



WCA Preschool Times



October 16, 2023

Last week the class enjoyed the field corn and soy beans much more than I expected! The sensory table was a busy place as many shucked the corn cobs and then stripped the kernels off. They also worked on opening the pods to get the beans out. It was disappointing to several preschoolers when there was no more left to work on. I added a few more ears of corn this week! This is definitely small motor skills hard at work along with concentration and persistence. It's also relaxing for some children. We looked at the root systems of the corn stalk and soybean plants as well. This week we will watch how plants absorb water as we observe the white flower petals of carnations change color as the flowers absorb the dyed water. I had this on my plans last week, but low and behold I wasn't able to get carnations after school at a grocery store. I'll go to a local flower shop this week! It is always a neat process to watch happen! The corn filled sensory bottles were a hit. There are more items in there than you might think! Everyone did a great job waiting patiently to fill their bottle with corn kernels. After they were done, some found that the bottle made a great maraca. This week will be another fun and engaging week of activities! We will cut a pumpkin in half and have a hands-on pumpkin anatomy lesson. The pumpkin will then be on the science table for exploration. The class will also vote on a jack-o-lantern face and we will all take turns help to safely carve it out. Exploring the pulp and seeds will be a fun, slimy and gooey sensory experience! Be looking for our class jack-o-lantern later in the week outside the classroom! Another activity that I think our class will absolutely love it creating the pumpkin geo board. This is done by sticking push pins in the pumpkin and connecting them with rubber bands. Not only does this foster creativity and planning skills it also works the muscles in the hands and fingers that are vital for writing skills.

Areas of Focus

Fall Harvest



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Inside a House That Is Haunted*, *Pete the Cat Trick or Treat*, *Why do Leaves Change Color?*, *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat!*
- Fall & Halloween Word Wall Building
- Pumpkin Anatomy Labeling Project

Focus Words

blossom * pulp * seeds * core * stem

Math and Science

- * Geo Board Pumpkin
- * Class Pumpkin Carving
- * Board Games and Puzzles
- * Color Absorbing Carnations
Root Systems



Important News

➔ Friday:

- Half day with dismissal is at 11:40 A.M. Please, send in morning snacks!
- Pizza orders are due!
- MSU vs. U of M casual day for \$2.00. Proceeds go to the Student Council.

➔ Monday, October 23rd there is no school! Enjoy!

Pumpkin Anatomy

Stem - Often referred to as the pumpkin's "Handle". Located on the very top of the pumpkin, the stem is green, when the pumpkin is still growing. During the growing season, the stem is attached to the vine bringing nutrients to grow the fruit.

Leaves - The leaves of a pumpkin absorb energy from the sun for plant and fruit growth. They grow along the vine. They do not grow on the stem, or on top of the fruit.

Blossom End - When the fruit is very young, a flower blossom is attached to the end of the baby fruit (its bottom). This is the blossom end. The female flower is pollinated, and the fruit then develops. The flower dies, off, leaving a scar in its place. Some call this the pumpkin's belly button.

The Lid - After cutting around the stem of your pumpkin, to open it up for gutting and carving, this becomes the "lid".

Pumpkin Shell - This refers to both the outer skin and the pulp of the fruit.

Skin - The thin, shiny, orange outer layer of a pumpkin is called the skin. It is sometimes called the "rind". It is a protective layer, which keep insects and disease out of the fruit. It is not edible.

Pulp - Also called "meat". This is the yummy part of the pumpkin that you use to cook with, and to make literally hundreds of tasty recipes and treats.

Ribs - Look at the outside of a pumpkin. There are indented ridges running from top to bottom. These are called ribs. Sometimes, they are shallow. Sometimes, they are very deep.

Cavity - This is the inside of a pumpkin. After removing the pumpkin guts, it's just an empty cavity. It is also where the candle is placed, to light up the pumpkin and make it glow!

Brains - The proper name is fibrous strands and seeds. However, just about everyone calls them "pumpkin brains". There are many other names for this slimy, mushy, mass of strings and seeds. They include: guts, sinew, goop, goo, pumpkin slime, and just plain old "yucky stuff".

Seeds - Seeds are the beginning of next year's pumpkins. Pumpkin seeds are a delicious and nutritious snack. A pumpkin has hundreds of seeds.



I'm a Little Pumpkin

Tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"



I'm a little pumpkin,
orange and round.
I grow on a vine from
a seed in the ground.
When I get all grown up,
give me a face.
Put me outside,
in a very safe place.

