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## Growing Highlights

November 2022

Dear Parents,

Thanks to everyone who returned a family survey last month-the information we receive is very helpful! One of the things we heard is that parents would like to know more about what their child is learning. Each classroom has a parent board (where it is located varies in each room, so take a minute at pick up or drop off to explore). On this board you will find sign-up sheets, the daily schedule, and the lesson plan for that room. The teachers will start taking pictures of their lesson plan and putting it in the app so you can see what is happening. But also feel free to come in and take a picture of it yourself. We also heard that you would like to see more pictures throughout the day. Please know that this process is VERY time consuming. The app has a lot of steps to it, and even more if you are uploading pictures or videos. Now multiply that process by anywhere from 8 to 20 children (depending on the classroom size) and it becomes very overwhelming. Rest assured that we are taking good care of your little one and they are having fun.

As far as communicating more with your child's teacher, they do not have computers in their room or emails, so the app is going to be the best way to exchange information. If you drop off and pick up outside of the teacher's hours, you can always call them at 414-475-9381 to talk (1-3 pm is the best for rooms that have a nap time). We are open for 12 hours, but the teacher's shifts are either 8.5 or 9 hours. Once friends move into our toddler room around the age of 1, we typically start changing diapers as a group, so feel free to stop entering that information in the app.

One quick "housekeeping" item, please do not allow your child to open gates or doors

(both outside and inside). We have STRICT rules for the children that they are not allowed to open doors or gates, and when parents allow them to do those things, it can be confusing for them. While we appreciate the desire to teach them independence (or have them help you because your hands are full), we are always thinking about safety and what could happen if a child opens a gate or door and then lets themselves or another child out. Please help us keep everyone safe and remind your children that they can hold the door open once you open it, or help open doors at home, but not at school. Also, please remember to lock gates behind you, including the gate to the big playground from the stairs.

I hope you all get a chance to enjoy some time off during Thanksgiving.....who can believe we are talking about Thanksgiving already?!?!?

As always, my door is always open!  
Christie Dapelo, Director

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

## Grandma's House CLOSED

Thursday, 11/24 & Friday, 11/25



- 1 Noelani M.
- 2 Magnolia G.
- 3 George K.
- 6 Gio P.
- 8 Roman B.
- 9 Samuel S.
- 9 Orion S.
- 11 Emma K.
- 12 Ms. Sanja
- 17 Jesse L.
- 19 Erin S.
- 20 Ms. Taylor
- 21 Teagan J.
- 26 Rhett S.
- 27 Olivia B.

28	Benjamin R.
29	Benjamin G.
29	Ms. Melissa
30	Ellie G.

## CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Melissa	7 Years
Ms. Mai Lee	6 Years
Ms. Emily	3 Years
Ms. Annissa	3 Years
Mr. Randy	3 Years



### Infants

Wow, how time flies when you are having fun! We love working with your babies and getting to know you too. We want to thank all of our parents for participating in our Fall child evaluations and parent/teacher conferences. This month we will be focusing on sensory play, beginning to sit with support, building neck strength, as well as pushing up on forearms during tummy time. We also will be reading lots of family harvest books that will go along well with our Thanksgiving and Fall fun activities. The babies will be surrounded by photos of families, harvested foods, and the last of

### 4th Toddlers

Hi Shining Stars parents! From farm animal adventures to exploring harvest themes like apple picking, pumpkin patches, and corn mazes, Fall is now in the air! As the weather starts to cool down, it's important to label coats, boots, mittens, any items your child will use in this chilly weather! We hope to play outside as often as possible, so we don't want any child to be too chilly without the proper wear. One of the skills the shining stars are starting to branch out with more is asserting their own independence. Lots of the tots are displaying their own independence, whether it's washing their

the beautiful season before it comes to an end.

Ms. Ana & Ms. Hannah

## 2nd Infants

All of the little turkeys in the Forest Pals room have a common goal this month! We will need everyone's help in accomplishing it...at day care and at home! Everyone loves it and everyone needs it! It is the one and only TUMMY TIME!! Whether your baby is laying, sitting, or standing, tummy time is still necessary. Bring some books down on the floor, play some music, snuggle with your baby or make a sensory bag to explore. What is a sensory bag? Here is the recipe:

-2 Ziploc baggies

-Hair gel or shampoo

-Beads, glitter, etc.

Fill one bag with the shampoo or hair gel about halfway. Add the beads or glitter. Seal the bag shut making sure that all the air is out. Place the filled bag into the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag (sealed side down) and seal the 2<sup>nd</sup> bag. Enjoy!

Ms. Cassie & Ms. Virginia

## 3rd Infants

**Quote of the Month:** *"Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation."* -Nelson Mandela

hands by themselves, or insisting on trying to put jackets on, or taking off dress-up clothes. Another set of skills the shining stars are working on is taking turns and saying 'mine!' Often these two skills go hand in hand. You can work on these skills at home, practicing at the dinner table; 'Would you like more?' and encourage using 'more please' to encourage words and independence, or when playing, take a toy and practice taking turns between you and the child. In class, we practice saying 'mine' when a child is using a toy during their turn, or when another child would like to use that toy. There are lots of skills we will continue to learn this Fall! Our parent board, located right by the back exit, is the best way to find out what activities we're planning for the current two-week lesson plan, as well as lots of other information! Please feel free to take a look. We look forward to a very eventful Fall season!

