



## November 2009 Newsletter

Please join us for a **Kindergarten and First Grade Information Night** on **Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Wiggle Room.

We will have presentations on both grades with sample curriculum materials. After the presentation we will have a question and answer session. Both classes are all-day programs, and Extended Care is available at the end of the school day from 3:00 to 6:00 in the Digital Discovery Center. Small class sizes with a 1:14 teacher-student ratio in both Kindergarten and First Grade ensure that your children receive individualized instruction based on their developmental needs. Admission packets will be available at the meeting. This is a great opportunity to find out about the *Pembroke Difference*, and our exciting plans for the future. If you can't attend but would like more information, please speak to Andrea.

### **Important Dates:**

Thanksgiving Recess begins at the end of the day Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. In December, our Holiday Recess begins at the end of the day Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.



**The Holidays will soon be here!** Right after Thanksgiving, during the three weeks until our holiday break, we will be **Sharing Holiday Traditions!** This is a fun time when family members can sign up to visit their child's class and share a special holiday activity or family tradition. We will be scheduling two visits per day with the first visit being a hands-on craft activity with a holiday or seasonal theme. Our second time to visit during these special days is at the end of the day just before dismissal. Come read your child's favorite holiday book to his or her classmates and help provide a lovely and festive way to end the day.

Please consider signing up for a hands-on activity or for story time. Its great fun and your children love to have

you visit class! Watch for the sign-up sheets by each classroom door. **Sharing Holiday Traditions** has become a favorite Pembroke Kids tradition, and we all gain so much by learning about different religious and cultural traditions. It truly brings us all closer together as a community.



### **Recycling Project:**

You may have noticed, a bin under the table in front of the Digital Discovery Center containing assorted bottle caps.

Pembroke Kids is

participating in a plastic bottle cap recycling project. Often these caps end up as litter or trash and migrate into our rivers and oceans. Birds and other marine creatures mistake them for food with tragic results. The magnitude of this pollution problem is devastating to our oceans and wildlife.

If you would like to participate, please begin collecting plastic caps from most household items: soda and water bottles, shampoo containers, detergent containers. Bring them in (clean caps only please) and dump them in the bin. A project such as this empowers us to work locally to influence change on a national level. When we all work together with a common purpose, we can effect change. Thank you for participating in a project that teaches our children the importance of taking responsibility for the environment.

### **Miss Kelly' Class**

The Triangle Room had a fabulous October full of fall festivities and friends! We came together to learn many new things, work on problem solving, and grow more independent. We focused on name recognition, sorting, patterning, wooden writing piece identification, and journal procedures.

As October began and we prepared for our first field trip of the year to Burnham's Orchard, we started learning about life "On the Farm". We transformed our classroom box building into a barn, made clean mud (inspired by Mrs. Wishy Washy), milked a cow, and even made our very own home-made vanilla ice cream. As summer faded further into autumn, we moved on to our "It's Fall" unit. During these few weeks, we worked in our apple and pumpkin store, took an up-close look at autumn leaves, built a scarecrow, and much more! Finally, as October came to a close and Halloween drew nearer, we focused on "Nocturnal Animals". Throughout the week, we explored our classroom cave, painted bat pumpkins, created raccoon masks, and even made a bat piñata. We had a great time learning in October!

As we look forward to November, I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead! We will delve into the theme “Things That Go” for several weeks to learn about all sorts of transportation and vehicles that can get us from one place to another. Then, as Thanksgiving draws near, we will learn about both “Friendships” and “Cooking in the Classroom”. Throughout these themes, we will focus on one-to-one correspondence, ordering of numbers, writing our names, and building Mat Man with our handwriting shapes. November promises to be a ton of fun!

Lastly, I’d like to thank all of you who were able to make it to our Burnham Orchard field trip, come to conferences, and donate apples and Halloween party items. Thank you for all of your support!

### Miss Kim & Miss Chrissy’s Class

Thank you so much for taking the time to come in for your child's conference, and for signing up to donate items for our Halloween celebration!

Over the past few weeks, we have observed the changing season as fall arrives. We have talked about the weather and the change in temperature, and have also been observing, collecting, and doing many fun activities with leaves! Halloween was also a great success. We were able to decorate and carve pumpkins, and participate in our school wide costume parade. We loved seeing our teachers and friends in their very best costumes!

In the weeks to come, we will be learning about dinosaurs, and will go on a yummy digging adventure to find dinosaur bones. We will also be creating our own dinosaurs by using shapes, our shoes, and even pasta! We will also add dinosaur words to our alphabet book as we continue working on letters and sounds. After our dinosaur adventure, we will turn the classroom into a grocery store. We will be using a pretend cash register and money, and will begin reading environmental print. We are looking forward to our upcoming themes, and know your child will be excited!

Remember--winter is right around the corner, and we do go outside as temperatures permit. Please start thinking about snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, etc. and encourage your child to practice getting these items on independently.

### Miss Robyn and Miss Sue’s Class

Over the past few weeks, we have truly enjoyed getting to know each family. Thank you to everyone who participated in our conferences and our Halloween Celebrations. The children really look forward to our special visitors and helpers in the classroom. Look outside our classroom for a “Share-a-Story” sign-up

sheet. We would love to hear some new voices in our story time circle.

If you haven’t done so already, now is the time to change the clothes in your child’s extra clothes box. Please check that the sizes are correct and that the clothing is appropriate for the chilly weather. Your child also needs to wear a jacket everyday. We try to stay outside for 30 minutes each day. Even though the children are running, riding bikes, hiking, and climbing, they still get chilly.

We will be learning about and making different modes of transportation during the first two weeks in November. **We would like every child to bring in a picture of a vehicle for our newest classroom book. It can be a vehicle that you own, their favorite, or something interesting that you have seen. Please bring the pictures into the classroom by November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

### Miss Brooke and Miss Jackie’s Class

This October we have had such fun learning all about fall and the Halloween holiday. We started out the month with a wonderful unit on Apples that included exploring our classroom apple store. We then had such fun on our field trip to Burnham Orchards where we learned so much about apples. We then explored pumpkins and the season of fall highlighted by the pumpkin “guts” in our sensory table. We finished off October with a wonderful Halloween celebration full of candy, a spooky cave, costumes galore and even a 5 little ghosts performance for our parent visitors. We extend a big thank you to all who volunteered and contributed to our Halloween celebrations. We had such a wonderful time at both parties.

This upcoming month, we are looking forward to learning about nocturnal animals, the Jungle, transportation and the Thanksgiving holiday. Now that all of the children are familiar with our routines and expectations, we will begin to incorporate some more letter identification activities into our curriculum. A



great activity to try at home: Helping your child to recognize the letters in his/her name. You can use magnetic letters on the fridge or on a cookie sheet at the kitchen table to help your child build their name. Letter stickers are always fun to try and spell out names. Pour a little salt or granulated sugar into a cookie sheet and let your child try and use their pointer finger to “write” the letters in their name in the grains of salt or sugar. By learning the letters in your child’s name you are facilitating a meaningful learning experience at home.