



Paradise Valley Cooperative School

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OCTOBER '09 NEWSLETTER

Director News

Melanie

Happy October! October is one of my favorite months! I love the fun and excitement of Halloween and the change of temperature that hopefully will be here soon!

I want to thank all of you who made my birthday a special day! I enjoyed the snacks and gifts very much!

Parent Meeting

September's Parent Meeting was all about Assessment of preschoolers...why, how and when is it appropriate to assess young children? If you missed the meeting, please feel free to ask your child's teacher or myself to fill you in!

October's Parent Meeting topic will be Positive Discipline! I hope you will all attend and bring your questions for the last half hour!

Lisa Maynard Photos

Lisa will be here Monday through Thursday mornings the week beginning October 19. She will photograph everyone and post the photos on her website. Directions will be sent to everyone when they are up and ready. Older siblings are welcome! She will be sending out her brochure soon with more details!

**Melanie melaniejo@cox.net
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Fundraising News

Melanie

We have two "FUN"draisers planned for our families this month as we Build Community One Brick at a Time! Please support our community by getting involved in our fundraising efforts. At the same time, you will be building relationships for you and your children as you go through the early childhood years at PVCS and hopefully long in to the future!

On **Friday, October 9th** we have scheduled an easy night out for the entire family: Dinner at Sweet Tomatoes in Desert Ridge and Meet the Author at Barnes and Noble. Between 15% and 40% of sales at both locations comes directly back to our school!

The PVCS Staff with students currently attending are planning a spook-tacular carnival for **Saturday, October 31st!** Entrance will be FREE! Food and other goodies will be for sale to raise money for our fundraising goals!

Remember to watch the "brick wall" as bricks are added throughout the year! It will be in Room 8/Music Room on the West wall.

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

- October 2:** Teacher Kristen's B-day!
- October 9:** Barnes & Noble and Sweet Tomatoes Family Night
- October 12:** No school for PT families
Columbus Day
- October 15:** MacDonald's Farm Field Trip (PT 2's, 3's and all 4's)
- October 16:** Staff Meeting 1:00pm
- October 19-22:** Lisa Maynard Photos (Individual and Siblings only! Class photos in the spring.)
- October 19:** Parent Mtg. 12pm
MWF 3's
- October 20:** Parent Mtg. 12pm
T/Th 2's & T/Th 3's
- October 21:** Parent Mtg. 12pm
PT Fours
- October 21:** Teacher Lama B-day!
- October 22:** Parent Mtg. 5pm
FT Families
- October 24:** Cleaning Day 9-12
- October 31:** Halloween Carnival!

PYCS HALLOWEEN

CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 31, 2009 10AM-2PM

WEAR YOUR COSTUMES! PLAY CARNIVAL GAMES! WIN PRIZES! EAT SOME SNACKS! PLAY WITH FRIENDS! AND RAISE MONEY SO WE CAN BUY COOL STUFF FOR THE SCHOOL!



PT Toddler News

September went by fast and the kids have had a great time getting to know each other. We learned about colors and worked on using their words to get what they need. They have also had a great time in music class every Tuesday.

This coming month we will be talking about shapes and we will be cutting them out and putting our pictures on the shapes. Also, we will be having fun with blowing and popping bubbles. Since fall is coming we will be doing projects in and out of class with yellow and orange leaves. In addition, we will decorate the class with pumpkins and other Halloween decorations. Be ready for the end of the month, because we will be having a Halloween party with Teacher Dulce's class! Also, you will now see a piggy bank in the hallway between my class and Teacher Dulce's class. Please donate, because the class who collects the most money in their piggy bank by the end of the year will get a big party. There is a lot going on so let's get started.

Teacher Lama

PT Twos News

We had a very busy September. Our two year olds are quickly learning and adapting to our daily classroom schedule including transitions between activities and anticipating what comes next during the day. They are getting to know each other's names and trying out some new social skills such as asking for turns and inviting each other in play situations. To briefly recap last month, we offered different art experiences for them to try out, using non-traditional materials such as frozen paint, potato mashers, water droppers, glue and glitter, and shaving cream. We also brought in some safe toys so they can climb, crawl, walk and balance, to get our bodies active and moving about.

This month, we will celebrate Fall and incorporate different activities into our centers that will include pumpkins and apples, and even have a chance to dress up for Halloween.

Social / Emotional: We will work on following simple directions that involve 2 or 3 steps. For students who may need some help engaging in an activity during free choice, we will offer choices and encourage them to choose and try. We will play games such as pass the beanbag, or trading instruments, so we can learn how to give or offer and receive playthings from each other, and also go over what are "thumbs up, thumbs down" ways to play with toys at school.

