</b>	11 <b>Chapel</b>
14	15	16	17 <b>Thanksgiving Feast/Rainbow Day</b>	18 <b>Thanksgiving Feast/Rainbow Day</b>
21	22	23 <b>CEP closes at noon (so is Accotink!)</b>	<del>24 <b>Thanksgiving Day!</b></del>	<del>25</del>
28 Mrs. Kawamoto's Birthday	29	30		



## NEWS FROM THE SHINING STARS Four-year-olds

The Shining Stars were very busy in October. We talked about shapes and colors, dinosaurs, scarecrows, Halloween, and the letters B through E. We also celebrated our first Rainbow Days.

We have some budding actors and actresses who have been practicing their craft in our dramatic play areas. We have had paleontologists, cowboys/girls, doctors, and scarecrows.

Please continue to have your children take responsibility for hanging up their own red bags and jackets and placing their lunch boxes on the shelf in the morning. We are working on having the children accept the responsibility for their own things throughout the day, and they have been doing a great job.

November's themes are Farm Animals and Thanksgiving/Harvest, and we will be continuing the letter of the week with letters F and G.

Turn off the TV, read to your kids, and give them the thirst to learn. Visit the library often. Ask your child about the books that we read in class and read, read, read at home. Talk about the activities that we do in class every day. Ask about new words that they have learned. (Examples-cranky, dachshund, and extinct.) Have your child look around the house for items that start with the letter of the week and help them learn the sound of the letter. Also, have your child practice cutting and spelling and writing their name.

Debbie and Val



BLAZING COMETS NEWSLETTER  
October

Your children were very busy last month! We started our Letter of the Week and Star of the Week! Please check schedule you received at Parent Night.

With each alphabet letter we are learning its sound, words that start with the letter, and corresponding books, art, games, and cooking. We read books including Ten Red Apples, If You Give a Cat a Cupcake, Rosie's Walk, and Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct. We made fall leaves, cupcakes, pumpkin names, and ghosts. We cooked with apples, bananas, and made dog bones! We searched for the letter A, caught "butterflies", and searched for dinosaur eggs.

We had a blast at our first field trip to the Burke Pumpkin Playground! It was a warm day, but the kids had a lot of fun going down the slides, rolling in the barrels, and checking out the farm animals! We also had our first Rainbow Day, in which all classrooms were opened up to play. They did lots of activities, including scooping corn into a chute, and buying items from a Farmer's Market. On November 18th, we will have a Thanksgiving lunch with ALL of the other classes in the same room! Be on the lookout for a food sign up for this event. Continue to keep checking our daily and weekly communication boards!

We also continue to work on having them do things all by themselves. Please encourage them to hang up their own coat and bag, and put their lunch on the shelf! Related to the red bag, please make sure to label outerwear now that the weather is getting colder. Make sure to start sending hats and gloves. We will be going out as much as possible!

I look forward to having our phone conferences soon! Please make sure that you sign up with the best phone number and time of day you can be reached.

Thank you very much for bringing your children to school on time, and picking them up promptly. It helps the day run so smoothly! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Angela and Mrs. Kawamoto





Tues/Thurs 3 year olds

The month of October has just about come to an end. We celebrated apples, fall, farms and Halloween all month long. In the classroom, we built farms, painted with sponges, paintbrushes and our hands, made playdough, dressed up, played trains and read lots of books about farm animals, fall and Halloween. We've gone on apple and pumpkin hunts, explored "What's in the Box", baked apple pies, and had lots of fun with rice, water and beans (not at the same time;) in the sensory table. The kids have really enjoyed their weekly trips to music---so much fun to hear the singing along with Mrs. Cooper and watch them trying out her instruments. Miss Julie's visits are another highlight of our week---we can't wait to find out "what's in Miss Julie's box" and then read and sing with her. We'll all very excited about our first Rainbow Days. Our room was the Corn Room---we scooped it up and sent it down the chutes. Next door, the Caterpillars' room was set up as a farmer's market. Down the hall in the Bear room, they got to explore lots of fun pumpkin and fall sensory tables---hammering golf tees in to pumpkins, playing with the seeds and "guts" of a pumpkin, making some "bone soup" and working with some fun Halloween slime. And in the Shining Stars room, the kids all worked together to create an awesome fall mural---painting with bubble paint, making shaving cream prints and spin art leaves.

We're so impressed with how well everyone is learning our routines. This is a great group! As the weather starts to change, be sure to label all of their outerwear and check their change of clothes in the red bags to be sure it's appropriate for this cooler fall weather. Miss Katie will be in touch over the next few weeks for our phone conferences. She looks forward to touching base with you and answering any questions/concerns you may have.

Thanks for sharing your wonderful children with us. We are having a great year!

Miss Katie and Miss Debbie





# Frog Friends



This month has just flown by, and wow, have we been busy learning new things!!

