

**GRENLOCH TERRACE
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009**



CLASSROOM COLLAGE

The children in Mrs. Chranowski's, Mrs. Lerch's, Mrs. Millisky's and Mrs. Peloso's classes continue to develop their literacy and math skills. It is truly exciting to watch, as the children gain self confidence and feel good about what "they" can do. The smile on their faces and their enthusiasm is priceless! November will bring songs, poems, books and art projects into the classroom as the children learn about Pilgrims, Native Americans and celebrating the First Thanksgiving. In closing, we would like to thank our parents who so willingly offer their time to help in the classroom, send in party treats and chaperone field trips. Your time is very much appreciated.....we couldn't do what we do without you!

November is a very busy month. We continue to work on skills such as counting, numeral recognition, letter recognition and following directions. Families, friends and celebrations are always part of November lessons. Miss Woyonski's children will be working on a "family turkey". Each family will be decorating a feather to add to the turkey. The assembled turkey will represent all the families. The children will also be making an "I am Thankful Turkey". They will each draw a picture to represent why they are

thankful. Miss Woyonski's children will join Mrs. Mickelson's children for a Thanksgiving Feast.

Mrs. Mickelson's children will be patterning various Thanksgiving pictures such as Indians turkeys and cornucopia. The boys and girls will also be learning Indian stick games as well as making Indian vests out of paper bags. Each child will also create a Pilgrim. Mrs. Mickelson's boys and girls will be making turkey shaped cookies.

Preschool classes celebrated the season of fall, fire safety, and Halloween! We began our month by celebrating fire prevention week. We practiced staying safe during an emergency, including learning how to "stop, drop, and roll" and dialing 911. We met some real firefighters and saw a big fire truck during our fire prevention assembly! Next, we took a walking field trip through the woods to collect fall leaves, pine cones, and acorns! After our walk, we went to Heck Park to play and have a picnic snack! We made fall collages and looked at and touched the insides of real pumpkins in our classrooms! We also learned some new holiday songs, took make-believe spooky walks, and practiced "trick-or-treating!" We had another exciting field trip to celebrate Halloween! We went to Zimmerman's Farm to pick pumpkins, go on a hayride, and share apple cider doughnuts and

juice with our friends! We have many more exciting activities ahead in preschool! We can't believe that it is November!!

The classes of Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Birch, Miss Bucci, Mrs. Small and Mrs. MacDonald have been having so much fun that time just whizzed on by us.

Lots of learning has been happening in our classrooms though! We were thrilled as you came during American Education Week to view what fabulous tasks we are completing every day!! Fall has been a wonderful season to learn about in our Literacy Groups as well as our classroom. We have learned the different activities and holidays that take place in this colorful fall of reds,

Yellows, oranges and brown. Best of all, we like jumping in the leaves!! The holidays of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are also classroom topics. We listened to

the very brave men and women who have defended our country as we saluted the flag as a school around the flag pole. It is amazing to us that the Pilgrims traveled to this new world and did not have cars, telephones or Wiis'! We are so grateful for all that we have in our lives such as our families, home and friends!! Of course, we continue to write together as a class, in our journals and on worksheets. Everyday Math continues to be a large part of our day as we count the days, use coins to make the date and count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. The learning never stops!!! Two thoughts for the month: Have your child practice writing their name using only the first letter as a capital. It is great practice as we learn all the letters of the alphabet as well as capital and lower case. Also, read, read, read to and with



your child. It is the best homework you can do to help your child succeed.



LIBRARY LIFE

As October comes to an end, many things have happened in the library. The students are now scanning their books in and out of the library. Most of them are so technologically savvy; they can teach me a thing or two. Also, they are so excited about the books they take out, that I will be starting a book sharing time on days that the books are brought back. One of my favorite things to do during story time is to incorporate story telling techniques that I have acquired from various workshops. Using the story, The Scarecrow's Hat by; Ken Brown, I was able to use these skills. I really enjoyed telling the story and I know the children enjoyed participating in its retelling. Using props such as: a walking stick, straw hat, ribbon, batting, blanket and glasses added dimension to the event. I am currently trying to locate another story to present to the children at a later time in the year. Of course, what would October be without Halloween? During the week of 10/26 I read the story Bone Soup by Cambia Evans. This book tells of a creature name Finnigin who travels to a town seeking a little food. When the town refuses to share, he begins making a soup using an old bone. Eventually, the town's creatures learn to share what they have and a wonderful soup is enjoyed by all. With my witch's hat, black caldron and goodies such as bats, spiders, rats and stewed eyeballs, the students did a retelling of an old



story Stone Soup. Oh, and the soup was delicious☺

Hope your October was as Boootiful as ours at GTECC!!!

