



Sea Lion Room

November 30, 2007

Hello Sea Lion Parents,

When we left off last time, we were greatly anticipating the arrival of Halloween. Well... it finally arrived. On the 31st, the Sea Lions acknowledged the day by reading scary books, decorating cookies, playing a fun-filled game of stick the nose on the jack-o-lantern and cleaning out our class pumpkin to get it ready for carving. On November 1st, we not only noticed the calendar had changed, but we were able to wear our costumes to school. To show off their beautiful costumes, the Sea Lions paraded around the school for all the world to see. We also carved a face in our pumpkin and added a touch of color. It was beautiful.

Now that we've said good-bye to October, we've welcomed November and the changes it brings. The Sea Lions noticed that it is getting darker earlier and that the air is getting cooler. We also talked and read books about leaves and how and why they change colors. The Sea Lions painted leaves and created magnificent leaf prints. We also got ready for Thanksgiving and our Giving Thanks Circle. We read books about families, traditions and being thankful. We talked a lot about what we were thankful for. In talking about Thanksgiving traditions we found that many people eat turkey for dinner. The Sea Lions came up with their very own turkey recipes, complete with pictures. Very interesting!!

While waiting for the Giving Thanks Circle to arrive, we practiced and practiced the songs we were singing and when the day of the circle arrived, we were ready. We were very excited to have our friends and families see and hear us sing, but having lunch together in the classroom was the best! To also help us get into the Thanksgiving spirit, Lisa and Ana came in and did a terrific turkey project with us. The end result was beautiful pine cone turkeys. I'll bet most of them were used as a centerpiece for the family dinner table.

In Language Arts we've been moving on with our letter of the week study. We are really getting the hang of long and short lines and big and small curves. We've meet the letters F (feathers), G (glitter), H (hearts) and I (insects). Some projects we've done to help reinforce the letter sounds are: creating the perfect face for our jack-o-lanterns and what feelings we wanted it to portray for F week. We made amazing gak and used glitter paints for G week. We made gorgeous hats with newspaper and created a hand print wreath for the Giving Thanks circle for H week. For the letter I, we are creating our own initial cards. We used big and small curves as well as long and short lines to create our

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initials. When we finish, we will attach our picture to the bottom and hang them proudly in the classroom. We will use these initial cards for many circle activities.

The sea lions are getting ready for the next wave of activities. We are looking forward to the book fair, pajama day, days in the annex, holiday celebrations, "secret" projects and the Holiday Sing-a-long! Wow, we'll be busy! Until next time.....

Jackie & Rebecca

Thank you to:

Eva for doing two wonderful projects with us.

Irene for reading us a fantastic story from Hawaii

Rachel's grandpa for reading us two great stories

Lisa and Ana for making beautiful turkeys with us

And Thank you to everyone who has donated paper items, large shirts and art supplies

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