Special Events: Pumpkin Patch, Chapel, fire drill practice, and Rainbow Day

Unit Themes: Colors & Names, Faces and Expressions, Fall & Leaves, Halloween

This month we really enjoyed going to big room and to music. They have been learning so many fall and Halloween songs. In our class we also worked on several songs in particular: 5 Little Bats Flying in the Night and 5 Pumpkins on a Gate. The kids acted it out with puppets and also as a finger play counting down on their hands. Another area that the kids enjoy is the sensory table. This month we have had corn to filter through funnels and fill and dump into cups and bowls. We made orange playdough in the class. It was fun to see the kids use a recipe to make it and to feel it as it comes out of the pot warm and then cools off. With the playdough we have used it with googly eyes and pipe cleaners to make Jack-o'-lanterns. Another fun game the Frogs loved is hide a friend. We all cover our eyes. One friend is covered up and the kids open their eyes. They have to figure out which classmate is missing. It is a tie as to what they like more, figuring out who is missing or being the missing friend. With the nice weather we went to the pumpkin patch to pick out our classroom pumpkin and each child got to take one home. We also spent some time outside drawing with chalk, looking for acorns, ants, and leaves. In art this month we have done lots of different art activities. We painted with glue and put in glitter, while painting a leaf to transfer it onto a paper to create our fall tree, collage, stamping with fall and Halloween stamps, markers drawings, and cutting with scissors. We also experimented with getting a baking soda ghost to disappear with vinegar. The month is ending with a Halloween themed Rainbow Day where all students mingle with other classrooms and teachers.

November Unit Themes:

Weather Changes, fall, Thanksgiving, Transportation

Now that the weather is cooling off, you may want to change out the clothes in the tote bags for some warmer ones. Please include top, pants, socks and underwear just in case!

Thanks for a great month with your wonderful kiddos.  
Cristina and Wendi

# Caterpillars' Newsletter

October was a great month! The children are really blossoming and having a fun time at school. They are forming great relationships with friends and teachers.

## Friendly Reminders:

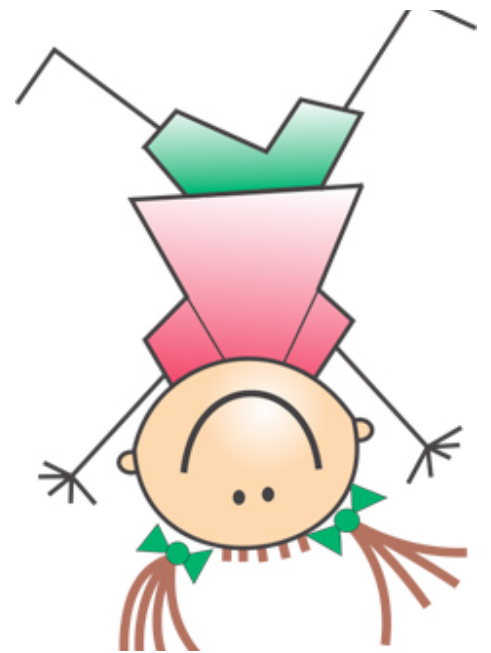
Hello Caterpillar Families,

We have a couple of friendly reminders. Please make sure EVERYTHING is labeled with your child's name on it. Please make sure to mark their bag, lunch boxes, lunch parts (examples: water bottles, sandwich containers, etc) diapers and wipes. With colder weather moving in, make sure that the jackets are labeled as well.

Also, please make sure there are plenty of wipes, diapers, and a change of clothes in their school bag. Now may be the time to change out the summer clothes for warmer clothes.

For the month of November, we are going to continue with our focus on Fall items. We are going to create Scarecrows and Turkey crafts.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions and or concerns.



## Calendar of Events List for November:

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** – School Closed  
Student Holiday

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Chapel Day

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Rainbow Day  
and Thanksgiving Feast

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** – School closed  
for Thanksgiving Holiday.





# Owl News

2 Year Old Class W/E

Ms. Louise and Ms. Theresa



Happy Halloween Everyone!!

The Owls are really beginning to understand the classroom routines -hanging up their red bags and lunch boxes, finding their pictures, washing hands, playing with new friends and toys, lining up, clean up, snack time, and lunchtime. Please try to arrive to school on time, so we may begin our day after saying a quick goodbye to your child.

They are also a truly musical class! They are loving their time on Wednesdays with our music teacher, Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Julie who visits our classroom also on Wednesday afternoons. We go visit Mrs. Cooper for about 20 minutes each Wednesday morning in her classroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We have been learning lots of new Halloween songs. We are also lucky to have Ms. Julie come visit us in our classroom for about 10 minutes each Wednesday afternoon. We sing songs, read books, and get to look inside of her "special box". Ask your children about all the things hiding inside her "special box!"

