



## Newsletter November 2019

### *A Message from the Head of School*

Dear Children's House Community,

It feels like we were just having our Halloween parade and carnival, and here we are in the week of Thanksgiving! There have been some amazing things happening here at Children's House this month.

The students have been hard at work in many areas. They are continuing with their lessons in their classrooms, learning more and more about the Spanish language and cultures around the world, creating works of art, practicing intentional movement, and also preparing for the upcoming Holiday Performance in the music room. This year, we will have our Holiday Performance here, on December 19 at 10:00. We will be taking you on a little journey to show how people celebrate in different areas of the world. It's a wonderful opportunity for the students to not only learn new music, but to learn about traditions and holidays that they don't normally celebrate. Seating will be limited, so please have your small children sit on your laps if possible.

As a school, we decided it would be good to help collect Thanksgiving foods to help those in our community who are not able to provide a meal for their families. Our goal was to collect enough to help six families, and we ended up collecting enough for eleven families! Thank you so much to the families who contributed and to the teachers for helping to organize things.

During November, I was reflecting on how grateful I am to be a part of such a lovely community. I have such joy each and every day that I spend here with the students, teachers and parents. It's important to be thankful for the things we have each and every day, and we are very lucky to have a day to really celebrate those gifts that life has given us.

I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Take good care,  
Ms. Kelly



*"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."*

~ Maria Montessori



The generous donations provided by our families. This will help eleven families have a very Happy Thanksgiving!



## *Primary with Ms. Amy and Ms. Morgan*

We welcomed the beautiful weather this month! Our class continued our studies of North America by introducing the different Native American tribes and their dwellings. Studying the Native Americans led into our discussions about the first Thanksgiving and what our class is thankful for. We ended the month with a beautiful feast on our back patio together with Ms. Caitlyn and Ms. Cory's class.



## *Lower Elementary with Ms. Princess and Ms. Nikki*

We had a busy November in the classroom and during recess.

We are all working very hard on our math facts and finishing our incomplete projects.

Spelling Group C rewrote their own story about the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving then presented it to the class. We made a lot of different Thanksgiving art and enjoyed singing a lot of Thanksgiving songs. We also had a lot of good food to eat during our Thanksgiving Feast.

We were given Painted Lady Butterfly eggs again this month. We were able to see them changed into caterpillars then into a chrysalis. At least 20 or more of our chrysalis' became butterflies and we released them into the world.

During our playtime, we enjoy playing soccer, climbing trees, building forts, and using the vines to make a swing.

We hope everyone will have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Written by Dorian and Meenali

## *Children's House Community Group*

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 11, at 5:15. The organization will be planning out the budget for the year, planning events and fundraisers, and deciding how to allocate fundraising money.

*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."*

*~Albert Einstein*



KIDS/ FAMILY YOGA CLASS (DONATION)  
& RAFFLE FOR FREE 60MIN MASSAGE!



# What's Growing in the Garden?



First of all we would like to thank every one who participated in the "Change for Change" drive. We purchased a hanging birdbath, a beautiful mosaic bird feeder and squirrel baffle, and bird seed. Attracting birds to our garden and observing them is one of our favorite activities! We've already seen a tufted titmouse making use of the new feeder!

In other good news, Ms. Jessica was chosen for a mini-grant by the Volusia County Farm Bureau! She will be using the \$200 to enlarge and improve our little strawberry patch. Watch this space for pictures as we build the new raised bed and plant the new strawberries in spring!

A quick thank you as well to Ms. Deborah for donating a few cabbage plants to our garden. Although the temperature is dropping we are still planting and growing cool weather crops! We have a bunch of newly sprouted sweet peas and snap peas.

We have continued exploring living vs. non-living with the students, as well as doing seed dissecting and looking at the parts of a seed. We've also continued discussing the life cycle of butterflies, and we've released the last of our painted lady butterflies! Also in the garden we've found some monarch and swallowtail caterpillars. We've also started looking at the life cycles of other insects like bees and ladybugs and we've been exploring how different insects share certain characteristics.

So even though we are wearing scarves and hats some mornings we remain busy! If you'd like to contribute to the garden in this cool season, vegetables like leafy greens, broccoli and cabbages can still be planted from starts. Also we are looking for cool weather color for flower arranging!



Two caterpillar species are making themselves at home and getting ready for their transformations!

*"And forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair"*  
~ Khalil Gibran



After all the hard work planting, weeding, and watering, the students can see the fruits (or vegetables, like this radish) of their labor.

# From the Reading Nook



All of these titles can be found/reserved through the online and in person Volusia County library catalog.

As the cold weather is setting in and the holidays are drawing near, we have more family time together. During this time, we can have our readings focused on our personal and family values. This gives us the opportunity to discuss how and what we believe in. I've selected a variety of books that focus on service in our community. As we focus inward on instilling our family values, we remember our community as part of that family. I hope you enjoy your holidays with your community and family!

## Middle School with Ms. Tara

Dionte Marks, a University of Florida football player originally from DeLand, came to talk with us about the importance of hard work both on and off the field. Dionte spoke about being a student first, and an athlete second, recognizing the importance of education as the foundation for being prepared for whoever they aspire to be later in life. He encouraged our students to respect themselves and their work, and to be willing to do whatever it takes every day to make their dreams real in the world around them.

Dionte also spoke about the need to surround yourself with positive people who will help you become the person you want to be, which is timely advice for our eighth graders who are about to transition to high school next year, and encouraged them to not let anyone tell them what they can or cannot achieve in life.

Dionte is a positive role model, and an example of how motivation, determination, and hard work can take you far, while not forgetting your local roots. He is the family friend of one of our eighth graders, and he came to speak with us as a class, and personally surprise one of our students on their birthday.

A big Thank You to all who helped with the Halloween Carnival, and to all who attended! We hope you all had as much fun as we did. A special Thank You to Christine Mallory, Ms.Morgan, Joanne Mercado, and the anonymous donors who helped cover the costs for the food, the obstacle course and the raffle prizes. For those of you who attended, you were such a big help, more than you know. Without you there would have been no carnival. Thanks to you after all of our expenses for food, machine rental, and bounce house fees, we made \$862.65! Now, because of you, we are able to go to Epcot for Model UN, and hopefully other field trips, so Thank You!

Middle School Class

Toddler Room:

1. *A is for Activist* by Innosanto Nagara
2. *My Community* by Grace Jones
3. *Painting for peace in Ferguson* by Carol Swartout Klein

Primary Rooms:

1. *Follow the moon home: a tale of one idea, twenty kids, and a hundred sea turtles* by Philippe Cousteau
2. *Helping in the Community* by Victoria Parker
3. *Papa Put a Man on the Moon* by Kristy Dempsey

Lower Elementary Rooms:

1. *Be An Active Citizen in Your Community* by Helen Mason
2. *The Little Book of Little Activists* by Penguin Young Readers
3. *Can We Help? Kids volunteering to help their communities* by George Ancona
4. *Harvesting Friends/ Cosechando amigos* by Kathleen Contreras

Upper Elementary:

1. *Get Into Citizen Science* by Vic Kovacs
2. *Sharing Our Global Community* by Steffi Cavell-Clarke
3. *What Milly did: the remarkable pioneer of plastics recycling* by Elise Moser

Middle School:

1. *Get Into Citizen Science* by Vic Kovacs
2. *I am Malala: how one girl stood up for education and changed the world* by Malala Yousafzai
3. *Vote: the theory, practice, and destructive properties of politics* by Gary Paulsen

