

LENEXA UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL/CDO NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

From “turkey gobbles” to “giving thanks,” we have an exciting and fun-filled month planned for your children in November!

NO SCHOOL

November 22, 23, and 24 – Happy Thanksgiving!

JOHNSON COUNTY MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

One of the Lenexa United Methodist Church outreach ministries is to provide food for food insecure families in our area. Our preschool joins the church efforts this month by donating food to the Multi-Service Center. Watch for flyers coming home in backpacks with specific details how you can help.

A THANKSGIVING TRADITION

As a parent of three young children living a long way from extended family, I felt the need to establish special traditions to help make our holidays both meaningful and memorable for my family. One of my favorites is the “Thanksgiving Tree.” The first of November, an outline of a plain brown tree with lots of branches was drawn on brown banner paper and put up on our family room wall. Every day until Thanksgiving, the children chose a red, orange, or yellow construction paper leaf and wrote on it what they were most thankful for that day. By Thanksgiving Day, our tree was beautifully decorated, and we had a lovely visual illustration of the many blessings we had to celebrate. The tree is still remembered fondly each Thanksgiving by my adult children. May you and your family find many blessings to celebrate this November. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Lori

THANKFULNESS PRAYER

This is one of our school’s favorite prayers:

Dear God,

Thank you for the wind	(Sweep hands back & forth like blowing trees)
and the rain	(Wiggle fingers like raindrops)
and the sun above	(Raise arms in circle about your head)
but most of all	(Open both arms wide)
for the people we love!	(Close arms across chest in hug)

**Our staff is very thankful to have your children in our program.
Each one of them is very precious to us.**

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE THANKSGIVING!!!!

COVER THOSE COUGHS

Please help us reinforce with your child the importance of coughing and sneezing **in to their elbow**. This helps us dramatically cut down on the spread of germs here at school, and is the preferred method promoted by most pediatricians. We will be teaching and modeling this method throughout the rest of this year. Please join us in practicing this skill with your child in your homes. Encouraging your child to blow and/or wipe their nose on a tissue and then throw it away themselves is also a huge help in “germ control” here at school.

SICK CHILDREN

As the temperatures drop, we generally see an increase in the number of ill children at school. Please review the guidelines in your parent handbook concerning the exclusion of children from school and follow them closely. It's important that each of us do our part to keep our school environment healthy. It is imperative that we always have a number where someone can be reached if a child becomes ill, and someone who is able to pick them up quickly.

COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

Our school will be having a Mrs. Field's Cookie Dough fundraiser to help our busy parents with their holiday baking needs. Order forms have been sent home in backpacks. Turn forms and checks in to the preschool office by Nov. 17th. Participation is optional as always.

December Dates to Remember:

Dec. 14/15 – Cookie Dough Delivery for those who have ordered

Dec. 8 - Holiday Luncheon for Staff

(Staff Appreciation Committee will need help!)

Dec. 11 – T-K Songfest

Dec. 13 – Pre-K Songfest

Dec. 15 – Last day of School for 2016

Dec. 18- Jan. 3– NO SCHOOL – MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!

Jan. 4 – Classes resume from holiday break

Thanksgiving Song (to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush):

Thanksgiving Day will soon be here,
Soon be here, soon be here.
Thanksgiving Day will soon be here,
Let us now give thanks.

For our loving Moms and Dads,
Moms and Dads, Moms and Dads.
For our loving Moms and Dads.
Let us now give thanks.

Additional verses: 1. For our school to learn and play. 2. For our homes we love so dear. 3. For the many animals. 4. For the blessings of the year .

TODDLER CDO

Our class will have fun learning about farm animals as we “fall” into November. We will be painting with leaves and acorns to capture the beautiful colors of autumn. Also, this month the children will discover things they are thankful for, as well as practicing their good manners. We will be singing “Down on Grandpa’s Farm”, and “A Turkey is a Funny Bird”. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

OLDER 2’S AND YOUNGER 3’S CDO

October was an exciting and spooky month! We hope you had a fabulous and fun Halloween. Now, with the cooler temperatures, we will be discussing the changes that happen in the fall.

Week 1- Leaves, Leaves and More Leaves

Week 2 & 3 –Thanksgiving and Turkeys

Week 4 – Teddy Bears –We will be wearing our P.J.’s this week!!

Our shape this month is rectangle and the colors brown & yellow. Please remember to change the spare clothes in your bags as the temperatures change. We will be playing outside hopefully a lot this fall, so please don’t forget jackets and hats. There isn’t very much sun on the playground!

T-K NEWS

This month in T-K we are continuing our study of forest animals and their habitats. Additionally, we are still keeping an eye on our pumpkin experiment. Happy fall!

