

# Kindergarten Prep October in Review (and what's coming up in November)

What another busy month! We went to the Nature Center, explored pumpkins, and enjoyed a Halloween Party!

Report cards for K-Prep students will not be going home until January. I will be holding conferences in January. If you have a specific concern and would like to conference with me earlier please let me know.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with our Halloween Party! It was great to see all the children dressed up. The children enjoyed special snacks and games. If you are planning the Holiday Party and would like to meet with me just let me know!

The K-Prep students have learned so much about pumpkins. How they grow, the different types of foods you can make out of pumpkin, different sizes, shapes, and textures that they come in, and most importantly they were able to see similarities and differences between pumpkins and apples.

During the month of November the children will be talking about fall, turkeys, friendship, and Thanksgiving. We will be focusing on the AAB pattern, the color word brown, and making sets of objects to correspond with a given number.

We have a few children who are not bringing their library books back on Fridays. PLEASE remember we go to the library every Friday and put your child's books in their backpack.

The children and I have been enjoying having use of the shared Smartboard. A Smartboard is an interactive whiteboard – some might compare it to a very large iPad, but it's more than that. The Smartboard has enabled me to enhance our lessons with learning-centered youtube videos for our phonemic awareness and interactive lessons that have really been beneficial in helping the students understand new concepts. We are able to use the Smartboard on every Monday and Wednesday!

We have also begun practicing our songs for our Winter Program. Mark your calendars for the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup>! (The time will soon be announced!)

Miss. Chris from the Nature Center will be visiting our classroom to teach us about wild turkeys!

I've attached suggestions to help along with any Holiday Shopping...

# All I Want for Christmas

With all the toys that are out there and advertised to our kids you'd think buying Christmas presents would be easy. Usually what happens is that a kid sees something and swears that they NEED it and they get it and end up playing with it for just a short time. A few years ago I went to a conference at which the speaker spoke to this situation. She said it best, "A child's toy should be 10% toy and 90% child." Meaning, any toy you give a child should have various different uses, depending on your child's mood and what he/she does with that toy. The toy should still be able to function even if the batteries are dead. I've made a list of toys that would be great gifts for preschool (and older) age children. These toys can be given to either boys or girls. At this stage children are just starting to test gender roles. Boys will dress up in high heels, girls will pretend to be the dad. It's not until 6 or 7 when they really start to stay in and understand their own gender role. Most of the time, adults tend to stereotype toys by only giving certain items to girls or to boys. Both genders can benefit from the toys listed below:

- Big building blocks or bricks (cardboard bricks)
- Legos (just a basic set – be sure to get a set that includes wheels and heads/people, for some reason those are the hot items in the Lego bin here at school)
- Lincoln Logs
- Train tracks (if you have these at home all set up, take them apart and let your child build the road or track)
- Table top blocks (small wooden blocks)
- Tinker toys
- Plastic people or animals (small enough so your child can add them to a building that they have made)
- Doll house – there are some very non-gender specific "doll houses" at teacher stores.
- Plastic or metal cars
- Dress up stuff (aprons, skirts, police, firefighter, various hats)
- Puzzles (My family has an open library trade for puzzles. After one child has used a puzzle for awhile they trade with a cousin for a different one that they aren't so familiar with. You can do the same thing for books.)
- Art supplies (beside the basic paper and crayons try: glue, scissors, glitter, feathers, pipe cleaners, wiggle eyes, ribbon, tissue paper, felt, yarn. Sometimes kids who don't usually enjoy coloring will make some pretty cool things with pipe cleaners, toilet paper rolls, ribbon, and other 3-D objects)