

Dear Sprout 3's Families,

We have had a wonderful time in our first month and a half of Preschool, getting to know each other and starting to explore our surroundings! The fall season has provided a lot of opportunities for learning and fun. As we have settled into a routine, we have explored squirrels, fall leaves, apples and pumpkins. Most importantly, friendships have begun to blossom!

OUR FIRST MONTH

We started out this September exploring the changing season. We walked into the park and made leaf collections and leaf rubbings. Our puppet friend, Sammy Squirrel, taught about how animals prepare for winter by hiding pom-pom “nuts” for the kids to find. Finally, the kids had a blast building a nest for Sammy out of sticks and leaves in a Gabriel Park tree.



As we moved further into fall, we moved on to hands-on fun with

apples. We read Dr. Seuss's "Ten Apples Up on Top" and acted out the story by balancing apples on our heads. We did a taste test of different apple varieties, and the kids got a taste of early math by recording their favorites on a chart. We visited real apple trees in the park, painted with apple stamps, and decorated our classroom tree with leaves and apples the kids made themselves. As the kids incorporated apples into their play, they showed a lot of curiosity about how apple juice is made. This inspired our final apple project – making apple juice ourselves! The kids had a great time following the steps on our recipe, smooching apple mush through a filter, and of course, tasting the results!



This class is really embracing the outdoors, long walks, and play in all weather! Our near-daily walks into Gabriel Park have become a favorite part of our day. We often visit the "Little Forest" on the hill above the community center, with huge trees to play under, a variety of pine cones to discover, and three apple trees. We have also ventured several times into the Big Forest on the other side of the park, where we have visited a stream, discovered many kinds of birds, and had very imaginative free play adventures in the clearings. We are looking forward to making it all the way to the community garden soon!

We are finishing up the month with an exploration of pumpkins. The kids are curious to open up a pumpkin and find out what's inside! We will finish up with our Halloween Party on Thursday, October 27th. Kids are encouraged to come in costume (No Masks Please). I look forward to a great time!

OUR DAILY RHYTHM

8:00-9:00 – Free Play, Stations, and Art

9:00-9:30 – Circle Time and Activity

9:30-10:00 – Snack Time with Story, Potty Break

10:00-11:30 – Outside Play and Walk

10:45-11:30 – Outside Play

11:30-11:50 – Wind -Down Activity

11:50-12 – Goodbye Circle



SKILLS WE ARE WORKING ON

One of the most exciting parts of starting preschool is gaining independence, making friends, and learning to be a friend. To help our Sprout Academy kids get along with each other and thrive, here are some of the skills we are working on:

- Sitting crisscross applesauce and raising hands to at circle time
- Using words to tell friends what they want, and saying "Please stop!" if they don't like how a friend is treating them
- Sharing toys! The kids are learning to ask politely for a turn, and to give turn in five minutes if they aren't ready to stop right away. They are great at this and often remember to give the turn even without a reminder.
- Putting on jackets and boots independently. Some of our kids have been having a lot of fun laying jackets out on the floor and flipping them on over their heads!

It's amazing to see how far our students have come in using these skills in just a few short weeks!

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

Halloween Party: Thursday, November 27. Come in costume (No Masks Please) for fun Halloween games during Class time!

Fall Picture Day: Tuesday, November 1nd

Harvest Walk Celebration: Saturday, November 12th 6-7:30pm in Gabriel Park

Thank you all for your positivity, support and enthusiasm as we have all gotten settled in this first month! I am having a great time getting to know each of your children, and I am looking forward to a lot more fun to come this year!

Love,

Teacher Jacquelyn Jacquelyn.Miller@portlandoregon.gov