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Growing Highlights

NOVEMBER 2024



Dear Parents,

Thanks to all who came to our Family Night! It is always a fun time and a good chance to mingle with other families. We have our *Annual Babysitting Night* coming up on **December 14th** from **3:30-7:30pm**. It is a fun night for the kiddos, a good time for parents to have a night out, and great way to raise money for local charities! More information is on the way.

Please send appropriate gear as the weather gets colder, we still go outside twice a day! If you happen to have missed the conferences in October, you should have still signed off on your child's evaluation. You can request a conference any time, it does not just have to be

April and October. We did go back to the paper evaluations, we are no longer doing evaluations on the app.

November is often the month of showing thanks and I wanted to say I am so thankful for the community that we have here at Grandma's House in Hartland.

I will be out of commission for about 6 weeks starting 10/29 for my long-awaited knee surgery. As many of you may remember, I was supposed to have this done last October when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Well, finally the date is here! Ruth and Shannon and my staff will hold down the fort while I am gone. Please reach out to them with any questions.

Happy Fall and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Thanks,

Jane Sweet

Director

jsweet@grandmashouse.org



- 1 Ms. Tricia
- 4 Mackson W.
- 7 Ava W.
- 10 Caroline W.
- 12 Celia H.
- 17 Josephine M.
- 18 Rhea C.
- 24 Saige R.
- 27 Zalilah J.

Congratulations

on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Mr. Scott 32 Years

Ms. Ruth 22 Years

Look What We Did!

Busy Town, Infants

Thank you to all the families for taking a moment with us last month to go over your child's portfolio. We hope you enjoyed being able to see the progress that your baby is making and know that they are always growing, changing, and learning new skills each day. Life is always on the move in our room! However, we also take the time each day to have quiet moments of play on the floor, reading books, and sharing poems and/or finger plays. This helps to build a child's social and emotional development and language skills hearing rhyming words. Children just need to know that they are loved and someone cares about them. Taking a few moments each day with your child in your lap reading a simple book does wonders to build that reassurance of love. Here is a poem that collaborates with our lesson themes that you may share with your baby.

Five Little Pumpkins

(Tune: "Five Little Ducks")

Five little pumpkins sitting on the gate.

(Hold up 5 fingers.)

The first one said, "Oh, my it's getting late." (Hold up thumb.)

The second one said, "There are witches in the air." (Hold up index finger.)

The third one said, "But I don't care." (Hold

Llama Llamas, 2.5's

Happy Fall! We have done lots of activities to do with Fall. We explored the inside of a pumpkin which was really messy, and the children loved it. The children loved making and tasting Pumpkin Patch Dirt Cups. We also set up a cute little pumpkin patch dramatic play which has been a big hit. The children absolutely love playing in the area. We also have been keeping ourselves busy by doing art as a group. The children enjoyed having Ms. Michele come back and do different projects, art, and dancing for Creative Expressions. Mr. Bob comes in each week to read to us. We are working really hard and encouraging each other to have good listening ears and being kind to their friends. I also wanted to mention pull ups...if you bring pull-ups in for your child, I ask you to please bring in the ones that have Velcro on the sides. It is a challenge to get multiple children undressed just to put a pull up back on. Since the weather is getting cooler, please look through your child's cubby to make sure they have the appropriate clothing for the weather, hats, mittens and a warm jacket on their hook. If you have any questions, I'm always here to answer them. Have a good rest of the Fall season.
Ms. Bry

up middle finger.)

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run." (Hold up ring finger.)

The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun." (Hold up pinky.)

Ooooo! Went the wind, and out went the light. (Blow through hands, then clap.)

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight! (Roll hands behind back.)

To kick off this season of gratitude, we will be doing a family project. Each family will be receiving a paper turkey feather. On the feather, please write things that your family is grateful for this Thanksgiving season or a special message to your baby in honor of their first Thanksgiving. You may add photos and/or decorations of your choice. When the feathers are returned, they will be displayed on our classroom bulletin board for everyone to enjoy. Please don't get your 'feathers ruffled'! Directions will come with each feather and please ask questions if you need to.

Ms. Kristine and Ms. Mo

Very Hungry Caterpillars, Older Infants

Temperatures are dropping and that means warmer outside gear and clothes. Please make sure to check your child's cubby and stock warmer clothes and take home the extra summer-like outfits. Pretty soon we're going to need winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens. We try to go outside twice a day as long as it feels like 20 degrees or higher. Our friends

Woodland Animals, 3's

We welcomed Ms. Natalie into our classroom and have been enjoying getting to know her! We hope everyone had a great Halloween! We had so much fun this month in the classroom. The kiddos got to enjoy different pumpkin and Halloween activities. We painted with bats, pumpkins, and witch hats. We got to have eyeball races, carve a pumpkin, and create a pumpkin volcano. We had so much fun visiting Eberts and reading a story about a scarecrow, making a scarecrow craft, and visiting the pumpkin patch. We also had fun going on walks and taking a trip to Hartland North to play on the playground for a little bit. If you haven't already, we would like to ask that your child's cubby be switched from summer to winter so that they have extra warm clothes. We are looking forward to seeing what November brings for us!