PRE-K NEWS

We had so much fun learning about apples, spiders, and pumpkins in October! The children have also really enjoyed sharing what makes them special as they have been taking turns being “Star of the Day”. Now the leaves have all changed and autumn has painted a beautiful background! November will bring new and exciting things to our classroom. We will learn about the season of fall and discover how leaves change their color. Leaf rubbings, patterning, sorting, tracing and cutting are just a few of the ways we will incorporate developmental skills into our fall theme. As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, we will learn all about Native Americans and their relationship with the Pilgrims. Emergent literacy skills will be developed as students use symbols to represent words and create their own stories as the Native American’s did. The children will learn about the long hard voyage the Pilgrims experienced crossing the sea, adjusting to a new land and making new friends. We are looking forward to a whole new month and wish your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT

We cannot believe November is already here! We are excited to continue experiencing fall and we will start the month off by exploring scarecrows. We will learn about Thanksgiving and the first Thanksgiving, practice cutting out pictures

of thanksgiving dinner, and match letters to beginning sound pictures. We will get to “stuff a turkey,” and sing songs about scarecrows. We are so THANKFUL for each of you!

3-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL NEWS

Crisp days, cold nights, fall leaves blowing in blustery gusts of wind, and animals of all kinds...even humans, preparing for winter. That is November. We begin the month discussing and observing how the leaves are changing. We will make a class book about our favorite leaves. We will be sending a note home to bring your favorite bear to school and to wear brown on Thursday, Nov. 9. We will be learning about hibernation and how animals prepare for winter. We will read two of our favorite books, Bear Snores On and Corduroy. We will create a texture bear from a variety of materials. Look for some turkeys to come home to decorate your refrigerator and Thanksgiving tables. We will do a group activity with the letter “T” and make dough turkeys, complete with feathers. We will continue to work on name recognition, cutting skills and writing our own names. Please reinforce these emerging skills at home. As we gather together with our families and friends on Thanksgiving Day, we feel blessed to have your families in our lives. Have a wonderful holiday.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY ENRICHMENT

We will start off the month by making our fabulous spin art turkeys. These will be displayed around the classroom window, and will be sent home in time for Thanksgiving. We will read “Stone Soup” this month, talk about how the villagers shared, and will do an art project with some of the vegetables that will likely be included in Thanksgiving dinner. We will also spend some time talking about where and how certain foods grow.

Please note that if your child is one that likes to have a yogurt tube/Gogurt in his or her lunch, we are asking for your help! Please freeze these ahead of time if you plan to send one with your child. As we continue to encourage age appropriate independence at lunch, the frequency of this lunch item is becoming difficult due to the amount of spills we are seeing on the tables, floors, and clothing. If the yogurt is frozen in advance, it is much easier for children to eat and still just as tasty. A yogurt smoothie is another option that works well, as we can keep the lid sealed and just pop a straw through the top. Less mess is always helpful to your child during lunch! We appreciate your cooperation with this!!

Your children have done a great job settling into our classroom routine. It is a joy to watch them work and play together so cooperatively. We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving!

FRIDAY ENRICHMENT/FANTASTIC FRIDAYS

The month of November will be filled with fun activities. We will be making a thankful tree, painting turkeys and singing many holiday songs. There will be plenty of fun science too. We will discover how to make corn "pop", and will experiment with neon colors using a turkey baster. We will make a graph and discover what our favorite Thanksgiving foods are. This month we will also be practicing our shapes and read The Perfect Square. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

PRESCHOOL MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

This November, I am so thankful to be back at LUMC singing, moving and sharing time with your precious children! This month during Music we will focus on all the things for which we are grateful. We'll explore the fun of bean bags and discover a steady beat with our "Native American" drums. Add a few silly turkey songs and we'll be laughin' and gobblin' our way to December.

SIMON SAYS

Simon Says is an easy learning game that you can play with your preschooler. It helps in the development of listening skills, vocabulary, following directions, and gross motor just to name a few. Don't worry about the original rules of whether you say "Simon Says" or not. This is just a fast, fun, easy interaction with your child they are sure to enjoy. ☺ I have attached a page of directions on the last page of this newsletter to inspire you with a few ideas,

SIMON SAYS FITNESS DISGUISED AS FUN

Get your kids moving by playing Simon Says with these fun yet physical activities. You decide when or if you say "Simon Says"!

Shake your whole body.	Hold your arms out at your side and make circles with them in the air.	Reach behind you and try and hold your left foot with your right hand without falling over.
Jump up and down.		
Spin around in circles.	Hop on your left foot 10 times.	Lay on the floor and stretch out as far you can for 10 a count of 10.
Do a cartwheel.	Hop on your right foot 10 times.	Pretend to shoot a basketball 10 times.
Do a somersault.		
Wave your arms above your head.	Hop around like a bunny.	Pretend to jump rope for a count of 10.
Walk like a bear on all 4s.	Balance on your left foot for a count of 10.	Pretend to ride a horse.
Walk like a crab.	Balance on your right foot for a count of 10.	Pretend to milk a cow.
Hop like a frog.	Bend down and touch your toes 10 times.	Take 5 of the biggest steps forward that you can.
Walk on your knees.	Reach behind you and try and hold your right foot with your left hand without falling over.	Pretend to lift a car.
Lay on your back & pedal your legs in the air like you are on a bike.	Show off the muscles in your arms.	Do the strangest dance you can think of.
Pretend to sit in an invisible chair 5 times - sit then stand, sit then stand, etc.		Scream.

