



October 25, 2019

SUN BEAR NEWS

Washington University Nursery School



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Our theme the week of October 14 was "Community Helpers." On the heels of the visit from the Clayton firefighters, we talked about other people who make our neighborhoods safe and our communities running smoothly. We focused on postal workers/mail carriers for part of the week. Sun Bears had the chance to dictate a letter to mom or dad or both, to place the letter in an envelope, to add an address label, and to place a stamp in the corner (which they learned cost 55 cents).

A culminating activity was a walk to the campus post office, where we met an employee who let us know the reason he liked his job: "I get to deliver packages and letters to students and make them happy." The children then mailed their letters by placing them through the mail slot. Even though we predict almost all mail will be digital by the time Sun Bears are just a little older, writing and mailing letters is a skill that builds fine motor strength and language acquisition.



IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

Halloween Celebrations: October 30;
2:15 pm for Sun Bears

Parent/Teacher Conferences:
October 31 and November 1 (No school)

Special Day for Dads and Granddads:
November 22, 2:15 pm



We have noticed that this group of Sun Bears loves to go on walking adventures on campus. They understand the importance of staying together, with teachers and student helpers, and to respect the inside spaces with quiet voices. We have a few other places on campus in mind that will inspire their curiosity. We will keep you posted as the year progresses.

During this week of October 21, our theme in Sun Bears has been Halloween. We had several art and pre-writing activities that resulted in a bulletin board full of ghosts, mummies, bats, and pumpkins. Thanks to Ms. Katie, the children enjoyed helping carve a jack-o-lantern in a child-created design that they voted for: pumpkin kitty. Sun Bears loved perusing the many Halloween-themed books in our library. The class has also been practicing two Spanish songs to sing next Wednesday: "Calabaza en Mi Casa" and "Los Monstros Todos Salen en Halloween."



The biggest change in our outdoor play has been the temperature. The water trough has been retired until spring, no doubt, but the regular falling leaves have captured the curiosity of the Sun Bears. Their sand creations are now comprised of sand and leaves. Castles are topped off with beautiful fallen maple leaves; cakes have toppings of crushed leaves; trucks have collections of gathered leaves.

Cooler weather means jackets, but these don't slow down the children as they run, climb, scooter, swing and slide. Our afternoon class has enjoyed approximately an hour of daily outdoor play--so beneficial to all areas of their development.

Indoor free choice follows our outdoor play, where the Sun Bears are equally creative in their art, writing, building and imaginary play.



We look forward to seeing you soon at Parent/Teacher conferences so that we can talk about your V.I.B.--your Very Important Bear.

Until next time,
Ms. Katie and Ms. Colleen