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SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT HALLOWEEN: Remember how scary this time can be, especially for the pre-school age children. Fantasy and imaginative play are a very important part of a young child's life. Every day at home and at school your child pretends and experiments with being someone or something else. Through this play, a young child learns the difference between reality and fantasy and discovers who he/she really is. Halloween, however, can be an over stimulating and frightening time for young children because the difference between what is real and what is not real, but pretend, is not always totally clear to them. It is no longer fun when a child is genuinely afraid. We will be talking about these things with your children

Week SEVEN Themes: October 31-November 4, 2011

- COLOR: PURPLE
- SHAPE: DIAMOND
- LETTER: I as in ... IGUANA, INCH WORM
- COOKING: On Friday Mrs. Zweers is making "Purple Cows" with the children. Hummm?
- TO STUDY AND PLAY: Fall Leaves and weather.
 - Thanks to Luke and his family for 5 big garbage bags of leaves, plus Parker and his family. If everyone brings even one big bag we will have the best leaf play ever.

Week EIGHT Themes: November 7-10, 2011 *****NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, NOV. 11 *****

- COLOR: BROWN
- LETTER: U as in ... UP, UNDER, UMBRELLA
- COOKING: On Wednesday with Mrs. Zweers. The children will make peanut butter play dough.
- TO STUDY AND PLAY: Thanksgiving, Turkeys, and more. On Monday and Tuesday, Miss Filey will be providing the messy activity of "Chocolate Pudding" for the children to explore.

Week NINE Themes: November 14-18, 2011

- COLOR: BROWN & ORANGE
- SHAPE:
- LETTER: C as in... CAT, CORN
- COOKING: Ask me in week 8.
- TO STUDY AND PLAY: Turkeys, Sharing, Thanksgiving, Leaves

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Leaves: Thanks to Parker's family, Luke's family, and ... We have a great start on leaves to play in. On Monday, October 31, we will dump them out Thanks and keep them coming.

Keys: We can use your old keys for our crafts, counting, sorting, etc.

Milk Crates and Old Newspapers: We are sorting sand toys in milk crates this year and the sorting is going really well. If you have any milk crates that you are not using, we would love a few more. Next: to save money on paper, we could use old newspapers to cover tables with. Send them in when you can. Thanks!!!!

Rain coats: We would like to have a collection of raincoats with hoods to have at school so that the children can ride the bikes in the rain. Donations welcome. At this point, if it rains, please send a rain coat and hood or hat with your child. We are going to try to play outside even in wet weather this year. **Please Pray:** We would love a few more friends in the MWF class. Thanks

WAYS YOU ARE HELPING

As of the writing of this note, I have about 6 paste jobs that have gone home with Moms and more Moms on the list to help. If you want to help, send me an email or put a note in the basket in the check-in counter. There is a short orientation, so ask me about that when you have time. There is room in the back for Moms to work and visit while their younger children play. If that sounds good to you, let me know.

As a staff, we want to thank all of you that are helping us with the Year Book project and other projects along the way. When these paste projects come back, we will be almost done with the September pages for both classes. We will be sending home the Christmas book prep soon. THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. Your children are so great!!! AND that means you are GREAT parents.

Mrs. Zweers wood projects: Thanks to Chloe's family, we have a great start on our wood for the hammering projects.

Helpful tips for success at school:

1. **BATHROOM:** The children are trying to go to the bathroom on their own, but when there are snaps and zippers, or even really tight fitting elastic in the waste of the pants, it is impossible for them to complete this task alone.
2. **SHOES:** Open shoes allow the sand to get in too easily, and there was some frustration today when the sand just would not stay out. If you have shoes that the child can take off and put on by themselves that is the best for school. Yes, I know, some of those come with all the holes for the sand to get in. Oh well, just think about it. Long shoe laces can get caught in the wheels of the trikes. Velcro and elastic can usually work, but we will help them when needed.

Blessings to all, Kahleen Edeal, Monica Zweers, Faith Filey, Abbie Wilson