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Upcoming Events

Sat Oct 23

9-10:30 a.m.

Visitors Day for all classes

Each child should bring one special adult to visit the classroom for a morning of play.

Sat Oct 29

Bowen Family Applications Due

Applications for 2011/2012 school year must be received by this date in order to exercise priority over applications from new families.

Fri Nov 5

7:00 p.m.

Parent Potluck Supper and Fundraising Auction

Join Bowen for this much-talked-about event. Come see the works of art your children have been making; come bid on items to raise money for the school.

Director's Thoughts

Three raccoons rushed in. "We're lost, we're lost," they exclaimed, "and we just saw something strange out there. May we sleep here tonight?" "Of course, come in. We're all lost, too."

from May We Sleep Here Tonight by Tan Koide

It takes me a week to read the Sunday Globe. Yesterday, I was struck by an interesting article on empathy. The article said many things, but the most striking claim was that although young people are very connected - constantly updating friends, family and total strangers about the details of their lives - they are generally less likely to describe themselves as "soft-hearted" or to have "tender, concerned feelings" for others. They are likely to admit that other people's misfortunes usually don't disturb them. The author goes on to say that perhaps these young people are so bombarded with bad news that it ceases to be real. The story ended by saying that empathy is a malleable thing, it can go down but also up. We here at Bowen are doing our best to help the empathy meter go up!

Teachers and parents model this behavior, "Are you OK?" "Can I help you?" "How does his face look?" I have heard the children use these same words with friends, so our good work is paying off. Two former Bowen girls (showing empathy) asked the president's daughters to come play and made the president feel connected. Perhaps he was feeling he had been away from home too much (ya think?) and they made him smile.

It is a long slow process raising a child, and the results are never immediately apparent, but, in the end, having an adult child with whom you are happy to spend time is a great reward.



All the children have received their family feather. I have had some returned. They are quite beautiful. You will be seeing them again soon, so please put the finished feathers in my mailbox.

Our next parent workshop will be on November 12th and you will have a chance to "ask the teachers!" Be thinking about some questions for these knowledgeable folks. You might ask Barbara or Allison about Kindergarten readiness or Cindy about music for children, Jen and Margie could answer any number of questions and Jane, our resident librarian, could tell you lots about children's literature. Save the date!

We look forward to seeing some new and familiar faces on Saturday and showing everyone our classrooms, teachers and friends!

Have a fabulous fall weekend.

- Priscilla

3-Day Class News

The 3-day class was excited to arrive at school on Monday for our first official Outside Day. It was great fun. We made bark rubbings against the trees and strung cheerios onto a necklace for a special outside snack. We examined the leaves and fallen branches and wove them back together again as art. We raked and raked the leaves and stuffed them into a scarecrow. Have you seen it sitting on the bench out there? What fun! When we finally came indoors, the children were ready to sing with Paula and settle down for a snack and a story.

Other highlights from the week included our first experiment using baking soda and vinegar. The children had fun mixing these two ingredients on trays and watching for the bubbly reaction. On the art table we each took a turn making our own pumpkin face. We used glue sticks for the first time and did a terrific job. The group had been eagerly anticipating this project because they each now have their own prop for two of our favorite rhymes. As I'm sure you can imagine they were eager to try out their props to scare friends, teachers, and Priscilla!



The rhymes go like this. . .

Pumpkin, pumpkin big and fat
Turn into a jack-o-lantern
Just like that!

And. . .

To scare someone on Halloween
I'll tell you what I'll do,
I'll hide behind this pumpkin face,
And then I'll shout out, Boo

We are excited to have our Visitor's Day this Saturday at 9 am. Please remember to bring one visitor per child as space is limited. We can't wait to show our visitors how much fun

we have as we play. We encourage the visitors to be active in their child's play that day!

