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September 2006

The Cobbler

a newsletter of the Cobb Meadow School

What's New

MICHEALMAS FESTIVAL

Friday, September 29th
from 10:00am-11:30am



On Friday, September 29 we will celebrate **MICHAELMAS**. All children and families are invited to arrive at 10 am for this festival day. There will be several activities that celebrate the harvest of the earth and the bounty of the growing season. We will work hard to press cider and we will drink it right up! The teachers will offer a puppet show and then we will come back outside for a potluck lunch. We should be finished by 11:30.

In legend, George, with the help of St Michael fought and tamed the dragon which was intent on causing havoc and ruin wherever he went.

For the children, **MICHAELMAS** is a celebration of the goodness of the earth, and although we are not blatant about it, we are expressing belief in the power of the good to reign over evil.

Friday

ARRIVE 10 am *

BRING a potluck sharing for lunch and a small harvest offering for our season's table.

WEAR clothing suitable for outdoor work and play. Please dress so that you will be comfortable in chill autumn air, warm noon sunshine, or a soggy garden!

* Before care is an option if you need care for your child before 10. Please tell Anne if your child will be arriving before 10 am. There is no nap care on festival days at Cobb Meadow.

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Hello Parents,

We are off to a beautiful start. Thank you for all your care and patience. There are children hesitant to say goodbye, children checking in by saying- "my mom said I would not be sleeping here today", or "I can't wait to get outside, we can play as much as we want to outside!" We have a thriving tadpole community to watch, and a restless bunch of monarch caterpillars to keep under control. We have children who report that they do not like hot cereal, but gobble up our oat porridge. We have children laughing and asking where their friends are, building houses, making sand pies, and just having fun. The children don't know each other's names yet, but they are busy getting to know the important details. On the day we shucked many an ear of corn, the children present told me that they had been seeing school mates all over town! There were three children having their first days of school the first week, and we are expecting one more in another week or two. I like this gradual filling up.

We start our day in free play- child-driven interaction and child-initiated action, with teachers there to lend a hand with building challenges or bandit fruit snatchers. It seems during this free play that they might just be able to go on forever, but clean up time does come, and the children are eager to sit down to get their crispy almond and lie down for a bit before circle. This week there are children ready to go right from play to snack, and they sit at the table as the other children are gathering on the rug- but they join us right away, once they see. I see the ability of these children to learn by imitation very clearly at circle. They have been singing and moving along with me since our first day of school. This is a very sharing bunch of children, with comments and suggestions for other verses.

Autumn is a busy and lovely time at Cobb Meadow. I am very happy and blessed to be sharing Autumn with your children at Cobb Meadow.

*Thank you,
Anne*

Health forms!

Is your child's health form in and up to date? By state licensing requirements children less than 6 years old need to have a physical exam each year. We also need a record of their immunizations or a notarized exemption form on hand.

Work Days

Thanks to all who came for work days! We were very productive. We have more opportunities for volunteering. Coming right up, Derek's dad, Steve, hopes to cut a few more stumps this weekend at the car dealership just west of Peterborough on 101. Steve will cut and needs help loading the stumps. Steve directed our placing of the stumps that have added so pleasantly to our sand box. We are going to add that many more and could use strong help. Please call Steve if you have time this weekend to meet up.

Workshops - *please see flyers in boot room*

There are two upcoming workshops for puppetry and storytelling with children, October 12, then October 13th-15th. Suzanne Down, my summer course teacher, and Nancy Mellon are offering these wonderful opportunities. Either workshop would be very worth while and wonderful. Thursday is a one time, 8:30-12:30 workshop, and the weekend workshop is Friday- Sunday. If the topic of the weekend workshop interests you, but you do not have the three days to spend this way, they suggest you attend the Friday evening section. This three day workshop will be held at the Pine Hill Child Care Center at Conval High School. On Friday evening, October 27, Sophia's Hearth and Monadnock Waldorf school are presenting Kim John Payne for public talk titled, Simplicity Parenting, Why Less is More for Children.

Drop-Off Times

Please remember to enter school quietly, as many of the children feel a little tender at that time, and can be easily intimidated by loud talk. Also, it is easier for the children to enter into their play after the parents have left. I wish we had an indoor gathering space for you, but I will just ask you to depart as soon as you can.

Norway Hill Orchard-Apple Picking

I am still working on getting an exact date, soon, for going to Hancock to pick apples. All parents are invited, and we will need drivers. Some people may elect to meet us there.

Illness Policy

Please be respectful of everyone at school and of your own child by keeping him/her home when he/she is sick. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- ⊗ If your child is too sick to engage fully in outdoor activity, then he/she is too sick to come to school.
- ⊗ Your child should be fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- ⊗ When your child is coming down with something, do keep her/him home. Such preventative medicine is easier and less costly for your child and for us.

Our school is fully licensed and inspected and further information about State of NH and Board of Health regulations is available upon request.

Pumpkin Festival Fund-Raiser

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please save the date: October 21st to help us with a fund-raising effort at the Pumpkin Festival in Keene, more information to follow.

Almonds, anyone?

The children love the crispy almonds we bake for school. Everyone gets one just before circle time. We also have them chopped over our rice. We follow a simple recipe to make them so much more tasty than raw. We would like to have an almond store, to make these almonds available to you for taking home, and to help pay for the almonds for the school day. We would sell raw almonds for \$9 a pound- just over market price or crispy nuts for \$9 a half a pound. Would you be interested in purchasing a pound or so of either variety? I will post a survey sheet. Today when I was passing them out, some one asked, "are they crispy?"

Woolen Order

Information on a group woolen clothing order available in the boot room at school.

You can check: www.cobbmeadowschool.org for info and downloads.