



Paradise Valley Cooperative School

6239 E. Bell Road Scottsdale AZ 85254

480-948-3330

NOVEMBER '09 NEWSLETTER

Director News

Melanie

Program Evaluation: A program evaluation will be placed in your child's mailbox this week. Please take a few minutes to fill this out so that we may use it to better our program. You can sign your name if you would like, or keep it anonymous. Place it in the tuition lock box when you have completed it! Thank you for taking the time to help us improve and better meet your needs!

Halloween Costume Collection: If you will not use your child's Halloween costume again, please consider donating it to the school instead of Goodwill. We will save them and sell them next fall at half price as a fundraiser! Cherie Myohanen (Isaak and Daphni's mom) has offered to store them until we are ready to display them! I will place a large box in my office to collect them in! Be sure to include all accessories!

Thanksgiving Plans: In the past, we have had a school-wide potluck on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving break, but we decided it would be easier for each class to plan and organize their own event this year. Please look for a sign-up or e-mail from your child's teacher so that you know what your class is planning!

Monthly Coop Log: Please be sure to sign in your coop time in the log on the the front counter! I billed more families than usual last month and would love to see a higher percentage of people giving a little bit of time each month to make our community a better place for the students and their families!

Enrollment Promotion: Please help to promote our school by sharing a flier with someone in your community! See the details in your mailbox this week!

Fundraising News

Melanie

It was so nice to see all of you who came to Sweet Tomatoes and Barnes and Noble. I haven't received a check from Barnes & Noble yet, but we made \$46 at Sweet Tomatoes! I also thought the turn-out was really good at our Halloween Carnival and think we made around \$150! Yeah!! The first thing that I have used the fundraising money for is a new vacuum! We were down to one that worked and not very well!

In November, we have Breakfast with the Teachers Bake Sale scheduled for November 18 & 19th. Look for a flier in your child's box with all the details!

Remember to watch the brick wall get taller in room 8 as we "Build Community One Brick at a Time"

Please remember that we are a *Cooperative School* and therefore count on the participation and support of each and every family to help make this a successful and wonderful place for each and every person involved!

PT Toddler News

November is here and there are a lot of things to talk about being thankful for everything we have. First, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the Halloween Party. The kids had a great time and looked adorable in their costumes. This month, we will be talking about different sizes such as big and small. We will play a game that the kids loved where I blow up balloons and let the air out. Also, we will be looking at pictures that start with letters of the alphabet. I want to welcome our new friend Jack. It has been fun having him with us. Lately the kids have been using some words that help them get what they want, which is really building their confidence. Just a reminder, the weather is starting to change, so be sure to have extra winter clothes in their cubbies if needed. There is always something new in my class whether it's a smile or a word that makes our class special.

We could use one more high chair in our room! If your child has outgrown yours, please consider donating it to the school/class! Thank you!

Teacher Lama

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

November 2: Lisa Maynard Orders Due

November 4: Art by Me Orders Due

November 11: NO SCHOOL

Veteran's Day

November 13: Staff Meeting 1:00pm

November 16: Parent Mtg. 12pm

MWF 3's

November 17: Parent Mtg. 12pm

T/Th 2's & T/Th 3's

November 18 & 19: Breakfast with the Teachers! 8-11am both days

November 18: Parent Mtg. 12pm

PT Fours

November 19: Parent Mtg. 5pm

FT Families

November 21: Cleaning Day 9-12

November 25: 2:00 Dismissal for all Programs/Classes

November 26 & 27: NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break



PT Twos News

Brrr... We are officially into Fall and we welcomed this season last month. We incorporated a lot of natural items such as pumpkins/gourds, apples, potatoes, twigs, feathers, leaves, sand, rocks, and pine cones into our classroom in all of the learning centers. We also learned some new songs and finger plays and did a lot of different movement activities for our gross and fine motor development. We capped off October with our classroom party and fall festival. Thanks to all our parents for continuing to support our class and school, and making an exceptional effort to strengthen the PVCS community bonds. We love hearing about the monthly play dates and mommy get-togethers!

