



Dolphin Room

November 30, 2007

Hello Dolphin Parents,

Happy Holidays! We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with their family and friends. The Dolphins had a busy and fun filled month exploring autumn and pumpkins, talking about bears, going on nature walks and learning different things that go along with Thanksgiving time.

We started the month with a continuation of learning about autumn and pumpkins, which we were able to explore in our own pumpkin patch in the Dolphin outside area. The Dolphins loved having pumpkins of many different colors and sizes to explore by touching and holding. We even carved some pumpkins and explored their insides. We had Dolphins that dug right in and others that weren't so sure about the slimy inside! Seeing their faces light up was priceless. The Halloween Orange Party was a great success. We enjoyed lots of wonderful orange foods. Thanks to all the Parents who were able to donate food for the party. Everyone had a great time!

We also talked about Bears this month. We explored bears by reading bear books. Two of our favorites were *Yum Yum Yummy!* and *Brown Bear Brown Bear*. We went on a bear hunt to our song "Going on a Bear Hunt" and the Dolphins loved it. We explored bear art by painting a gigantic bear, brown and hung it in our room. We painted small bears with brown paint and cinnamon, which smelled delicious. We even glued glitter on bears. We ended our bear lesson with a Teddy Bear Tea Party. Each Dolphin brought a favorite teddy bear and we shared tea, coco and blueberry muffins with our Dolphin Families. We had a blast!

During our wonderful daily nature walks we gathered leaves, rocks, acorns, pinecones, sticks, eucalyptus bark and whatever else our little explorers thought was appropriate and took them to our room. We explore our nature materials by touching, observing, throwing and even through art activities. We used our large leaves to glue gold and silver glitter. We loved the way it made them shine! We painted our bark with different colors, which turned into a beautiful art project. We also used the pinecones to make silly looking turkeys. Our Dolphins love the nature walks and we will continue to explore as our seasons change.

We ended this wonderful month with a Giving Thanks Circle. We enjoyed singing songs with the other classrooms and having our parents come and watch. Afterwards we gathered in our rooms to

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have a wonderful lunch with the ones we love. We are very thankful to have such a great group of Dolphins this year!

Thank you to all who have been able to provide food and gifts this month. Between teacher appreciation week, our Bear Tea Party, the pot luck and Thanksgiving we have had a lot of food donated and we appreciate all that you have done. Thank you also to the families that have donated clothes and toys to our room.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

We are now into our next curriculum theme which is "Books and Stories". We will be reading various stories and working on fun projects related to the story. The first story we will be working on is *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*. The project will be each child will make their own brown bear book. If your child has a favorite storybook at home that he or she would like to bring in to share, please feel free to do so and you are welcome to come in and read, too.

The Dolphins are taking their first field trip! We will be walking to Sweet Things to get a sweet treat. If you would like to volunteer to walk with us please let Sandra or Brandy know. The field trip will be on the two last days of school before our holiday break which is Tuesday the 18th and Wednesday the 19th.

In our classroom we will be exploring winter holidays: Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza. If your family has a special holiday ritual, we'd love for you to come and share it with us. If you would like to do a special craft, read a story, or a cooking project, we gladly welcome you into the classroom. Please let us know in advance so we can make arrangements for that day.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Sandra and Brandy