Language / Literacy: We'll sing the Alphabet Song, and other silly songs like "B-I-N-G-O" to point out what letters are in our names. We'll play with puppets to role play and talk about how one can be a friend. We'll continue to talk about and label different feelings and show each other what our face may look like when we feel happy, sad, angry, scared or excited.

Physical: Gross Motor- We'll build simple obstacle courses that the kids can crawl, climb, step over, walk around and hop along from start to finish. We'll do simple active games such as Simon Says, or Red Light Green Light, to encourage movement while listening to directions. **Fine Motor-** We'll bring out scissors again and try cutting different textures. We'll have different types of puzzles and linking manipulatives for our busy fingers. Stickers and stampers will be added to the writing table.

Cognitive: We will sort different materials and manipulatives by color or size and practice counting them so we can tell if there are more or less of one

color or size. We'll talk about big and small and other opposite terms. I will bring in a big pumpkin, and we'll do different experiments to learn more about pumpkins, while using all of our senses.

Please remember to check the weekly emails for upcoming events and classroom activities. Also if you feel that your child may need a morning snack, please pack as necessary and let us know so we can offer it when they ask. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please know that we are here for you.

Teachers Lynda and Jennifer

PT Threes News

The month of September was a busy month in the threes class. We had a lot of fun learning all about me. We decorated paper people, shared our all about me posters with the class and read lots of great stories. During the month of October we will be learning about pumpkins and having lots of Halloween fun.

Social Emotional: As the kids are becoming more comfortable with the classroom we are having lots of chances to practice our conflict resolution skills. We are working on using our words to solve problems instead of hitting, pushing, grabbing or screaming. We will be talking about feelings as we talk about things that make us feel scared – are they pretend things like monsters or scary costumes?

Cognitive: In math we are going to be learning about shapes. At the art table we will be creating masks and puppets to use in our imaginative play. At the science center we will have an opportunity to explore pumpkins inside and out. In the dramatic play area we are going to create a pumpkin patch, so the kids can pick out pumpkins and buy them with pretend money at the cash register.

Language and Literacy: This month we will begin to work on recognizing our first names. At circle time we will do some name activities: what letter do our friends' names start with, how many letters are in your name, etc. We will also be reading lots of great Halloween and pumpkin stories.

Physical: This month we will focus on beginning to pump our legs as we swing on the swings. To develop our fine motor skills we will be doing lacing activities: lacing cards, stringing beads on a string, etc.

October means it is time for our first class party – Halloween. Please watch for more information to come about the class Halloween party in the next couple of weeks. We need small pumpkins and gourds for our pumpkin patch – feel free to bring them in the first couple of weeks of October and we will add them to our pumpkin patch.

Thank you to all of the parents that have been helping in the classroom. It is so nice to have an extra pair of hands in the classroom. Don't forget to sign up for your October co-op days!

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PT Fours News

The month of September was a busy month in the four's class. We had a lot of fun learning all about ourselves and working on both our family tree project and our "Flagon". We also charted many facts about ourselves such as hair color, eye color, number of pets and siblings, etc. Charting is a great way to introduce the kids to the math and science concepts of making observations and recording data. The students seemed to enjoy sharing lots of information about their favorite things during show-n-share as well.

During the month of October we will focus on distinguishing between things that are pretend and real. We will also focus on the Fall Season including things that grow during the Fall and also things that are associated with this time of year. Our classroom pumpkin patch was such a great success last year, we're doing it again. We'll send out info about how you can help.

October means it is time for our first class party – Halloween. So watch for more information to come about the class Halloween party in the next couple of weeks. It also means we are going on our first field trip of the year. On October 15th we will be going to McDonald's Ranch. Sign-up sheets and info is posted outside our room.

Social Emotional: This month we will encourage the kids to communicate their wants and needs as well as use their words to resolve conflicts and express feelings. We will also be encouraging new friendships and interacting with our peers in different centers.

Cognitive: This month we will focus on things that happen during the Fall. There will be cash registers and scales in dramatic play to "buy" pumpkins in our pumpkin patch. We will be doing artwork to add to our family tree... what grows in the Fall? At circle time we will continue learning patterns, counting and adding words to our word wall. At the science table we will have a chance to explore the inside of a pumpkin.

Language and Literacy: We will be reading both fiction and nonfiction books while comparing the characteristics of pretend stories and true books. After reading some fiction stories we will chart things that happened in the story compared to what happens in real life. We will also be reading about the Fall Season and learning vocabulary associated with this time of year.

Physical: Now that it is finally cooler outside, we're going to start some relay races and fun games outside. We will also be focusing on cutting skills and writing our names. At the workbench center, we'll see what happens when you hammer nails or golf tees into pumpkins.

Thank you!
Teacher Kristen and Teacher Terry



FT Infant News

It's October and we are so excited! For most of our little ones in this room it is their first Halloween and we are ready for it. We have two new friends that joined our room last month, baby Jack and baby Victoria. We are so happy that you have chosen to be part of our family and hope that we have made you feel at home.

