



## November 2016 Newsletter

Directors: Sam Russo and Jeanne Sweazey

Phone: 781.721.5566

Email: director@creativecornerschool.com

Dear Creative Corner School Families,  
During the month of October, we had fun learning about the season changing to Autumn. We went on many walks and explored the many changing colors of leaves. We collected leaves, studied them, and looked at their differences. We also used them to create many new art projects, like rubbing stencils. We explored apples and pumpkins and learned how they grow from a tiny seed. We loved discovering what was inside and learned that pumpkins have hundreds of seeds.

As November starts, it is the month that reminds us to be thankful. We will be learning about being thankful and studying an author as we learn how they create the wonderful stories we read every day.

We would like each of you to know how thankful we are that your family is part of the Creative Corner School.

We are also thankful for the opportunity to watch your child grow and learn daily.

Kind regards,  
Jeanne and Sam

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Food Drive** - We will be hosting a can drive with donation bins located on the bottom and first floor. All donations will be donated to **The Council of Social Concern in Woburn** before Thanksgiving. We hope that you will participate and donate canned and nonperishable food during this time.

**Thursday & Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>** -The center is closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

### Program Updates

#### **Scholastic Book Fair:**

From all the families and teachers who bought books, Creative Corner School earned over \$1400 in free Books. They will be distributed equally throughout the center. Thank you for all your support.

### Classroom Highlights

**Infants:** The infants at Creative Corner School had a very festive and busy month of October. During the month of October, the infant program hosted curriculum night where we interacted with the families

and showcased the many different learning activities and areas in each infant classroom. The classrooms showcased three different activities focusing on art and sensory, fine motor, and language. The families had a great time partaking in counting ducks in water, making art with leaves from outside, and figuring out the different textured materials in a mystery box. As a sensory and exploration activity, infants explored with a pumpkin which the teachers cut open and let the babies explore the flesh of the pumpkin. On the 31st of October, our infants and families participated in a costume parade. We had a blast dressing up in our favorite and silliest costumes and walking around Sheridan Circle collecting treats. As the weather is getting colder, we urge our families to dress the babies in warmer outside wear as weather permitting we will go on walks.

**Toddlers:** We had a wonderful month of October in toddlers! Our classrooms learned about apples and how fun it is to go apple picking with our families and friends. Our toddlers also loved exploring pumpkins. In our classrooms, we could explore our sense of touch when the teachers cut open the pumpkins and let the children touch the seeds inside. We also utilized our senses during our autumn leaves unit. We took a nature walk around the neighborhood and collected different colored leaves. To end our fun in October, we had our costume parade! The toddlers dressed up in their costumes and paraded around the school to collect some fun treats.

Now that the weather is colder, we are reminding parents to look in their child's cubby to see if he/she has weather appropriate clothing. It is important to send in your child with mittens, jackets and hats so they will be able to have fun outside before it starts snowing.

**Preschool:** Welcome Fall! October was a wonderful month for Preschool! It was so nice to get out in the cooler weather for great neighborhood walks. Our time around the art table has been fun! We made some apple stamping pictures, tissue art collages and fantastic marble paintings! During science exploration, teachers cut into different types of apples and friends got to taste them and make applesauce. Friends

played in sensory bins full of sand and pasta! We explored magnets and had fun learning about orchards! Preschool math was fun too. We played counting games and made some interesting graphs that you can see hung around the classrooms. Our Handwriting without tears program has begun. Friends have had fun making Mat Man and singing to our "Tap Tap" song. We look forward to November when we will further explore autumn colors and Fall happenings.

**Pre-K and Kindergarten:** The Pre-K classes were busy all month learning about mixing primary colors to produce secondary colors as we viewed all the shapes that we see all around us in nature. We used name recognition skills as we located our very own pumpkins in Creative Corner's pumpkin patch and then painted them. The classes measured, counted and estimated how many seeds our class pumpkin held after we carved the pumpkin into a Jack-O-Lantern. During fire safety week, we learned the importance of fire drills and knowing safety routes out of our homes in case of fire. We learned all the special tools and equipment needed to put out a fire on our field trip to the Woburn Fire Station. The children were exposed to the process of voting with our very own voting booth and election between Duck and Farmer Brown. Next month's themes will include spiders, sensational senses, many thanks and an author study.

