Director’s Corner

Happy Autumn!

October has just flown by! As the leaves continue to fall, the weather is getting colder and those germs tend to hang around longer! YUCK! Please be sure to wash your child’s hands as you drop them off in the classroom in order to limit as much germ-sharing as possible.

Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers and families that helped to make our Halloween parade a huge success. The children all looked great in their costumes! It is always so much fun seeing what each child likes to dress up as!

If your life is anything like mine, I am sure you have found yourself dropping off one child, picking up another and heading to soccer practice or scouts, sandwich in one hand and homework in another! Although all of the extra-curricular activities are exciting and fun, sometimes they can be stressful for all of us. Children, no matter what age they are, need down time. They need opportunities to be creative and find ways to self entertain, almost a lost art in the technological age we live in. I encourage everyone to find together time and even some time to “do nothing.” Embrace your family time together...eat dinner together at the table, enjoy each other’s company, dare to be creative with your children and enjoy all that this beautiful fall weather has to offer!

Just a reminder: We are closed November 23rd-24th to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families

Tonya Rivera, Executive Director
**Sparrows**

What a beautiful autumn. We have enjoyed the warmth, so many changes are happening in nature.

Halloween was fun! We enjoyed the parade and some goodies. In November, we will be making applesauce, learning the colors yellow and orange, and enjoying the Thanksgiving Feast. On November 9th, please have your child wear yellow to school and on November 15th, please wear orange to school.

Check out the front bulletin board for some very cute “Feathers”.

I will be offering Family/Teacher conferences the 1st week of December.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Miss Kelly, Miss Louise & Miss Christina

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**Chickadees**

It’s hard to believe that November is here and the holidays are fast approaching. The Chickadees will continue with our fall themes, the color blue and of course turkeys. We will be making some table decorations for our annual “Fall Feast”.

The Chickadees have also been enjoying a lot of outdoor time and fall walks around campus. Please remember to bring proper outdoor clothing (jackets, hats, mittens, etc.) They are a must everyday for the colder weather ahead. You may also want to start looking for winter outdoor clothing (snowsuits and boots) before it is hard to find them. We love to play in the snow and will go out daily as long as the temperature is at least 20 degrees.

Also, please remember to check your child's cubby for any outgrown clothing and exchange them for winter clothing. We have been busy with our art work so please check art cubbies daily as well as your family mailboxes for any information you may need to know about.

Finally, I will be preparing family/teacher conferences in early November. Watch for the sign-up sheet. It's a good time to talk to your child's teacher about the progress they have made and if there are any questions or concerns. Your opinions are valuable. The conference usually lasts about 20-30 mins. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

Miss Chris, Miss Emily, & Miss Kaitlyn

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**Swans**

October was filled with pumpkin fun! We enjoyed seeing all the wonderful costumes on parade days! Can you believe it's already November?! The weather has changed, but the cold won't stop us from going outside. Please check your child's cubby and be sure that there are extra pants instead of shorts. This coming month we will be talking about pets, acorns/squirrels, and Thanksgiving. We are asking those of you who have pets to bring in a picture by November 6th or 7th.

At the end of the month, we will be making cranberry sauce to share with all the other classrooms at our Harvest Feast.

We are so grateful for all our Swan families. Thank you for all you do as parents. We hope you are able to count your blessings during the upcoming Holiday Season!

Miss Sarah, Miss Keeshia, & Miss Michelle

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**Doves**

Happy November Dove Families!

My name is Sara Brown and I am the new lead teacher in the Doves room. I am so excited and happy to be here with wonderful teachers and great children. I just moved back to the area from the state of Maine. When I was there I worked in an elementary school and a specialized pre-school program. I have enjoyed meeting many parents and looking forward to meeting you all!

This past month we learned about apples, fall, community helpers and Halloween. We had an officer from the University come in and make a small presentation. The children enjoyed seeing his patrol car and getting to try on his hat.

We have been learning our months and days of the week during morning circle time as well as some new songs. This coming month we will be learning about nursery rhymes, family and friends, Thanksgiving, and transportation.

We also change our bulletin board in the room often to showcase the children's artwork. Please make sure to stop by and check it out!

Miss Sara, Miss Tammy, & Miss Amatullah
Hummingbirds

Wow, where did October go? Time is going by so quickly. We have been very busy getting ready for Fall! We have been working a lot on our cutting skills and all of the children have been improving everyday. You will notice many projects coming home that they have cut themselves or with some guidance. Cutting is a hard skill and they have been focused on mastering it.

In November, the weather is going to start getting colder. Please make sure you LABEL ALL WINTER accessories (hat, snow pants, mittens, boots, etc.) Many children have the same items and it will be easier to keep track of them. If you wish, you may leave a set of these items at school.

