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## Growing Highlights

NOVEMBER 2024



Dear Parents,

Picture day was a success! I hope you enjoyed your little one(s) photos. Yes, even the ones who were not too happy about getting them taken; sometimes those are the best ones to giggle about later!

Our *Friendsgiving Fest* will take place on *Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30pm*, please join us for a quick meal and some fun activities in the classrooms. It's a great time to get to know the other families in your child's classroom and watch your child interact with their friends!

November is a great month for reminding us to be grateful and thankful for people in our

lives and all that we have and can do. With that in mind, I am asking for your help in letting our teachers know how thankful we are for them! There is an empty bulletin board in the hallway that, I think, would look great if we can fill it with compliments to the staff at Grandmas House! By each of the entrance doors, there are some post it notes: fill one or a bunch of them out throughout the month of November giving a "Shout Out" to a staff member. It could be for someone who greets your child each morning lovingly, someone who has helped your child solve a problem, someone who has brainstormed with you about things on your mind or maybe a teacher your kiddo talks about often. Anything big or small written would make the teachers here feel all the love! You can leave them on my desk and I'll put them up.

Even though the weather is getting cooler, the kiddos still go outside every day. Please remember to bring a jacket, hat, and mittens all labeled with their name. We strive for self-help skills at Grandma's House and the children are learning how to be responsible for taking off and putting away their items. That being said, items tend to get mixed up so having a label on your child's items will help the teachers in the classroom. Thank you in advance!

There is still time to be a part of the Grandma's House Parent Group. If you're interested, please send me an email and I'll add you to the group. We will likely be meeting in early December to finish off 2024 strong.

*Cassie Makinen, Director*  
[cassie@grandmashouse.org](mailto:cassie@grandmashouse.org)



- 
- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 2  | Magnolia G. |
| 3  | George K.   |
| 4  | Mr. Eli     |
| 7  | Harper R.   |
| 8  | Lillian S.  |
| 8  | Roman B.    |
| 10 | Eva S.      |
| 10 | Ms. Alaini  |
| 16 | Franklin S. |
| 17 | Jesse L.    |
| 19 | Erin S.     |

20	Ms. Taylor
21	Teagan J.
22	Benjamin G.
25	Howie Y.
28	Benjamin R.

## CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

*Mr. Scott*      *32 Years*

*Ms. Mai Lee*    *8 Years*

*Ms. Emily*      *5 Years*

*Teacher Ty*     *1 Year*



### *Infants*

Gobble-gobble! As we move into the holiday season, we look forward to spending time with family and the special people in our lives. So, to celebrate this, our next lesson plans are going to focus on “All About Me” to start the month and “Family and Friends” to finish the month. We will be working on recognizing ourselves in mirrors and in photos. We will also be working on name recognition with silly songs. To the tune of Bingo: “There is a love at my house and (child’s name) is their name-o (clap out name).” Complete everyone’s name in the house including pets! We will finish with a

### *3rd Toddlers*

Another spooktacular month has flown right by. First, we are creepin’ it real by exploring our emotions and learning how to identify them in ourselves and others. Then, we had a terror-ific time learning about the eerie-sistible holiday Halloween. Dramatic play really took off with our little ghouls, who are already so good at re-enacting feelings and the concept of ‘helping’; like helping a friend who feels angry or sad as well as practicing self-help soothing behaviors themselves. Friends who haven’t yet brought in items like hats, mittens and such for the chilly weather may want to do

look at the special people in our lives with special songs and photos throughout the room. Please make sure to complete your child's "All About Me" books. Thank you and happy holidays!

*Ms. Virginia*

### ***2nd Infants***

We can't believe the year is almost over and we also can't believe 3 of our friends are celebrating their 1<sup>st</sup> birthdays. This month we are going to be learning nursery rhymes, which will involve lots of music and flannels. It is all about turkeys as we learn about Thanksgiving and have fun creating our own turkeys. Thanks again to all the parents that came to conferences where we got to brag about how awesome your little one is!

*Ms. Kayleigh and Ms. Brianna*

### ***3rd Infants***

Happy November from the Half Pints! We are going to continue focusing on our gross-motor skills as we continue to encourage standing, assisted and free, cruising along shelves, or pushing around walkers. We also want to encourage activities that help increase children's confidence with things like successfully climbing the large loft in the center of our room so that free standing becomes easier for them. We have been focusing a lot on speech as we are reading books with animals in them. We can identify them, as

so as it gives time to practice before the temperatures drop even more. Please continue working with your little one at home on our concepts of sharing, taking turns, problem solving, and self-soothing. It will make for a boo-tiful year and will truly be something big to be thankful for when Thanksgiving rolls around.

*Ms. Elise and Ms. Kailie*

### ***Older Toddlers***

Hi Busy Bee families! A warm welcome to our new friends who joined our room this month! We just wrapped up our lesson on families. Thank you to everyone who sent in family pictures! The kiddos have really been enjoying looking at them in our room. We are now learning about everything Fall: pumpkins, chilly weather, colorful leaves, and everything in between. With the weather getting chilly, putting on jackets and warm clothing is a great skill to practice at home. You can also stay updated with everything we do in our room by checking out the parent board and the bulletin board full of pictures. Have a great month and enjoy this wonderful Fall weather.

*Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini*

### ***2's***

The Fall weather is finally here with the changing of the leaves. We have been working on our "self-help" skills by flipping

well as make their sounds. We have been enjoying a lot of fun Fall finger plays and songs by incorporating the words apples and leaves into our favorite tunes. We also like our song chant "Who is Here Today?". This helps us identify with one another, especially when new friends are coming to our room. This also helps expand our social-emotional milestones. The chant goes like this:

*"Where is (child's name)? There he/she is! Wave good morning! (Child's name) came to school today, school today, (child's name) came to school today, hip hip hooray!"* You might see your child clapping their thighs along to this.

Coming up, we will be exploring lots of sensory activities from things such as the inside of a pumpkin, the changing of leaves, and painting. This will help fine-motor skills as well as we start to shift things from hand to hand, as well as use a pincer grasp for future utensil usage.

*Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Cherish*

### ***Toddlers***

We've had a wonderful month filled with creativity and exploration! Here are some highlights from last month. We've been having so much fun while working on fine motor skills by dropping items into the opening of a container. This activity helps the children work on their hand-eye coordination and pincer grasp. We did many art projects that allowed the children to express themselves and explore new materials to color and write. This month,

our coats on. Some of our friends are really getting the hang of it. You can encourage this at home, too. Put your child's coat on the floor. Have them stand by the hood of the jacket and put their arms through the holes and then "flip" over the head. Please go through your child's cubby to make sure they have warm extra clothes and please label everything!

*Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther*

### ***2.5's***

Calling all Gnome Schoolers! We have been so busy in our "garden". We have learned the names of trees and what the leaves look like as well as a pumpkin's life cycle. Your little "gnome" had a great time playing in our leaves and on our field trip to the pumpkin farm. We also had fun learning the difference between real and make believe during our "spooks and frights" unit. The Gnome Schoolers had a bone-shakin' good time trick-or-treating next door at Salvation Army. Thank you everyone for making our reading program successful! We hope the whole family is enjoying the books your gnomie picks out! If you were unable to make it to conferences but would like to set up a phone conference, just let us know.

*Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Stephanie*

### ***3's***

we will focus on planes, trains, automobiles, and Thanksgiving. We will learn about things that go and what they do and incorporate different types of transportation the children can explore. During our Thanksgiving unit, we will do many art projects, learn about turkeys, and practice using our manners like "please" and "thank you."

Just a few reminders: please check your child's cubby for art and important papers to take home. Also, start switching out clothes for warmer items. Bring a light jacket, hat, and gloves for those colder days. Do not forget to label all items so nothing gets lost. Lastly, if you have any children's clothes you were thinking of donating, we will gladly take them. Thank you for your continued support. We love seeing the kids grow and learn through these fun activities! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask via- app or during pick-up/drop-off times. Have a wonderful November!

*Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Laura*

## ***2nd Toddlers***

Greetings from the Rolling Scones! It has been wonderful to watch the leaves change and the toddlers grow. With autumn in the air, we will begin to need hats, mittens, and jackets for outdoor play. Wisconsin weather is not always as sweet as pumpkin pie, so Fall is also a good time to begin thinking about winter gear. We kicked off the Fall season with various

Happy Fall! This past month we sent out a loving farewell to Ms. Abbie and wished her luck on her new adventures! Our Threenagers are doing a great job settling into our new classroom set up and getting to know our new teacher, Ms. Abi. We also spent time learning so much about apples! The children were able to create their own apples and even participate in an apple juice versus apple cider tasting. During our apple farm field trip, we enjoyed learning about different types of apples, the apple farm process, and how apple trees thrive. We really enjoyed our field trip to the pumpkin patch. As we started our pumpkin unit, we also invited friends to learn about their five senses. Can parents bring home what their child is learning at school by asking questions about their senses? The answer is Yes! For instance, during dinner time, discuss how the food smells and tastes. During a walk outside or a car ride, you can ask your child what they see and hear. Have a great month!

*Ms. Abi and Ms. Emily S.*

## ***3-4's***

The preschool All Stars have had a wonderful month so far exploring the season of Fall. At the end of September and first week of October, we had our apple theme. We learned about the apple lifecycle and went apple picking. We refined our fine motor skills by rolling play dough into apples and using tongs to pick up pom poms and carefully placing them

projects during our Apples and Pumpkins units. While painting with cinnamon, we worked on holding a brush and moving it across the paper with swishing motions rather than stamping the top of the brush. The room also smelled amazing while we created pieces of art! During sensory play, the toddlers explored our sensory bin filled with oats, pumpkins, cups for pouring, and a dash of pumpkin pie spice. Our silly little scones loved to move it around, feel the texture, pour it into cups, and roll around in it on the floor after! Art and sensory play are wonderful activities to work on many skills in an exciting way. With all this in mind, have a happy Fall y'all!

*Ms. Hannah and Ms. Emily*

on dots onto paper. Number matching games, letter matching games, gluing letters to spell their name, all leading towards visible improvements for the All Stars. We've had 5 of our classmates turn 4 years old this month! They all are given a fun "grown up" pen to prompt them to write their name. We then moved onto pumpkin week where we visited a pumpkin patch. We had our pumpkin investigation and made predictions and observations of what the inside of a pumpkin is like. Counting pumpkin seeds, tracing, and identifying numbers have helped us learn numbers 1-10 and we are all beginning to master this area. We are now on letter H! It makes me happy to see the All Stars remember the sounds of each letter we've learned and begin to master identifying the letters they see. We had a great time celebrating Halloween and dressing up to trick or treat at the Salvation Army next door. On Friday, November 1st, we will have a monster munch snack.

*Ms. Allie*