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## Growing Highlights

October 2018

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Dear Parents,

Mark your calendars for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Fall Festival, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have appetizers in one of the classrooms, and then tricks and treats in the other classrooms. The teachers have lots planned! If you would like to help out and bring an appetizer, there will be a sign-up on my door. Children (and parents) can come in costume for the event, which starts at 5:30pm. Something new this year, we will be making tie blankets to donate to the Linus Project. Please stop by the classroom where this is located and feel free to help out!

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on a separate night (Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>) and sign-up sheets will be posted in the classrooms to sign up with your child's teacher.

We have also been busy this Fall going to apple orchards and pumpkin farms. The children really enjoy these trips and always love bringing home their apples/pumpkins. Remember, parents are always welcome to chaperone a field trip!

I hope to see you all at the Fall Festival!

*Jess Donohue*, Director

[jdohue@grandmashouse.org](mailto:jdohue@grandmashouse.org)

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

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Wednesday, 10/10 ~ Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Monday, 10/15 ~ Scholastic Book Orders Due  
Thursday, 10/25 ~ Family Fall Festival

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## NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

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### *Lil Cheeseheads - Infants*

Happy Fall! We have lots we are working on in the baby classroom. We are starting to have new little bundles of joy joining us, so our lesson plans start to be more geared towards the younger babies, always adapting for our older friends. We continuously work on *holding our heads erect/steady* placing your baby on tummy time. Tummy Time is also important for mobility as they become older. We are also working on *holding hands in front* and *hand to mouth coordination*. With the babies who are able, we are working on *sitting with or without support*. To sit with support we offer a bumby seat or boppy pillow with a toy bar to encourage sitting. Without support, we sit with your child on the playmat using our legs as support if they should topple to the side. With time and practice, your baby will soon be sitting up like a pro! Lastly, we

### *Door County Cherries - 3's*

We are having a great start to the Fall! We are enjoying the start of cooler days so we can spend even more time outside! We kicked off the Fall with a transportation theme and worked on AB patterns by patterning different transportation vehicles and we worked on mastering some transportation puzzles. Our next theme is going to be All About Me! We will work on measuring with non-standard units by measuring our feet and we will work on drawing a person by drawing self-portraits. Any of these focuses could be worked on at home too by grabbing different colored blocks, beads, etc. to pattern with. You could also ask your child to draw a picture of you and see if they

are working on *showing pleasure in sounds*. Nothing beats hearing coos and babbles from your baby.

*Ms. Holly S. & Ms. Jenna, Infants*

### *Cream Puffs - Older Infants*

We had a blast this summer exploring the playground, water play and bubbles, bubbles, bubbles. We would like to welcome Fall and new friends with a fun filled Hello! One child portfolio focus will be *imitating gestures* by singing the Wheels on the Bus and demonstrating the movements. Another focus is *manipulating busy boxes* by allowing friends to explore toys with push buttons and sounds. Please bring in warmer jackets, pants, and shoes for the playground.

*Ms. Denise & Ms. Bekah, Older Infants*

### *Polka Tots - Toddlers*

With cool temperatures, falling leaves and pumpkin flavored everything, we can officially welcome Fall! We have been busy playing and learning in our new classroom. During our Nursery Rhymes unit, we focused on using a spoon and pointing to body parts. We used a spoon to eat the Jello we made in class and also yummy snacks like yogurt and applesauce. We learned our body parts by looking at Nursery Rhyme picture books,

can include 3-6 body parts. With cooler days approaching, please bring in a sweatshirt or jacket for playing outside. We will have a field trip on Monday, 10/1 for a creative movement class and a field trip on Thursday, 10/4 to the Very Hungry Caterpillar Play.

*Ms. Cassidy & Ms. Ashley, 3's*

### *The Cabin Kids - 4's*

Time flies when you are having fun learning! Just around the corner will be conferences and the Fall Festival! We have been busy learning new skills and practicing old ones. We are working on cutting a curved line. To practice at home you can draw a curved line on any piece of paper and have your child cut on that line. The next portfolio focus we have been working on is drawing simple shapes; circle, triangle, and square. To practice, have your child trace a circle, triangle, square that you have drawn on a piece of paper. Then have them try it on their own. Another portfolio focus we are working on is learning how to write our names either all uppercase or just the first letter uppercase and the rest lowercase. We are also focusing on

singing songs and by looking at pictures of our friends and family. We will be exploring themes such as All About Me, Apples and Pumpkins. We're looking forward to the fun this season will bring.

*Ms. Amanda & Ms. Lori, Toddlers*

### *Fish Fry's - Older Toddlers*

We have been enjoying the new classroom. So far we have explored themes of All About Me and Back to School. Being the beginning of a new classroom, we are learning different aspects from our child portfolio. For example, we have been building towers with blocks of foam, plastic and textures. We have also been exploring colors around the room and outside. Currently, we are working on mastering puzzles with handled pieces. Lastly, our final focus is mastering our utensils at the table, such as our forks and spoons. We encourage you to practice some of these skills at home when you are both in the kitchen, exploring outside, or even when you are getting ready in the morning. We have a student teacher, Ms. Andrea, helping us learn and grow. The children are excited to play with her.