Also in November, I will be doing Family/Teacher conferences. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the board near the sign in/out sheet. This is a nice time for us to sit and discuss how your child is doing in school and talk about goals we will be working on.

Thank you to William and his family for donating the little pumpkins. We had so much fun decorating them.

The Hummingbirds would like to welcome Grayson to our class.

We would like to say goodbye to Arturo. He will be moving back to Columbia. We will all miss you.

Miss Gabe, Miss Michele, & Miss Janet

Puffins

October has just flown by! We had so much fun playing in the leaves on the playground. Preparing for Halloween was such a treat. The children were so excited to participate in the Halloween Parade. Thank you to all who helped with the children's costumes before and after the parade.

November we will be talking about Animals in Winter. The children will learn about hibernation, migration and how animals in our area get ready for winter. The Puffins will also be baking for our Harvest Feast. Family/Teacher conferences are coming up soon. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the Family News board in the classroom. If you would like to talk about how your child is doing in school and discuss goals we are working towards, please sign-up.

The weather is getting colder. Please be sure your child has the appropriate clothing to play outside; hats, mittens, snow pants and boots. We do try to go outside everyday.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask us.

Happy Fall,

Miss Claire, Miss Lynda & Miss Vickie

Flamingos

Wow, October flew by! The children enjoyed their visit with a nurse from UHS, a volunteer from Red Cross, Dr. Lucky (Jocie's Mother), and a police officer from campus. The children loved playing with the lights and sirens in the police car. The Flamingos enjoyed carving two classroom pumpkins, playing Halloween games, dancing to spooky music and walking in our Halloween parade.

We will be kicking off November with our “Five Senses.” The children will explore their senses through many activities, for example; smelly bags, texture art, texture obstacle, sensory boxes, I Spy—where the children will make their own “Spy Bottles”. We will be taking a “Listening Walk” and try to identify sounds around us. They will also create their very own rice shakers that they will be able to use during music.

To finish off November we will be learning about Native Americans, Pilgrim Days and turkeys and learning about the importance of Thanksgiving. We have many crafts prepared that will include place mats, hats, painting with corn and creating harvest centerpieces for the annual Harvest Feast! We will also continue our journal writings and working on the letters “T, O, X” as well as learning the color brown. We are so proud of all the children, they are working extra hard this year!

Miss Miranda & Miss Phyllis

Peacocks

We had a great October learning and growing as a class community. We kicked off the fall by studying different leaves and observing all the changes of the season. Students worked on leaf rubbings, made sun leaf catchers and leaf man puppets. For our “Creatures of the Night” week, we explored bats and spiders and Ms. Carolyn helped us make an awesome bat cave.

Students learned the letters “S, C, I and K”, and completed alphabet/letter books at the end of each week. In Math, we sorted and counted objects and worked on building numerical skills. Of course, Halloween was our favorite week and we enjoyed building a class monster, carving pumpkins, fun stories and the parade.

In November we will be working on themes associated with the Pilgrims, Native Americans and Thanksgiving. We are also looking forward to our Thanksgiving Feast. Family/Teacher conferences will be held on November 14th-16th, please sign up for a time that is convenient for you.

Miss Julie & Miss Carolyn
Reminder
CPS will be closed November 23rd-24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving

Sick Policy
In the Family Handbook on pages 27-31 you will find the CPS Sick Children Policies. Please refer to the handbook when questioning your child’s health and whether they can attend CPS.

November is National Family Literacy Month!
Ways to get reading as a family:
1. Visit our wonderful local libraries (Vestal Public Library, Broome County Public Library, George F. Johnson Public Library to name a few), check out books to read together and check out some of their awesome activities!
2. Institute a “story hour” at the end of a long busy day to both reconnect with your child and encourage them to enjoy a good book. At meal times discuss the stories you have read and see which characters they would want to come to dinner! :)
3. Model reading habits for your children by finding a book that interests you and reading it! As they say, “More is caught than is taught!”

Is it the flu?
Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

Deck the Halls with Spaghetti Dinner & Usborne Book Fair
Come and join us for a Spaghetti Dinner with Santa and new this year the Usborne Book Fair! Usborne books make the perfect holiday gift! Friday, December 1st, 2017 from 5pm - 7pm. Tickets will be on sale beginning November 13th, 2017-November 28th, 2017. Tickets can be purchased in the office. Tickets will NOT be available at the door.

FAMILY MAILBOXES
Parents, it is essential that you CHECK YOUR FAMILY MAILBOXES EVERY DAY!
Vital communication from the office and classroom comes to your mailbox regularly.

Just a note:
Fall is the time for breaking out the warmer clothes, especially for rainy days and muddy walks or playgrounds. Please also make sure your child has extra clothes in their classroom in the event that their clothes get soiled.

Staff Birthdays
Kristina MacDonald 11-7
Megan O’Hearn 11-21