



WCA Preschool Times



October 23, 2023

Last week it was rainy off and on which made outside time challenging, but we made the best of it! Wednesday it was warm enough to set our monarchs free. The kids really enjoyed it! I'm hopeful they took off south with the unseasonably cooler weather we have been having. The kids enjoyed watching the carnations change color almost before our eyes. We did the experiment before we went outside and when we came back in we had a lot of color on the white peddles. Some of the surprised reactions were just great! The colors are even more vibrant after the long weekend. We have been doing a lot of counting with various activities and games I've put out. Some of the kids just love it and ask to do these activities often. At home you can practice counting almost anything. For example, when you're reading a book you can count the things that are a like in the pictures, count the number of bath toys, and count the number of white cars you see when driving. With some creativity the counting possibilities are endless! This week we will focus on pumpkins. Everything pumpkin! Last week didn't go as planned with some of the activities I wanted to do with the class. We did take a class vote on Friday for the jack-o-lantern face that we will be carving out first thing this week. The clear winner was the "Happy Jack". A close second place was "Scary Jack". I suspect that scooping out and playing in the guts will be enjoyed by many. We will put everything in a shallow, large plastic tub so the kids can explore it thoroughly! Along with pumpkin talk we will continue to stay focused on harvest with a little Halloween fun. The sensory table has corn and beans with some fun added plastic creepy crawlies! Remember, the annual WCA Halloween Hop will be this Sunday, October 29th at 5:00! Check your Monday Mailer for more details. The weather looks great this week with some warm days in the 70's and a little sun! We will definitely take advantage of this and have some planned lessons outside.

Areas of Focus

Fall Harvest



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Arthur's Halloween*, *Inside a House That Is Haunted*, *Pete the Cat Trick or Treat*, *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat!*,
- My Book: *I See Candy!*

Focus Words

blossom * pulp * seeds * core * stem

Math and Science

- * Measuring with Math Snap Cubes
- * Carving A Jack-O-Lantern
- * Color and Shape Matching Game
- * Halloween Patterns



Important News

- ➔ Wednesday is pizza day! Please, still send snacks.
- ➔ Thursday, November 2nd is a half day. Parent teacher conferences will start in the afternoon. Please, sign-up for a conference time with the office.
- ➔ Friday, November 3rd there is no school.

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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.