In November, we'll get ready for Thanksgiving and do some activities that have to do with our senses.

Social / Emotional: We'll continue to go over ways we can be good friends in class, by helping each other, taking turns, playing safe and using our words to tell others what we need. We'll meet Maggie Moo, and do some role playing to go over our classroom rules. Then each Thursday, one of our friends can take Maggie Moo home for the weekend, and keep a "journal" of the different things that Maggie Moo got to do at her friend's house.

Language / Literacy: Our friends and family are important people in our lives. This month, we'll read books about friendships and loving our family. We'll find out what Mommies, Daddies, Grandmas and Grandpas do best!

Physical: Gross Motor: We'll exercise our arms and legs by doing jumping jacks, toe touches and arm reaches, and practice our coordination by moving them one at a time. We'll also try crossing the midline by giving ourselves hugs and sitting criss-cross applesauce, and see how long we can keep our bodies still. **Fine Motor:** We'll work on some patterning with small blocks and other manipulatives. We'll try using different types of dough (mixed with sand, or made of grated soap) to give our fingers different textures to feel.

Cognitive: We'll use our different senses (touch, sight, taste, hearing and smell) to guess some mystery objects. I'll have a box and we'll use our hands only to figure out what is inside the box. We'll look at a partially covered picture and use our eyes to play detective. We'll taste a sampling of different foods and find out if we can name them. We'll make maracas filled with different materials and compare if it's loud or quiet. And finally, we'll smell some common spices and foods and guess what it is.

We are planning to have a Thanksgiving dessert potluck on Tuesday, November 24th. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the classroom, and we'll be joining Teacher Paula's 3s classroom!

Not knowing for sure if this cool weather is here to stay for good, please make sure that your child brings a sweater or jacket to wear when we play outside. Please continue to check the weekly email for any updates or changes in our schedules. As always, if you have any concerns or questions about your child, we're here for you.

Teachers Lynda and Jennifer

PT Threes News

Wow! October just flew by! We had so many fun things planned this month and didn't quite get to do them all. But, we did lots of activities to review our shapes and had a lot of fun incorporating pumpkins, Halloween, and fall themes into our centers. We had our pumpkin patch in the dramatic play center this month and boy was that a success! The kids enjoyed collecting pumpkins, weighing them, and working the cash registers at the "pumpkin store". Our pumpkins turned out to be a great resource for learning math (weight, counting, money skills), science (what's in a pumpkin, what happens to an open pumpkin over time, bugs that like pumpkins/squash – Caterpillars!) and social skills (taking turns, working together in the store, using language that cashiers use such as "thank you", "have a great day" etc). Thank you again to all the parents who donated pumpkins and gourds for our pumpkin patch.

During November, our underlying themes will be autumn, "What we're thankful for," Thanksgiving and counting. Here is a look at what we have planned for November:

Cognitive (math/science/thinking): This month, our math focus will be on "counting activities." We will include games and toys in the table toys center that focuses on counting and numbers, as well as incorporating counting into circle time activities. We will use visual (looking at and identifying numbers) and hands-on counting (base 10 blocks, etc.) as tools for teaching the different concepts of numbers both abstract and concrete. In science, we will be learning about the fall season and will be charting things that we observe, feel, and learn about this time of the year.

Language/Literacy: We are going to keep working on name recognition, asking them which letter their name starts with, and learning about the sounds that the letters in our names make. The kids are becoming much more proficient at coming up with ideas to share, as well as recalling parts of a story when it comes to our literacy activities. We are going to be reading stories about fall, families, and stories where the children can have an active role in the story and make predictions from what they hear. We have also started talking about the days of the week, mainly to gain awareness of the names of the days and which days we come to school.

Social Emotional: This month we will work on our circle time behavior and expectations such as listening when someone is talking, trying to get more participation during circle time activities, reinforcing our conflict resolution, and taking turns during center and outside time. We will encourage the children to use their "big girl/boy" voices to ask questions, ask for help, and to talk to their friends and teachers.