Ms. Steph & Ms. Kim

## 2's

Wow, it is so hard to believe that there are only two months left in the year! The Wittle Wizards have been working on self-help skills. For example, cleaning up after themselves and doing "1, 2, flip" to put on their coats. These are good skills to work on at home, too. We had a lot of fun at the pumpkin farm. The best part was riding the yellow school bus! We had fun wearing our costumes and trick or treating next door at the Salvation Army. Our next

A warm welcome to our new friends. This month we are working on our drop and release skills with popsicle sticks and a jug, pulling up with our friends that are crawling, cruising, and standing without support. Our next lessons will consist of a lot of sensory materials such as painting with different objects, exploring different leaves, and textured paint. Please check your child's cubby for weather and size appropriate clothing.

3rd Infants, Ms. Sherry & Ms. Shantice

### **Toddlers**

Hello 004 families! Happy to touch base with you all. For starters, we would like to take a moment to remind you all that winter is coming, so please remember to send winter outerwear for your child. This includes hats, gloves, boots, snow pants and a warm jacket. Also, with the weather change, we encourage you to go through your child's cubby and take home extra clothes that no longer fit or that are not appropriate for the winter. We have such a fun group of toddlers right now and they are all quite the little dancers! Some of their favorite action songs include "Shake Your Sillies Out" by the Learning Station, "Party Freeze Dance" by the Kiboomers, and "If You're Happy and You Know it." Music and bubbles have been a very popular combo for our children, and it's been a great way to occupy them as we clean the room! Our classroom has also been very interested in arts and crafts and sensory activities! One mess free sensory

units will be focused on Colors and Being Thankful.

Ms. Courtney & Ms. Esther

### **2.5's**

All Aboard!! The Passport Pals are having a fabulous time traveling the globe in search of new experiences. We had so much fun in Israel learning about the different animals, food, and buildings that are there. We also got very good at saying "hello" in Hebrew. We tried some new foods like dates, green olives, hummus, matzoh crackers, and pomegranate juice. We then ventured to India during the holiday of Diwali. We learned about this Festival of Lights and had great fun decorating our "houses" and seeing all the people who live with us. The Passport Pals would like to thank you, the families, for being so helpful with this travel theme. Thank you for doing the "homework" with your kiddos and for providing us with information, materials, and recipes for each country we visit. As always, we are still teaching the little ones how to put on their own outerwear. This skill helps us when getting everybody ready, it helps you during pick up and most importantly, it helps your child with self-confidence. Please feel free to message us if you have any questions.

Ms. Amy R. & Mr. Randy

### **Young 3's**

idea for our families to try at home is a gallon zip lock bag filled with hair gel and sealed with tape. You can also add small items inside along with the gel for more sensory fun! We are planning a **Thanksgiving Party** for our classroom on **Wednesday, November 23rd** and hope our families will be available to join us for that! We have sent information regarding this event on the MyKidzDay app. We are looking forward to getting to know our awesome families at the party! Stay warm and talk to you all soon.  
Ms. Mai Lee & Ms. Taylor

## **2nd Toddlers**

Spooky Season is upon us! As a reminder, please check your child's cubby and switch out swimwear for snow gear! Also, please label all outdoor gear and bring waterproof gloves or mittens. Lately, we have been learning about apples and pumpkins. The toddlers loved creating art, exploring pumpkin slime, reading about the seasons changing and enjoying songs with actions (Baby Shark, Halloween Sounds, Baa Baa Black Sheep, and more). If you would like a list of recipes or songs, feel free to let us know on the app or in person. We look forward to enjoying autumn skies and pumpkin pies!  
Ms. Hannah & Ms. Emily

## **3rd Toddlers**

These past few months have brought a lot of learning and growth - we've been mastering our daily jobs, flipping our coats, and potty training! So far, we've been learning about Colors, Apples, Pumpkins, and Nature. Have you heard your child sing songs at home that relate to our unit? Because we LOVE singing our songs every day! We've also been practicing our counting, letter recognition, and cutting with the song "open shut, open shut - that's the way we cut, cut, cut" to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Don't forget to check out our picture board in the classroom to see pictures of the children doing all the different centers throughout our two-week unit! Next up we will be learning about Giving Thanks, Dinosaurs, Gingerbread, and Winter.  
Ms. Abbie & Ms. Melissa

## **3-4's**

And just like that, another month of fun passes us by and we get closer to the dreaded season of winter. As it gets colder outside, please make sure to bring in and label weather appropriate gear/clothes. We do go outside at least 2 times a day as long as the weather permits. Aside from the chilling weather, we have been having so much fun in our pumpkin unit. We talked about the life cycle of a pumpkin and the different parts of a pumpkin. We also noted the similarities to the apple's life cycle. We even got to become scientists and observe a pumpkin as it changes over the

No matter how you choose to say it: Danke, Gracias, Merci, all carry the same message of Thank you! November is the month of gratitude and in our classroom, we are in no short supply of things to be thankful for. From our families to our friends to our toys and our teachers; Thank you! This month we will introduce our friends to the beloved children's author and illustrator, Eric Carle. We will eat our way through the lesson like the "Very Hungry Caterpillar", being sure to use our spoons and forks when we eat. Next, we will learn about harvest celebrations all over the world with our Thanksgiving Harvest. We will have an emphasis on the American harvest celebration we call Thanksgiving. That is a time to show our little friends how to love one another and show empathy towards others.

3rd Toddlers, Ms. Laura & Ms. Seren

course of a week when we cut it open. Another thing we enjoyed was going to the apple farm and picking all sorts of different colors and types of apples. We're looking forward to all of our other fun field trips we have planned this preschool year. As we look ahead, we will be learning all about our space and the planets in our solar system! Of course, you can always see any important information or events on our parent board, and we send out our daily messages on the app if you ever want to know what we do in our busy day!

Ms. Kayleigh