During October, we learned about Fall, Farms, Apples, and Halloween. We have carved our own class pumpkin and had fun playing with the "goop" from inside it! We have painted with apples and got to taste red and green apples, which were a yummy treat.

Finally, we had our first Rainbow Days! The children really enjoyed traveling between the 4 different classrooms and experiencing the different activities in each room. They especially loved the corn chute room, lots of fun! In November you will find us learning about Family, Thanksgiving, and Senses. For November's Rainbow Day, we will enjoy a special Thanksgiving luncheon feast with the whole school. The sign-up sheets to donate food will be coming out soon.

Lunch has been going well, so continue sending in healthy lunches for your children. Remember to slice food into small pieces. Also remember to include utensils for food as well as a napkin and a drink for them to enjoy with their lunch.

Don't forget to keep an eye on your child's supplies in their red bags. Please make sure we have more than enough diapers, pull-ups, wipes, and back up clothing, socks, and shoes. Check their extra clothes in their red bags regularly to see if they are appropriate for the colder seasons. Please take a second to label all bags, jackets, mittens and hats with your child's name. Sneakers are always a good choice to wear to preschool.

Please remember to take all papers, crafts, artwork, etc. on the shelves by your child's lunchbox every day.

Happy Fall!!!

*-Ms. Louise and Ms. Theresa-*

19+ Month class



Bears W-F

Wow, did we pack in a lot of fun in October! Our Bears have settled into our routine and are feeling very comfortable at school. We really enjoyed cooking pumpkin pancakes and making spiders to eat. Along with all of our fun October themes of Apples, fall leaves, and pumpkins we are working on improving our skills to follow directions, copying actions, and receptive and expressive language with colors.

As we move into November we will be working on not only recognizing our name and picture, but recognizing our classmates' names. We will be using our words to greet our friends and call them by name. Another focus will be following directions during art and cooking time as well as following actions during stories and music. Our themes will focus on Thanksgiving, but as being thankful is a hard concept for kiddos our age, we will instead focus on who we love, being happy for those we love, and what we can do for the people we love.

Don't forget to check your child's bag regularly to keep a supply of diapers and wipes as well as weather appropriate clothing.

Thanks – Ms. Kristy and Ms. Jeannie





# The Monkeys

## Monday Class

Ms. Jeannie and Ms. Louise



The Monkeys are swinging right along! We are settling down a little quicker as we are beginning to explore our classroom and our playground. To make drop off easier and less stressful, please try to arrive on time so we can start our day.

In October, we were down on the farm in the Fall. We love singing The Farmer in the Dell, Old Macdonald Had a Farm, and B-I-N-G-O! We have been reading lots of Halloween books and our favorite is "Orange Pumpkin, Orange Pumpkin, What Do You See?" It is fun playing with all the new toys in our room. We have been coloring, making craft pumpkins and doing lots of painting using apples, paint brushes, rollers, etc. We took a walk to the Messiah pumpkin patch and got to pick up pumpkins and touch them. We also got to pick out our own classroom pumpkin, which we had fun painting. In November, we will be talking about our Families, Thanksgiving, and Senses.

We have been going to our playground at the end of the day. The slides, balls, and sandbox are so much fun! Look out for sand in their shoes! Since the weather has gotten chillier, please don't forget to check your child's red bag to replenish diapers, wipes, and warmer spare clothing. Sneakers are always a good choice to wear to school even in cold or rainy weather.

We do ask that you please take time to label their red bag, all of their spare clothes, outerwear, jackets, hats, mittens, and sippy cups with your child's name on it..

Please make sure to take all papers, artwork, etc. from the shelf by red bags at the end of each day.

Happy Fall!

*-Ms. Jeannie and Ms. Louise-*

Early October, 2016

1. Columbus Song (to Row, row, row your boat)

Sail, sail, sail your ships,

Far across the sea.

After all those miles and miles

Who knows where you'll be.

2. Talk about sailing and using stars for directions

Twinkle, twinkle

3. Rain, Rain, Go Away

Rain, rain go away

Come again another day

All the children want to play

Rain, rain, go away.

4. If All the Raindrops were Lemon Drops and Gumdrops

If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops,

Oh, what a rain it would be!

I'd stand outside with my mouth open wide.

Uh, uh uh uh, uh uh uh, uh uh uh.

If all the raindrops were lemon drops and gumdrops,

Oh, what a rain it would be!

5. There is Thunder (to Frere Jacques)

There is thunder, there is thunder

Hear it roar, hear it roar

Pitter, patter raindrops, pitter, patter raindrops

I'm all wet, I'm all wet.

6. Sing a Rainbow

Red and yellow and pink and green

Purple and orange and blue

I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow

Sing a rainbow for you.

Red and yellow and pink and green

Purple and orange and blue

You can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow

Sing a rainbow too.

Thanks, Linda Cooper