Physical: We are going to continue working on pumping our legs on the swings. Many of the children have started to pump on their own and several others are beginning to get the feel for what they need to do. We will focus on our fine motor movements this month by working on cutting out lines and patterns and to continue working on our name writing. This is a beautiful time of year in Phoenix and we will take

advantage of our great weather. We may try to spend more time outside or do some activities outdoors.

We would love to conclude the month with a feast of our own, more details to come later in the month. Thank you to all our parent helpers last month, we really appreciate you being in the classroom. There are still some open days available in November to help, if you would like to add another day to your co-op schedule.

Teacher Lisa
Teacher Debbie
Teacher Paula

PT Fours News

October was a fun month full of Autumn and Halloween projects culminating in our fun classroom party and Fall Festival! Thanks to all our parents who helped co-op, plan our party and contributed fun items for our trick-or-treating. ☺ During November, our underlying themes will be, What We're Thankful For, Thanksgiving and Letters. Here is a look at what we have planned for November.

Cognitive (math/science/thinking): This month, we will work on some math concepts such as measuring, counting and fractions through cooking. The students all seem to love working on group projects such as cooking and making playdough so we're going to do more of that this month. As stated in Literacy below we will also be learning about the Pilgrim way of life as well as Thanksgiving and we will be doing many projects with letters. For science and exploration we have a radio out that was taken apart so that the kids can explore what the inside looks like and how much goes into making a radio.

Language/Literacy: This month, we will have the students help us write class books using their own words and ideas. We will also do lots of fun activities with letters, learning the letter names and beginning to chart words and the letters they start with. Since Thanksgiving is this month we will be reading and learning about what Thanksgiving means as well as some Pilgrim and Native American traditions and history.

Social Emotional: This month we will work on our circle time behavior and expectations such as listening when someone is talking. We are also going to focus on the students using their "big girl/boy" voices to ask questions, ask for help and to talk to their friends and teachers while emphasizing conflict resolution.

Physical: We are going to start some more outdoor games such as relay races, soccer and t-ball. For fine motor we are going to emphasize cutting and writing our names as well as writing in our journals.

This is a beautiful time of year in Phoenix and we will take advantage of our great weather. We may try to spend more time outside or do specific activities outdoors. We will also be celebrating Thanksgiving later in the month with all our families.

Thank you!
Teacher Kristen and Teacher Terry

FT Twos News

November is here and this is the start of the sharing season! This month is a great time to talk about how important it is to share and make friends. There are so many fun Thanksgiving activities and this month is highlighted with a fun Thanksgiving party. Last month we all had a scary time working with different Halloween activities and also the "me" theme. This month we expect that it will cool down quickly. We saw a little bit of cold weather last week and it will start to get colder this month. Don't forget to start bringing jackets and a hat for the cold mornings. It's also very important that we wash our hands a lot in the class and at home so that we can stay healthy. Our main theme will be about sharing, and working with Native American and Pilgrim arts and crafts.

Cognitive: This month the unit that we will be focusing on is Thanksgiving and sharing. When working on the "sharing" theme we will be working on having our students create and discuss what they feel and think about sharing. We know that our students are great at understanding the concept of sharing. This month we will be adding to this knowledge and working on our sense of community in the classroom. Just like the Pilgrims and the Native Americans the students will interact in the classroom, and work on art activities that require that they work together as a team.

Social/Emotional: Every month we work on friendship and our students' ability to work together. Our reoccurring theme each month is friendship and taking care of each other in class and at home. Since our students all share the same materials and resources in class we focus a lot on helping them learn to work together and share.

Thanksgiving and following up shortly after with Christmas is a great time to allow our students to reinforce these skills. A central aspect of our school is creating a community where the parents and children are all happy to make something special and learn. Try to continue to working with your children at home using the same principles when they are with their friends.

