

## Pre-K Pumpkin Fun

October brought fun and discovery as the four-year-old students of the KDS Pre-K explored the “ins and outs” of pumpkins this year. The children investigated the parts and characteristics of the pumpkin and its life cycle, used them for dramatic play, carved jack-o-lanterns, and even had a pumpkin hunt similar to an Easter egg hunt. The pumpkins for all these great activities were provided by parents and the KDS Agri-Science department. Pre-K teacher Beverly Stapler’s father even planted a pumpkin patch to ensure the class had plenty of pumpkins to use for these activities.



*The Pre-K teachers incorporated pumpkins into each one of their learning centers. In the science center, pumpkins were carved open to explore the insides. In the block center, the students used cardboard tubes to balance and build pumpkin towers.*



*After careful study and much play, the classes were allowed to choose a larger pumpkin to make a jack- o'-lantern. Each student was able to help clean out the pumpkin, then voted to determine which shape the eyes, nose and mouth of their pumpkin should have.*

*The 4-year-olds loved being able to get their hands in the pumpkin to get the “guts” out! They were so happy with the finished jack- o'-lanterns. .*



*The small pumpkins given to each student by the KDS Agri-Science department were weighed and measured with string to compare them. Those, along with the donated large pumpkins, were placed in the dramatic play pumpkin patch. There, the students shopped to find a pumpkin in the patch and “purchase” it from the pumpkin patch store.*

