



2024

## Director's Desk

School is off to a truly wonderful start. This past month has given us the time to renew old friendships and explore new relationships. Watching the children form and reform their social groups is quite exciting. Their sincerity and innocence as they venture out into the world of school are touching. They are truly learning socially as well as academically. I hope you are as pleased with your child's progress as we are.

Sincerely,  
Leigh

## Reminders

October is a wonderfully special month because of Halloween. The magic of make-believe is so special to the young child because of the excitement and delicious thrill of dress up. However, along with this excitement comes some anxiety. Our Two and Three-year olds are very new to the idea of pretend, and even four-year old's are not always sure what is real and what is not. We really work hard to make this a fun experience. Costumes and made-up faces are often frightening for small children. Let's try to emphasize the silly, not the scary, aspect of Halloween. Each class will have a "Special" party and sing along time—the teachers will let each family know.

## Upcoming Events

### Pumpkin Patch Parade- October 30-31

Wednesday, October 30

Thursday, October 31

Ms. Karen  
Ms. Nyamaa  
Ms. Ivonne  
Ms. Diane

Ms. Harden  
Ms. Jessica  
Ms. Price

Ms. Sammy and Ms. Kendall's classes will join us for the December Holiday program. Our 2-year-old classes need a little more time to get adjusted to their daily schedule.

## Conference Day

Tuesday, November 5th are conferences. School is closed to part-time students that day. I will try to schedule working parents as early as possible and during lunchtime. Conferences will be conducted in person. I will publish the schedule later this month.

## Spotlight

The Manor Schools are on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/manorschools>

## What we are learning

During the month of October Ms. Sammy and Ms. Kendall's MDO classes will continue with the world of senses-smelling, tasting, touching, listening, and observing. There will be lots of cooking, crafts, and songs. Our youngest children have adjusted beautifully to school and each other.

If you thought September was fun, October is better if you are three. It is also quite busy. Ms. Harden, Ms. Karen's, and Ms. Nyamaa classes go on a safari this month and study jungle animals. During the next three weeks they become experts on animal behavior and can easily mimic the antics of chimps, lions, and elephants. For many of the children a visit to the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk would be a marvelous reinforcement of the animals they are studying. It is also a wonderful way to spend a warm fall day. The threes finish the month with stories and crafts relating to Halloween.

Ms. Ivonne and Ms. Jessica's classes will finish their alphabet unit before turning their attention to Fall. They take a brief look at squirrels and their preparations for winter. The children learn fun finger plays and poems before leaping into their Halloween Unit. The teachers really get to into the spirit of the season and have some wonderful things planned. A quick study of shapes and colors is also at hand as they get quite involved in finger-painting and mixing with different mediums. Of course, the month ends with stories, crafts, poems, and songs about Halloween. This holiday seems to be created for four-year olds. Letter and number recognition as well as phonics instruction continue on an individual basis.

Ms., Diane's PreK class look at our world from a geographical and environmental angle. The children are introduced to some basic geographical concepts using habitats as a motif. By mid-month the children are learning about the fragility of various habitats and interdependence between the environment and its inhabitants. An investigation of endangered species concludes the unit.

Ms. Price class will end the transportation unit with a brief study of the Solar system and our planet earth. We finish with a wonderful astronaut party! While amongst the stars, we study constellations and mythology behind several star groups. Hopefully they will be able to find the Big Dipper on Halloween night. We will, of course, devote a week to pumpkins and scarecrows. Intertwined with all this fun, the children will continue to learn math and phonics facts.

## Save the Date

- August 26 –October 4 ...Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
- September 10 &11 .....Individual Pictures
- October 14 .....**School closed Columbus Day**
- October 30-31 ..... Fall music programs.
- October 29 ..... Original Works Fundraiser ends.
- November 1 .....Holiday Wreath Fundraiser ends.
- November 5.... Conference Day- open for **ALL DAY** students only
- November 11.....Veterans Day-**school closed.**
- November 28-29.....Thanksgiving Holiday-**school closed.**
- December 4-5 .....Winter music programs (Santa 4th)
- December 23- January 3...Winter Break-**school closed.**
- January 20 .....MLK day **school closed.**
- January 27 .....Staff Inservice (**Closed to Students**)
- February 17 .... President's Day **School closed**
- April 14-18 ..... Spring break **School closed**
- April 2-3 .....Spring Programs
- May 20 ...Conference Day- open for **ALL DAY** students only
- May 26 .....Memorial Day **School closed**
- June 12 .....Kindergarten Graduation