*Ms. Olivia O. & Ms. Julie, Older Toddlers*

### *Puddle Ducks - 2's*

mastering a puzzle with 24 pieces. Keep an eye out for information on our Halloween Party.

*Ms. Brittnee, 4's*

### *Rockin' Robins - 4K*

The first month of 4K has been a blast! Right off the bat we have jumped into a few different portfolio objectives including name recognition, scissor control, technology, and positioning.

Since all the students are fresh to my class I have done a lot of little lessons here and there to see if they recognize their names. Holding their name up with no words, spelling their name aloud without showing, and asking them to find their names in a group of names. All these are done on a weekly basis in 4K. To continue learning their names, we practice writing their names, calling out their last names and eventually writing/copying their last names.

With a new class it was easy to start off the year with expectations when using scissors so we went over rules and got right to practice cutting. Right away we cut on straight and curved lines, on paper with a troll cut

We have had such a good time getting to know our new Puddle Ducks! We started out exploring colors. We played lots of color match and big/small match games to help us learn about color and size. We also used our pincer grasp to use spray bottles with a baking soda/color vinegar exploration. This is one way to get us ready to learn how to use scissors! Then we moved onto our Artistic Adventure. We worked on building towers with 4-8 colored cubes and using pedals on the tricycles. We painted with sponges, made leaf collages and made glitter glue designs on clear plastic. We put the glitter designs on the light table when they were dry. We are looking forward to our Pumpkin Farm field trip on 10/17. Details will be posted on the Homeroom app.

*Ms. Cat & Mr. Mark, 2's*

### *Woodland Creatures - 2 1/2's*

As a class, we learned about our friend's families by making All About Me posters which are displayed in our classroom for us to look at. We have had lots of fun opportunities to practice our fine and gross motor skills. One child portfolio focus is building a tower of 6 or more blocks which is done by using lots of different blocks found throughout the classroom. Another focus is following simple rules of games which we practiced by playing

out. The children had to "cut the troll's hair." When talking about apples, the students will cut an apple shape to practice their curved lines some more.

Technology was talked about with a great educational game [www.Starfall.com](http://www.Starfall.com) I showed the children how to use the mouse and click just one side of the mouse to complete the silly stories on the website. Try this site at home and play along with the different age appropriate songs, interactive stories, fun math games, and much more! To remember to click I placed a small sticker on the mouse so they would know where to push when they were ready.

Teaching positioning at a 4K level is a lot of moving around like placing an apple on, in, behind and under a box. But we also had fun using our stickers and placing them on the paper. This is not only positioning, but fine motor when using stickers and completing works to hand in and following directions.

*Ms. Holly L., 4K*

### *Bucky Badgers - School Agers*

The Three Little Pigs outside. The children sit under the fort and wait till the wolf says, " I'll huff and puff and blow your house down".

*Ms. Jennie & Ms. Diane, 2 1/2's*



Dear families,

As part of our new NAEYC requirements we are working to implement several eco-friendly practices company-wide. With your help in the following areas, we can do what's best for your children and their future:

- do not allow your vehicle to idle in the parking lot (barring extreme temperatures),
- wipe your feet upon entering the center on the walk-off mats provided to reduce possible exposure to lead-contaminated dirt,
- always use shoe coverings in the infant classrooms (no bare feet), and
- thoroughly wash all fruits and vegetables to avoid possible exposure to pesticides (and we are doing the same here as well)

Welcome Back, School Ager! I hope all had a great summer! Reminder: Please let teachers or Ms. Jess know if your child will not be coming on their scheduled day to avoid a No Call/No Show Fee.

School Days Off in October are 10/8 and half day on 10/26.

*Ms. Aimee, School Ager*

## Scholastic Book Orders

*Please Help Us Earn New Books For The Bedtime Book Corner*

It's book order time! You are welcome to order as much or as little as you would like. Books can be ordered and paid for online at

[www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs)

and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date. You will set up an account in which they will ask for our center code:

P6N7H.

***Book Orders are due:  
Monday, October 15th***

With the holidays soon approaching, we also wanted to share a link to finding the safest, non-toxic-toys, for your children:

<https://www.mommytomax.com/ultimate-guide-best-non-toxic-toys/>

## Happy Birthday

1      *Rishabh Segon*  
4      *Ms. Courtney*  
7      *Hadley Ziegler*  
10     *Mr. Mark*  
14     *Elaina Harmelink*  
15     *Alexa McFarland*  
15     *Isabella Escobar*  
16     *Brody Ehlers*  
17     *Ms. Diane*  
20     *Maryn Pichler*  
21     *Giovanni Montillo*  
23     *Rachel Quandt*  
27     *Brody Nelson*  
28     *Vivienne Slattery*  
29     *Haley Goodwin*  
30     *Wyatt Smith*  
31     *Gabriel Dahl*

## Congratulations!

On celebrating anniversaries with  
Grandma's House!

*Ms. Diane*      7 Years

*Ms. Olivia O.*    1 Year