When we are eating and throughout the day we focus on manners. The students should be learning how to ask for items and be thankful for receiving them. We will be ending the month with a Thanksgiving themed party. I will send details about the party in about a week.

Language and Literacy: Our main stories will focus on the Thanksgiving. Our main books will have central characters based on Thanksgiving and fall themes. We normally start the first week with a fun book and repeat that book, among others, throughout the month. We love to see the books that you are reading at home. Please feel free to share any fun books that your children

enjoy. I always enjoy every month taking new books from the library to share with the students. Remember that the library is a great resource to get books for your children and best of all its free. ☺

Physical: Winter is coming and the temperatures are starting to drop. It isn't as cold as some of the more northern states, however it can get pretty cold here in the mornings. Let's start early this year and have our students get in the habit of wearing their jackets and hats to keep warm. With the cold months comes more colds and flus and we want our students to stay healthy and happy. We wash our hands a lot in school, please continue to reinforce washing hands at home. ☺

Other Stuff: The Halloween party was a great success and I would like to thank all of the parents for coming in and helping. We have some great pictures of our students in their costumes. Everyone was so cute. These parties are a great addition to building a sense of community in the classroom and without your help this wouldn't be possible.

Miss Dulce Harbison

FT Threes News

We had a great month of October; it always seems to fly by so quickly! The children continue to work together, follow classroom routines and learn new things each day. We are so proud of our class and how they continue to grow emotionally, socially and academically! We had fun talking about Fall, collecting leaves, making spiders, singing songs and playing in our own classroom pumpkin patch. A big thank you to all the parents who donated supplies and their time to our Halloween party, the children had a great time! One student even said, "This is the BEST day of school EVER!"

Cognitive (Math/Science) We will continue to work on making class graphs and charts. The children have made great progress with color/shape recognition. Some of the children are attempting to draw shapes; it's so exciting to see them grow! This month we will begin to work on counting with one-to-one correspondence, and continue to review colors, shapes and matching (pairs). We will also begin to introduce some opposites.

Language/Literacy We have made and assembled some class books; the children love to see their own work bound together in a book! This past month some of the children have begun to use the pointer and sing the songs we have charted on big paper. This shows us they are beginning to understand the concept of print and that words/letters have meaning. All of the children have attempted writing their name and are very proud of it! Remember that this is a developmental skill and children will be able to write their name at their own pace. This month we will learn about Pilgrims, Native Americans, and Thanksgiving.

Social/Emotional The children have begun to build some friendships within our class. They

continue to work hard on following directions and establishing a daily routine. We have noticed the children really starting to participate more in circle time. This month we will be discussing "Thankfulness" and "Gratefulness". Two concepts that are very important in social and emotional growth.

Physical (Fine/Gross) It's seems like the children are climbing everywhere. As their confidence grows they are using those large motor skills and climbing up and down the outside equipment. The children continue to work on pumping their legs on the swings! Tracing and cutting is a daily activity that helps build fine motor control. The children did a lot of tracing and cutting this past month and we have seen big improvement in their cutting skills. We will continue to work with scissors and tracing.

As a reminder to parents, please check your child's mailbox/cubby for daily artwork or important paper work. In addition to our Sunday email updates, we will be posting upcoming information and/or important events on our classroom door.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

NO SCHOOL on November 11th-Veteran's Day
Early Dismissal and Thanksgiving events on November 25th
(Parent pick up at 2:00pm)

No School on November 26th & 27th for Thanksgiving
Parent Meetings week of November 16th
Cleaning Day is Saturday November 21st

Thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a great month!

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CLASSIFIED/WANTED ADS

Free Classified/Wanted advertising for current families: Please submit a 50 word or less classified ad to sell or buy anything from A-Z to melaniejo@cox.net by 25th of month for placement in next PVCS monthly newsletter.

NEEDED:

One high chair-Room 6
One Baby Bjorn-Room 5
Re-usable plastic bowls, cups & utensils-Kitchen

