



Diamond Street Early Childhood Center



October 2015

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Executive Director News

Happy Fall!

Now is my favorite time of year as the days get cooler and the leaves change to beautiful hues of red, orange and yellow. I hope you get a chance to spend some time outside with your child to enjoy the beauty of this transition. Diamond Street is a special and unique center as we provide two programs beyond our high quality child care. The first one is our scholarship program. Last year, we provided over 40 children with scholarships to attend Diamond Street. We also provide free parenting programs such as our parenting cafes. These programs are not covered by tuition, so Diamond Street does do some fundraising to support these programs. Our first one is the Lancaster Community Foundation's Extra Ordinary Give on Friday, November 20th. A letter will be coming home soon to highlight ways you can help us make this campaign a huge success!

Reminder, we will be closed on Monday October 12, for a teacher in-service. Our staff is looking forward to spending the day at HACC at a mini-conference learning new and innovative ways to teach your child.

Thank you for allowing us to be your partner this year!

Stephanie Thomas

Executive Director

PLEASE turn your engines off when dropping off or picking up your child. We are concerned for the safety of our children and families entering and exiting the building.



Classroom Happenings

Warblers (Infants): During the month of October, we will be continuing to explore different signs of fall - the changing leaves, cooler days and now pumpkins and gourds! We will hopefully take a walk to the farm stand to pick out our own little pumpkins and gourds. Keep your eyes open for new art projects around pumpkins and gourds. Happy Fall!



Bluebirds (Young Toddlers): October! This is a great time of year, Ms Amy's favorite. We will simply focus on the season of Fall for this month. There will be lots of pumpkin activities including Painting Pumpkins, Scooping out a Pumpkin and making Pumpkin Cookies! We will also turn the playground into a Pumpkin Patch, with a variety of Pumpkins for the children to explore. This will lead into conversations with your children about big and small and heavy and light. We will also make use of some of those falling leaves by making a leaf collage and painting with leaves. Happy Fall!



Robins (Older Toddlers): October in the Robin Room will find us very busy! We will be learning about the many beauties of Autumn and also Fire Prevention. In the creativity department the Robins will be constructing a Scarecrow to help celebrate the season and also a pinata for us to break open as our Fall Festival Celebration! Weather permitting, we will be playing outside daily, with the mornings cooler than the afternoons, so please dress your child appropriately!! Thanks!

Hummingbirds (3 year olds): September flew by as we learned about our five senses and did lots of cool exploring with our senses. October will be busy as we begin learning about Nursery Rhymes. The additional concepts we will be studying are the color ORANGE, the letter B, the shape SQUARE, and what it means to COOPERATE.

Cardinals (Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): Happy Fall! The Cardinals are going to have a busy month! We will be learning about jobs and fire prevention to start out the month and then moving into fall, leaves, apples, and pumpkins! We will be having a harvest party later in the month please watch for more information.



Classroom Happenings Continued....

Swans (1/2 day Pre-K 4 & 5 year olds): The leaves are crunching underfoot, the cool breezes are blowing, pumpkins are appearing – it must be October! This month we will learn about apples, leaves, pumpkins and animals during our theme on fall. We will spend the week of October 12 talking about fire safety and practicing ways to be safe in an emergency. Maybe you can practice a fire drill at home and designate a meeting spot at your house! Look for upcoming information on a field trip coming soon!

Orioles (Full-Day Pre-K): In October, the Orioles will explore all things about fall. We will start by learning about how leaves change color and fall to the ground. Next, we will do many fun activities with pumpkins. We will learn about how they grow, get to feel the inside, and make art projects with them! Our letters we will be learning about this month are: T, S, and R. Show and Tell will be held on Wednesday, October 7.



Owls (Kindergarten): October is one of my favorite months in kindergarten! We will be completing many fun fall art projects and exploring fall nature. Our literary focus will be on learning more letters and their sounds as well as adding more sight words to our word wall. In math, our focus will turn to patterning and measuring. We have begun stations in kindergarten and complete them several times a week. Be sure to ask your child about stations as they have been very excited about this new addition to our learning process!



11th Street School Age Program

Eagles: Swooping into October in the Eagles room means new adventures and new themes. The Eagles will start the month of October out by bringing Nocturnal animals out and seeing what they see at night. Trying to hear like a bat might be a challenge but our Eagles are always up for a challenge. Listen carefully to find out what our theme might be after that. The Eagles might come along to see what pumpkins are like other than what you see on the outside. To finish out the month of October, the Eagles will be moving forward into exploring pumpkins and decorating them.



Faith Based

The month of October continues with the story of creation. A new Bible verse will be introduced to the older children (4-year & 5- year old classes). The children will learn what God created on day six and then rested on day seven. They will also hear a story about Noah, Abraham and Sarah. The children will finish the picture book about each day of creation and take it home to share with family members.

Music Notes



During the month of October the children will see and hear the sound of more string family members. Instruments will include the harp, piano, autoharp and dulcimer. The listening piece for October is a short section from "Symphony No. 94" written by Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn. This piece is also called "The Surprise Symphony" since it has some surprising moments when the music is played. I tell the children it is the "sneakers and sleepers" song because we walk around on tiptoes and wake up the pretend sleeping people. October is a month that is definitely autumn. We will sing songs about acorns and leaves.

Hola!



In Spanish class this month we will learn colors, counting, and a variety of things associated with "el otoño" (Fall), including "calabazas" (pumpkins)!

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MISSION STATEMENT: DSECC's ministry is to provide nurturing, safe, educational environment that emphasizes the worth and uniqueness of each child, in a Christian atmosphere that promotes peaceful resolutions, tolerance, and service which is consistent with the Anabaptist mission of the Akron Mennonite Church.