Ms. Emily and Ms. Natalie

Mushrooms, 4's

Hi families! Fall is here and chilly! We've had so much fun! The children had a blast at the pumpkin patch! We also have done a lesson plan on Fire Safety. The children painted with shaving cream and food coloring. We are now in our Fall unit. We made a variety of slimes; the children love exploring what colors we can make and what happens if we add things like shaving cream and glitter. We also went on a leaf hunt and made leaf collages. Next, we will

are really enjoying the baby toys and kitchen toys in our classroom. Baby dolls are a popular toy in our classroom. We practice gentle hands by patting baby doll backs and rocking them with a blanket. We hope everyone had a fun Halloween trick or treating. In October, we had Jack-o-lantern pails in our classroom and everyone really enjoyed filling them and dumping them over and over. This month we will learn about Thanksgiving and exploring with our hands and feet. Please look out for a paper feather to take home and decorate. We always put up a big turkey on our bulletin board and fill it up with feathers.

Ms. Ruth and Ms. Kelly

Duck and Goose, Toddlers

It was so wonderful seeing everyone at our Fall Family Night! Everyone with their fantastic costumes for the Hartland Business Trick-or-Treat. In the classroom last month, we explored putting on costumes in our dramatic play area and we practiced getting ready for trick-or-treating by using our fine motor skills to put candy or mini pumpkins into buckets. We also explored pumpkins: we carried pumpkins to see how heavy they were and touched the outside of the pumpkin. We also carved the pumpkin! We examined the insides of the pumpkin, feeling the gooeyness of the insides, counted how many seeds it may have, and smelled the pumpkin smell, using all our senses to explore the pumpkin. As winter weather

move into Pumpkins. Friendly reminder to please make sure your child has a sweatshirt or jacket for the chilly mornings. Also, everyone has a hook in the hallway by the bathrooms for backpacks and winter gear. Please hang things there and not on the hooks in the classroom. Any questions, please reach out!

Ms. Chantel

Backyard Fairies, SA

Another month has flown by! We have had so much fun learning about the human body. I first introduced the lesson by playing the game Operation. Boy, do the children love the game! We also made a "human body" inspired snack mix. We used pull-apart Twizzlers as veins, stick pretzels and mini marshmallows as bones and joints, white chocolate chips as white blood cells and red Sixlets as red blood cells. The children thought it was hilarious talking to their friends about them eating "veins"! To continue this learning, you could do an experiment to show how a heart pumps blood. Start by filling a jar about 2/3 full of water and add red food coloring and mix. Then cut the neck off a balloon and stretch the body of the balloon over the opening of the jar and secure with a rubber band. Cut 2 holes, smaller than straws, in the balloon. Slide a small water balloon onto the end of a straw and secure with a rubber band. Push that straw through one of the holes in the balloon and push another

approaches and the chilly air sets in, it's time to start bringing in hats, gloves, coats, snow pants and boots because we will have snow on the ground before you know it. Don't forget to keep extra clothing for the cubbies. If you haven't brought in "All About Me," there's still time to do so. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bree

Chicka Chicka Boom Booms, 2's

We have spent the month of October learning all of our friends' names, working on drinking from open cups, and using utensils. We also love to dance to silly songs and create collages with coloring, painting, and stamping. Be sure to check out your child's creative treasures in their cubby. Fall is here, be sure your child has warmer extra clothes, hat and mittens for those chilly days.

Ms. Tricia and Ms. Lindsey

Magical Moons, 2's

We are already entering the final months of the year. Our class has been busy enjoying the weather, art activities, science, group time, and our Eberts field trip. The children did a wonderful job going to Eberts. For most of the children, this was their first bus ride and field trip. Not sure which they enjoyed more, Eberts or the bus. We explored Apples & Fall along with Pumpkins in October. We

straw through the other hole. Set the jar in a tray to catch the "blood" and make sure the straw without a balloon is bent downward. Gently press the center of the stretched balloon to pump "blood" out of the jar. We have also been talking about all things Fall! Pumpkins, Halloween, changing leaves, and the cool weather. We've done Fall bingo, candy corn guessing jar, and Fall lacing cards with yarn. This month will begin with the end of our lesson on Leaves and start our lesson on Space. Please keep in mind, with all of these fun Fall activities, that cool Fall weather is creeping up on us, too! Please have your child bring a coat, hat and mittens as we will be walking to/from school and spend our late afternoons playing outside. Thank you! Reach out with any questions or concerns.

Ms. Desi

had a lot of fun painting with apple halves, leaf rubbings, pinecones, and gourds. They also enjoyed scooping and dumping with noodles, pinecones, and oatmeal in our sensory table. It is usually a competition on who can make the biggest mess on the floor. We can't always tell which is their favorite activity, group time or outside time. Sometimes they clean up faster for group time than outside. It might be because they are usually excited to see who's going to be joining us. Will it be Manny, Harry, or Sammy? They enjoy it so much, some of them can recite a story or song from beginning to end. We did a taste test of Spiced Apple Cider; wow did they enjoy that. We had to put a cap on how much some of them were allowed to drink. We continually work on evaluation goals throughout the week. We incorporate it into something we are doing or when we are playing. This way it is more fun for the children. We hope you have a safe and fun November. As always, we are here for any questions or concerns.

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Savannah