- Jen and Jane

5-Day Class News

Dear Parents,

The beautiful colorful leaves of autumn are slowly falling to the ground. These colorful leaves were put to good use this week as each child made a "leaf creature". As with many of the activities in the five-day class a great deal of planning went into each creation. First, each child decided what creature he/she wanted to create. Then they picked out the leaves to make this creature. These leaves were then arranged on the cardboard in order to plan how the creature would look. Once this was done the leaves were finally glued on and the "leaf creature" was complete. It was very interesting to watch and see the children go through this process. Sometimes during the planning, the child would change the creature he/she was making because another creature evolved in the process. These lovely "leaf creatures" will be on the bulletin board in the hallway very soon.



The big highlight of the week was our trip to Allandale Farm. There were many experiences that occurred at the farm. After all the children arrived we walked through the aisles and saw many, many pumpkins and many, many mum plants. It was fun to see how many different colors of mum plants we could find. We then moved onto an aisle that had nine varieties of huge squash. These were some of the favorites. There were two varieties of Hubbard squash, one called Long Pie that was orange and thin, and the favorite variety was the Peanut squash. It looked as if there were peanuts growing all over it. Our next stop was the grape arbor and we were lucky enough to see grapes still growing on it. There was a small barn a short distance from the arbor and in this barn we saw several varieties of chickens. There were some who looked like they had a bad hair day or they were wearing a very feathery hat. In the other side of the barn there were two Scottish Highland steer. They had black long fur that was very curly. It was now time to start our walk through woods and farm fields. Along the way, we stopped at a garden where a few tomatoes, green beans, and eggplants were left growing, a compost pile, and an old log. We hoped to see some bugs or worms underneath this log but, sadly, there were none. The next stop was to check out an area where wood was stored. The children had the opportunity to look at the rings in a log. Many were surprised to learn that the rings tell us the age of the tree. Continuing on our way we saw a field with Swiss chard and two different kinds of lettuces growing. The next special place we visited was an area where two green chicken coops stood. There were 250 free roaming chickens and roosters in this area. The children were fascinated. After winding our way back and seeing several farm implements, we all were ready for a delicious snack. The area by the pond, where we had our snack, was surrounded by pieces of outdoor sculptures. The hayride followed. The children were thrilled! At the end of morning we picked out three pumpkins for Bowen, one for each class. It was a wonderful morning and the children were very cooperative the whole morning. During group time prior to the trip, we wrote down all the things we thought we might see. After the trip we circled the things we saw and added more things to our list. The class came up with twenty-six special things that we experienced. Thank you to all the families for the extra efforts to get the children to and from the farm and thank you to Claudia for providing us with the photographs of the day! They are on display in the classroom.

The Squash Family has arrived in the classroom. We have met five members of this family so far—Delicata, Spaghetti, Carnival, Red Kuri, and Turban. The class has been having fun comparing and contrasting them during Activity Time and Group Time. They are all members of the squash family yet they look different. We discussed how our own families are similar.

Did you know that Bowen has a laundry room? The Housekeeping Corner has turned into one. There is a top loading washer; however, there is no dryer. The children needed to hang the clothes on a clothes line. The clothes pins are wonderful exercise machines for the children's fingers. There is also an ironing board and an iron. Some explanation was needed for these two fixtures in our laundry room. Samantha and Meg found their way there this week. What wonderful fun the children have experienced there!



The five-day class has done two special preparations for Visitor's Day on Saturday. Each child has made a name tag for his/her special guest using letter stamps to spell out the guest's name. The second activity is the washing of sixteen pumpkins in the Discovery Table on Friday. Each child will have a "clean" pumpkin to decorate on Saturday. Great helpers!

Ghosts are flying across our bulletin board in the back of the classroom. It is amazing what two tissues and a piece of yarn can do. Come by and say "Boo!" to them. They are very friendly.

The children are always discovering fun and interesting things to do in many parts of the classroom. The Block Area is always a busy place. There was a symmetrical airplane made by Theo, Scott, and Nathan J. This plane took many flights. While the airplane was flying a boat was sailing to China manned by Arlo, Ian, Nathan K., and Julia. Blockhead towers were built on a round table by Massimo and Hutch while Georgia spent a long time discovering the geo-boards. Farm animal stencils were at the easel. Gray, Emma, Caroline, and Isabella all enjoyed this experience. Exploring the classroom is an important part of each child's day.