Mrs. Anita DeAngelis
School library media
specialist



THE LITERACY CENTER

This month your child participated in a literacy circle with Mrs. Chapman & Mrs. Rygalski. The focus of this lesson was using *descriptive language*. We first read a book called “fall” describing different things you experience during the fall season. During the lesson, the literacy specialist described three objects by explaining how they may look, feel, taste, and sound. Your child had to guess what object from the book their teacher was describing and draw it on their paper. The three items that were described to your child were a pumpkin, a leaf, and an apple. In the last box your child chose their own object to **describe** to the group. Should you have any questions about this month’s lesson or about literacy circles, please call Mrs. Chapman at 227-1303 ext. 4416 or Mrs. Rygalski ext. 4422

The children have been very busy in October. They have been practicing writing their letters and learning their sounds. They have been writing and drawing wonderful stories and enjoy sharing them with one another. The children have been sharing in language and phonemic awareness activities and especially enjoy rhyming. The children are progressing nicely!

SPEAKING OF SPEECH

Many kindergarten students are well on their way to developing new speech and language skills. Mrs. Creran and Mrs. Meeks are thrilled with the progress their students are making as they regularly practice at home each day. We want to extend our appreciation to the parents for encouraging home practice. The children are learning to become active listeners and better speakers. They are enjoying their small group settings as they “play” interactive games and tackle language activities in speech language class to reinforce speech language goals.

Progress reports will soon be coming home for students who have been regularly attending speech language class. Meanwhile, many new students are just beginning speech class and are adjusting very well to the routine. Some students are currently undergoing the evaluation process. Although school is closed for several days throughout November, the children are encouraged to continue practicing/reviewing as frequently as possible to prevent the loss of skills recently acquired.

As always, please feel free to call, write a note, or send an e-mail with any concerns. We are thoroughly enjoying working with your children.

SPECIAL SPECIALS

This month in Mr. Przybylowski’s Music class the students will be performing a song entitled “This is Our Flag” in honor of the men and women who have served our great nation. We will also continue chanting, singing, and moving to new music. The students will continue to develop their rhythmic vocabulary through rhythmic tonal

patterns. We will also begin to explore song form (AB) by clapping to the first part of a song and then marching to the second part of a song. Keep singing and moving!

Hello again!! October was such a fun month in Mr. Canzanese's Physical Education class. First we learned some very important football skills. We practiced catching and throwing a football. Also, every student was able to score their very first touchdown!! We then moved on to an introduction to soccer.



We practiced our passing and trapping which are both essential skills for the game. For Halloween, we played a very fun game called Monsters, Inc. We all had a great time being able to dance and move like monsters. During November we will be continuing our soccer unit.

In Mrs. Fleming's Art class the students will be continuing their exploration of color, shape and design. At the end of October the students made "Leaf Monsters" using leaves they collected on their Fall Leaf Walk with the Park Rangers. The "Leaf Monsters" were sent home because the leaves probably wouldn't last in the portfolios. A few classes had some extra space near their classroom for the "Leaf Monsters" to be displayed. Those "Leaf Monsters" will be sent home when they are taken down. I hope you enjoy them.

EXCITING ESL

We are proud to say that our English language learners come to school every day excited, eager and ready to learn! We are off to a great start! The boys and

girls in the ESL program have enjoyed learning about the spooky and curious American holiday of Halloween. Our senses now turn to the sights, sounds, aromas, textures and tastes of fall. We will explore colors through the changing leaves. We will experiment with special foods that represent the season, like *pumpkin pie, apple cider, cranberries and turkey*. Our vocabularies will grow with words like *feathers, Pilgrims and Native Americans* as we learn about the American celebration of Thanksgiving. Our explorations and activities continue to reinforce our knowledge of shapes, numbers, letters and sounds. ESL at GTECC – seven nations, one learning community!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Help teach your child about responsibility and making choices. The older your child gets, the more decisions he'll have to make on his own. Give him a little practice now. Let your child decide between two safe choices, for example (rice chex or cornflakes for breakfast, blue pants or brown for today). If he/she spills her drink, don't rush to clean it. Instead, ask, "What do you think you should do?" If he/she doesn't answer right away, simply say, "We clean up our spill," and hand him/her a towel.

NURSE NOTES

As predicted, the cold and flu season has hit Washington Township, along with many other South Jersey towns. As we all try to get through this difficult time, keep it mind that the best way to stop the spread of infection in the schools is for parents to keep sick children home. If your child just "doesn't look quite right"

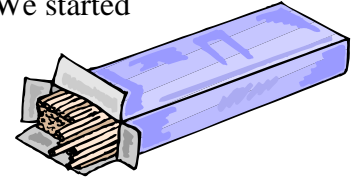
before school, it might be a good idea to keep them home. Nothing is worse than seeing a child who has gotten sick at school in the nurse's office crying for mom or dad. We also want to protect our students who have other health issues that make them more vulnerable to these types of infections. Please remember to keep your emergency contact information up to date. If you have any change in phone number, address, or persons who may pick your child up, you should notify the main office or the health office. This is extremely important to prevent problems contacting you for your sick or injured child.

