

November

Discovery Isle 2014

A Note from the Principal...

Wow...can you believe it? October has come and gone so quick. We were very busy with "Open" houses (hope all your questions were answered) to having a great success with the Scholastic Book fair. We sold over \$3,500.00 in books and half of that comes back to our school in new books, music and activities...Big, big thanks!

We then kept very busy with pumpkin "craziness". The students got to weigh pumpkins, float and sink pumpkins, and then got "messy" cutting into the pumpkins to see what surprises were inside. Even our Infants participated...they had a lot of fun!

Then this last week we celebrated with school spirit. Favorite colors, crazy hair (even Ms Lisa and Ms Sonia!!!), crazy socks and then the best part was getting to wear pajamas to school on Friday. It's been a fun month.

Now to get ready for November...

This is the month that we all need to take a moment to think about what we are "Thankful" for. We will be talking a lot about families, traditions and celebrations. Everyone here at Discovery Isle wants to wish you all a "Happy Thanksgiving," make it the best.



It's that time of the year again when we need to set our clocks back one hour early this Sunday morning. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep on Monday....

School Closed...

We will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27th and Friday, Nov. 28th in observance of Thanksgiving. Teachers will have a sign- up sheet posted on their door asking what days your child will be attending during Monday, Nov. 24th to Wednesday, Nov. 26th. Please take a moment to mark the sheet so we know correct attendance during this holiday time.





We are in the middle of our “Original Works” fundraiser...The children worked hard on their snowman creations during this past week. The teachers are now passing out the art work along with the order forms. Please look through the choices and if you decide to order anything we need your order form along with the original art work by Wednesday, November 5th.

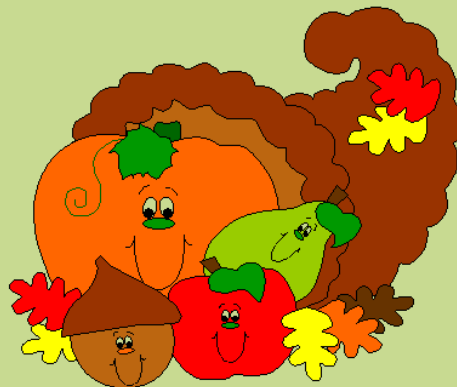
Parent Reports...

The Admin Team is now looking over the finished Reports and they will be passed out on Monday, November 10th. Please take the time to look over your child’s report to see how they are doing and read the comments that the teachers have made. There is also a parent comment section if you have any questions or concerns. Make sure to bring it to the teacher and we will get your questions answered.

Thanksgiving Word Search

R E L A T I V E S T I F S M F
 P N R E U K S S N C H A O E A
 X I E F B O B E T I L A A O S
 O B L Z Y O L T U R K S N T D
 W R Y G I C E T R E T P U K Y
 T S E V R A H L K N Y F M L S
 Y V A R G I M E E N F T I U N
 S Q U A S H M R Y I W M A R P
 F A L L P R A S N D A L O B A
 R M H T N B A G C F A C E K I

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| cook | maize |
| corn | pilgrims |
| dinner | pumpkin |
| fall | relatives |
| family | settlers |
| feast | squash |
| food | stuffing |
| gravy | thanks |
| harvest | turkey |





Enter the World of Imaginative Play

Think of the last time your child pretended that a paper towel roll was a magic wand, or put on a hat and became a cowboy. Young children are naturally wired to learn through imaginative play. Sometimes, imaginative play may appear to be just idle time, unstructured or less productive than educational activities such as music lessons, dance class, or karate. Yet, it is through imaginative play experiences that children make sense of the world, establish important self-regulation skills, and process academic content at a higher level.

Below are some ways that we encourage imaginative play in the classroom and some ideas to try at home.

Provide time for unstructured play. In our classrooms, we give students the opportunity to choose from various structured learning activities, while also allowing time for imaginative play. During circle time, for example, children may become very interested in a story about farm life. The teachers then allow them to go outside, create their own “farm” in the sandbox using props, and pretend to be farmers. Through this activity, children develop cognitive skills such as sustained attention, problem solving and sequential memory. At home, you can make up an indoor campsite with your child using sleeping bags, pillows, toy food, cooking utensils and pots. Ask your child “What should we make for dinner?” or “What games do you want to play while we camp?”

Give children a variety of materials so they can make their own props. In our classrooms, students use cardboard boxes and art supplies to create pirate ships and castles. Some students may create a kitchen out of boxes and pretend to be chefs in their own restaurant. They practice writing skills by creating a menu, and use culinary-themed vocabulary to communicate with their restaurant patrons. By participating in this activity, students practice taking turns, sharing and listening to others. Give your child art supplies and a box at home and see their imagination run wild. Let your child’s interests lead and shape the play.

Engage in imaginative play, but don’t direct it. As children create an imaginative experience, our teachers allow them to make the rules, define the play experience and direct roles. For instance, they may choose a student to decide how the class should move around the room. Should they move around like bumblebees, mice or robots? The teacher doesn’t direct the play, but instead asks questions such as “What can I be?” or “What should I do?” As the students move around, they practice balance, coordination, body control and spatial awareness. You can do the same at home by asking your child to choose a different animal for both of you to imitate. In summary, imaginative play is not only fun for children but it is vital for their development. It allows children to take the lead in a world that is usually very directed for them, and to learn and play through self-expression.

-- Lauren Starnes, PhD- Director of Early Childhood Education