

10.21.2022

Dear Parents of Orange, Purple and Brown Door,

Oh, my “gourd”—it's already fall and we are so excited that Halloween is just around the corner! The topic of the week was pumpkins and the letter P. Here are some of the many cool things we learned about pumpkins. There are over 142 different types of pumpkins which come in various colors and sizes. Some pumpkins can be bumpy or lopsided. The largest pumpkin ever recorded weighed over 2,000 pounds! 80% of U.S. pumpkins are harvested during the month of October. Pumpkins are grown all over the world. A group of pumpkins that grow together is called a pumpkin patch. A pumpkin is also a type of squash. Pumpkin is also used in a variety of recipes. The most famous is pumpkin pie. Both the seeds and the flower are edible. The pumpkin life cycle starts with the seed. The seed begins to grow roots and then sprouts. After it sprouts, it grows into a vine and then blooms a flower. During the summer, the flower dies, and a small green pumpkin forms. When fall arrives, it becomes a grown pumpkin and is ready to be picked. The last stage of the pumpkin life cycle is that it starts to decay, and then the cycle starts all over again.

This week we introduced the Letter P. The letter P is a consonant. We listened to the sound that it makes through a song. They traced the letter P with markers and colored inside it with crayons. They practiced writing the upper case and lower-case letter P. They wrote 3 words that start with the letter P. They also learned new words like patch, pail, pulp, palm tree, parachute, pirate, and prey.

Our activities this week: The children decorated their very own jack-o-lanterns on a paper plate. First, they used orange do-a-dot markers to cover the whole plate. Then they pasted the eyes, nose, stem, and mouth. The final touch was a pipe cleaner for the vines. They also drew a beautiful fall festive picture of their very own pumpkin patch.

Thank you to the parents that donated a pumpkins! Before we cut into our pumpkins, we discussed if a pumpkin would sink or float. Most said that it would sink because it was so heavy. They were very surprised to see that it floated! The children really enjoyed dissecting the different parts of a pumpkin. They were like little detectives searching and collecting all the seeds through the slimy, gooey pulp. We then made another guess; how many seeds do you think we collected? We then counted them up and it was over 250 seeds! We did two activities with the seeds. First, we baked them in the oven with a little bit of salt for a nice crunchy treat; the children really enjoyed them. Then we planted the pumpkin seeds in a cup to watch them grow. The last thing we did was take a vote on which face we wanted our pumpkin to be: silly, spooky, sad, or happy? The majority wanted a spooky jack-o-lantern face. On Friday, we even got to taste a piece of delicious pumpkin pie.

Books we read this week:

Perfect Pumpkin

Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins

The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin, Dora's Perfect Pumpkin
It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse!

Our favorite book was The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin. It is a sweet story about a square pumpkin whose uniqueness saves the day. It teaches students to not judge a pumpkin by its shell, which then explains to the children not to judge a person by how they look.

Vocabulary words: Gourd, lopsided, pulp, seeds, sprout, vine, jack-o-lantern, flower, and pumpkin.

Reminders:

10/26 Is our Halloween Happening. Please bring a bag of non-candy items for our parade. Send your child in their costume and with a change of clothing.

Activities to do with your child at home: Use pipettes to drop paint onto pinecones. Use yarn to weave the pinecones. Use Q-Tips to paint pumpkins. Press tissue squares onto sticky paper to make a leaf sun catcher. Attach a clothespin to a sponge to paint a paper leaf. Drop watercolors onto tissue paper leaves. Punch holes in leaves for a fine motor threading activity.

Student of the week: Please have your child bring a poster filled with family photos for your child to share with the class on Monday

Purple Door: Noah Crespo

Brown Door: John Hegi

Quote: "It's the Great Pumpkin! He's rising out of the pumpkin patch!" — Linus, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.

Have a "Fa-Boo-Lous" weekend!

Mrs. Marta, & Mrs. Ana