HOME & SCHOOL **HAPPENINGS**

October was a very busy month for the Home and School Council. We had many picture taking events for our yearbook. Thanks to Jennifer Amato, our chairperson for photographers, and Kristin Roberts and Sharon Wiseburn, our yearbook editors, for organizing all the photographers for our Kindergartener's trip to Duffield's, Fire Assemblies, Kindergarten and Pre-school Fall Walks and for our spectacular Halloween Parade. Thanks to all the parents that came out to the events and will be submitting their pictures. Thanks also to Veronica Charlton and Denise Hare, our chairpeople for class pictures, for setting up our volunteers to help out for our very organized "Lifetouch" picture days. We thank you for your incredible support of the Yankee Fundraiser!! We made a profit of 6,500.00 with the Yankee candle fundraiser. A HUGE thank you to Julie Karasik, our



fundraising chairperson, for a well organized successful sale. She has already put many hours into planning successful fundraisers!! Thanks to Colette, our treasurer for the large deposit and record keeping. We started our "Pasta with Personality" Fundraiser. We thank you in advance for your support of this too!!! With your support we were able to purchase all the pumpkins for the children this month. Home and School has many upcoming events that we are looking forward to. Our honorary veteran's will be visiting this month on November 12th. We also look forward to our Annual Home and School Bake Sale during American Education Week- November 20th, 23rd and 24th. Kristin Roberts, our door sitter's chairperson, will be contacting those who signed up, who will sit at the doors to greet and sign in people during American Education Week. Those who signed up to bake will be contacted soon to provide baked goods for this sale. Our annual Door Decorating will take place on November 30th, our chairperson for this event, Colette, will be contacting those that signed up shortly. In December, we look forward to our Holiday Shop on the evenings of Tuesday, December 1st and Thursday, December 3rd ONLY. On the school calendar it says it is all week. Home and School has retracted that and it will only be held on the two nights stated. Home and School officers will be contacting those that volunteered in late November. This is a packed shopping event, both nights, with all the children of Grenloch, their siblings and parents. We also look forward to our visit from Santa sometime in December. Thank you to the WTEA- Washington Twp. Education Association who provided



snacks and refreshments for our first meeting. Thanks to Sue Heimlich, my Co-President for organizing all of this. Thank you to our speakers, Mrs. Melroy and Mrs. Chranowski, who spoke at our October Parent Meeting about Everyday Math. It was great to meet so many of you, moms and dads, that night and we look forward to seeing many of you again and maybe even more of you at our November meeting on the 18th with the topic of the Child Study Team being presented. A special thank you to the Home and School Officers who do a lot of behind the scenes work...copying

(Wendy Foss and Christine McCarry), organizing our volunteer lists (Christine-corresponding secretary and Rupal-Vice President) drafting letters, counting monies, record keeping, making purchases for the school, keeping minutes at meetings, organizing events etc. This board is very dedicated in making your child have a memorable year. We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and we thank all of you for all that you do for the children of Grenloch!!!



Thanksgiving

PRINCIPAL'S POST **SCRIPT**

It was great to see so many of you at our annual Halloween parade and in school for conferences this month these past few weeks; I'll look forward to seeing even more of you in school for American Education Week. Mark you calendars for November 20th, 23rd and 24th and plan on visiting your child's classroom between the hours of 9:45 and 11:15 or 1:15 and 2:45. Your child's teacher will send home a schedule so you can plan accordingly. Don't forget you can park at Hecht Park and cut through the back gate rather than try to cross the busy street in front of the school. We will have someone at the back door of the blue wing so you can enter there.

When you come for American education week, don't forget to stop by the bake sale table. Lots of homemade goodies will be there and we won't tell anyone that you didn't make them if you want to serve them on Thanksgiving!

Our October Home and School Council presentation was on Every Day Math this past month. Mrs. Melroy and Mrs. Chranowski did a great job sharing an overview of the program and demonstrating what it looks like in school as well as how you can practice with your child at home. If you missed it, you can go to our web page and click on the parent video link. There you will find a presentation done last year by

Mrs. Lightfoot and Mrs. Melroy which covers much of the same information.

Mark you calendars for Wednesday, November 18.th. Dr. Samantha Dawson, one of our school psychologists, will share information on the child study team process from a parent's perspective. The HSC will give a quick update at 7:00 and Dr. Dawson will begin her presentation right after. Our meetings generally conclude around 8:00.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and always know that among my many blessings I count the privilege of spending my days with your delightful children as well as the support you offer as we work together to provide a safe, happy, educational first school experience for your child!

Sincerely,

Wendy Crawford

Wendy Crawford
GTECC Principal