For this month we will be doing more arts and crafts which have to do with the upcoming holidays. But of course we are also still working on the development of our new little bodies and how they work. We will also be exploring our environment and its surroundings.

YES, YES, YES! The infants will be having a Halloween party full of games and fun on the 30th. Make sure to put on those cute costumes because we will be taking lots of pictures. This month is going to be a great and exciting month. I can't wait to get started.

Teacher Citha

FT Twos News

October is here and this is going to be a SCARY month! This month is always so much fun as it will be highlighted with a Halloween party. Last month we all had a great time working on Dinosaurs and learning about leaves. This month the weather will be much nicer as the summer heat will finally come to a halt. Our main theme will be about "me" and each student will focus on how they are unique.

We are still watching Miss Terri's Goldfish. We would like a bigger fish tank if anyone has one. When we have a bigger tank we are looking to get a friend for the fish. The students will be able to work on incorporating friendship with the classroom pet once we have two fish. ☺

Cognitive: This month the unit that we will be focusing on is Halloween and "me". When working on the "me" theme we will be working on what makes each student unique and special. Allowing the students to talk about themselves and learn about each other helps them begin to understand what makes them special. The "me" theme will continue to help the students practice their compare and contrast skills, and also allow them learn about themselves. A main emphasis of this unit is working on giving each student more self esteem. If you have any books at home that you use that your children like to read please feel free to share for a day or two.

Social/Emotional: The reoccurring theme each month will be working on 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. Using our words to resolve conflicts is an important element of our class. 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. Make sure that at home your children are learning to use their words to ask for different items. It is often easy to read our child's body language but it is important that they learn to use their words.

Language and Literacy: Our main stories will

focus on Halloween. There will be many opportunities to learn new vocabulary this month and also to express out creativity with dramatic play! We also work with songs to refine listening skills. Every month I use new songs and if you hear your child at home singing and want to learn the words just let me know!

Physical: Summer may finally be over. It looks like we are finally hitting 100 degrees consistently. This is great since we will be able to do more activities outside and enjoy some nice weather. We will be using songs that talk about the body parts and memory sounds that incorporate motions such as hopping, skipping, jumping, walking, tip toes, and galloping. Inside we will continue singing and dancing to develop motor skills, improve balance and coordination, increase rhythm, and participate as a group.

We won't have an extended water day like during the summer. We will continue to have water activities on Friday, but the time will be shorter. Make sure to bring an extra set of clothing for your children.

Halloween party: We will have a Halloween costume party at the end of the month. Start thinking about costumes for your children as it will be lots of fun! The Halloween party will be on October 30th. We would like each parent to buy 6 small gifts for the party. Something at the dollar store will be perfect.

We will be creating a piggy bank between the different teachers. Teacher Lama will have the piggy bank for our class. Please bring in any change that you have to spare! ☺

Miss Dulce Harbison

FT Threes News

It's hard to believe September is already over! We spent the month focusing on family, manners, colors and shapes. We have built a great classroom community with all the children getting along, working and playing together. We are very proud of them!

In the month of October we will begin our "Fall" unit. It may be 100 degrees outside but we will have Fall in the classroom. We will work with apples, leaves and pumpkins. We will also learn about spiders and bats towards the end of the month.

Cognitive (Math/Science) We will continue to work on making class graphs and charts. We will measure, weigh, and investigate the insides of apples and pumpkins. We will be sorting leaves and nuts, counting seeds, and have a variety of gourds and pumpkins for the children to examine. We will continue to work on shapes and colors with some new shape sorting games and color mixing.

Language/Literacy We will begin assembling class books. This is a great pre-reading activity and the children love to see their hard work put together in a book for everyone to see. I would like to get one done a month. We will start with name writing and pictures of themselves. All of the children have attempted writing their name and are very proud of it!

Social/Emotional We have worked so hard on building a classroom community and a "team". The children are using their words and learning to share. The children are doing a fantastic job of sitting quietly during circle time, listening and following directions. Also, I am encouraging the children to talk more at circle time, share ideas, or tell the class something interesting they did. This works on speaking and listening skills that are an important part of everyday life.

Physical (Fine/Gross) The mornings are beginning to cool off, so we are able to spend more time outside. The children continue to work on pumping those legs on the swings! Tracing and cutting is a daily activity that helps build fine motor control. We have new shape lacing activities, new puzzles and some new manipulatives, all of which build fine motor skills.

Reminders: Please send in an apple with your child for the week of October 5. Please send in a small pumpkin by the week of October 12. Show and Share will be on the first Thursday of each month. Please keep toys at home unless there is a special something your child likes to nap with. 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.