### **Everyday Mathematics**

Cooking with kids is one of the most valuable family activities you can engage in together. Cooking is math (fractions, measuring and adding), science (chemistry), literacy (reading the recipe) and following directions. When you cook with your child they are more willing to try new foods if they helped make it. Please try this easy pumpkin pancake recipe at home with you child. You may also add a literacy component by reading the story If You Give a Pig a Pancake, by Laura Numeroff.

### **Pumpkin Pancakes**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 egg
- 1 2/3 cups milk
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon Pumpkin Pie Spice
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### **Instructions**

1. Beat egg in medium bowl. Add milk, pumpkin, butter and vanilla; mix well. Mix remaining ingredients in large bowl until well blended. Add pumpkin mixture; stir just until blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Pour 1/4 cup of batter per pancake onto preheated lightly greased griddle or skillet. Cook 1 to 2 minutes per side or until golden brown, turning when pancakes begin to bubble

### **Reminders**

Late pick-up after 6pm: if a child is left at Creative Corner School past our normal closing time of 6pm a penalty fee of \$2 per minute will be charged.

Late pickup prior to 6pm: during the center's normal hours of operation, you will be charged in full-hour extended rates, provided the Director has been notified that pick-up will be delayed. A penalty rate of \$2 per minute will be charged for failing to notify the Director of a late pick-up.

### **Art Enrichment**

This school year at Creative Corner School we are taking a global approach to art, meaning that whenever possible we use materials that have been up-cycled to take care of our earth by not creating waste. In addition, we will focus on different parts of our world and the artists and art traditions that come from each part. First up, we have been studying Africa. We learned that Africa was the first place where people wore jewelry so our toddlers, preschool, pre-K and K friends had an opportunity to strengthen their fine motor skills by doing their own beading. In each infant room, they created their own African Rain stick. In the weeks to come we will continue to study Africa by looking at African folk art.

### **STEM Enrichment**

This year we also have the great joy of presenting a STEM (science, technology engineering, mathematics) curriculum to the pre-K and kindergarteners. We are focusing first on the skills of an engineer. We learned that engineers are makers and read the book "Rosie Revere Engineer" by Andrea Beaty. From that we learned to embrace our "first perfect failures" and to support our classmates. We reinforced this philosophy while making paper airplanes, marble runs, and building with Beautiful Stuff Treasure Boxes. We've heard great feedback from your children about these fun activities. They seem to truly love this style of process oriented critical thinking

### **Music Enrichment**

Students loved singing songs and moving to music about Autumn last month! They especially enjoyed experiencing “Grey Squirrel”, “Snowy Owl” and the whirling and twirling of “Leaves Are Falling”! Looking ahead to November, we will feature some Thanksgiving music to celebrate the upcoming holiday. Following the Pilgrims’ lead (of singing music from their travels), we will sing a traditional children’s song from the Netherlands that means “thanks for food” — “Tak fur Maden”. Feel free to add your own items to be thankful for!

***Tak fur Maden*** (pronounced TAHK FUR MAHDEN)

*Tak fur maden*

*Tak fur maden*

*Thank you for this food.*

*Tak fur maden*

*Tak fur maden*

*Thank you for our family.*

### **Thank You**

- We would like to thank all the families who participated in our Open House.
- We would like to thank all the families at Creative Corner School that purchased books online and those that bought them at the book fair. All books were received and distributed to your child’s classroom.
- Thank you to all the staff who volunteered to help at the book fair.

For administrative questions contact Joanne Senders at 781.721.5566 or [joanne@creativecornerschool.com](mailto:joanne@creativecornerschool.com)

For financial questions contact Debbie Moulton at 781.721.5560 or [debbie@creativecornerschool.com](mailto:debbie@creativecornerschool.com)