It has been a very busy week! Have a great weekend!

- Barbara and Margie

TK Class News



Rebecca and Sophie L with their hand-crafted pretzels

What a dazzling week of **D's** in TK! Everyone was very busy during morning choice time. Maddie built a humongous Halloween house out of (orange and black) dominoes. Liam, Connor, and Elias worked hard on a Duplo fire station and sirens could be heard across the room! Luke had fun playing some of Cindy's drums. Sophie L.L. and Zoe set up the dollhouse very nicely using nearly all the furniture and other accessories. Jenny and Rebecca played Dice Cover Up over and over (and over!). Thomas and Owen created a safe haven for the plant-eating dinosaurs in the discovery table one day and the next day, they built a cardboard volcano to add to the scene! Nicholas and Sophie L. were busy seeing patients in the TK Doctor's Office. TK doctors and nurses were very thorough and by Wednesday we were all out of band-aids!

TK friends also spent time dunking ducks in the discovery table, creating dollars at the



Owen (TK), with Oliver and Dashiell (3 Day), reading together during Book Buddies.

writing table, making dot-to-dots at the art table, and drawing animals and dinosaurs at the easel. Maddie's mom, Sarah, brought in some dough and helped everyone make a pretzel to bake. We got to dip them in lots of delicious things at snack. Yum! Cindy led an activity with eyedroppers to see what would happen when drips were dropped onto different surfaces (wax paper, foil, newspaper, etc.).

We read lots of books this week to tie into D week such as Dandelion and Doctor DeSoto. After reading Make Way for Ducklings, each TK friend created a map for the ducklings to find their way to the pond at the Public Garden. This was a mixed-media project involving tape, markers, and photocopies of all eight ducklings and Mrs. Mallard. Come and see the delightful final products above the cubbies! We read The Doorbell Rang and then acted out how we would share twelve cookies with however many people arrived at the door. It was surprising to some how we each got fewer cookies to eat the more people that arrived at the door to share with. We had time this week for some bonus reading since the Newton librarian came on Friday to read some stories with us and we read with our three-day book buddies on Wednesday.

We learned two dice games this week. Cover Up is a game to play with a partner and one die. Each person colors over the number he/she rolls and the game is over when one person has covered up all six numbers. Dice Race is also played with a partner and one die, but this time you are keeping track of how many times you roll each number. It is a race to see what number you roll the most and get to the top of your paper with. Blank copies of both game boards were sent home on Friday so you can play as a family. Have fun!



TK friends were singing *Five Little Ducks* this week as well as a funny Halloween song about a ghost sitting on a post who was eating buttered toast! Also, we played Doggy, Doggy Where's Your Bone a few times at the end of the day.

D is now done and we will turn our attention to both E and Halloween next. EEK!

We're looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow at Visitor's Day!

- Allison and Cindy

Local Community Happenings

October 30 - Strega Nona: The Musical – Wilbur Theatre

1:00 p.m.

The Wilbur Theatre presents a theatrical adaptation of Tomie dePaola's Caldecott-winning children's book *Strega Nona*. The musical blends comedy and fantasy as it tells the story of a good witch in an Italian village with a magical pasta pot. When a local lug can't keep his hands off the pot, Strega Nona must save the town from being engulfed in pasta! The production features an energetic musical score and set design inspired by the original children's book illustrations. Tickets available for half price at

<http://www.goldstar.com/e/40342>



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Newsletter Submissions

This newsletter is emailed to the Bowen community every Friday evening. All contributions are welcome. Please send them to mabruzese@gmail.com (in the body of your email or as

a Microsoft Word attachment) or place a hard copy in Maggie and Joe Abruzese's mailbox at Bowen. The deadline for submissions is Thursdays at 6 pm.

If you know of someone who would like to be added to this email list, please send along his/her email address. If you wish to be removed from this email list, please let Maggie know. Thanks!