



What a great start to the school year we've had! The building always "sings" when the children are busy at play and work. And we have lots of cooking of apple delicacies, with pumpkin soon to follow, so it sounds great and smells like fall as well.

I asked one of the three year-olds on his first long day of school what he brought for lunch and he responded, "Curly pasta." What day isn't immediately better with curly pasta? And as the Fours prepare to segue on to Ongoing School, one of our mothers shared the following story with me:

I asked Natalina if she was excited to go to Sacred Heart with her sisters. She said, "I don't want to go to any other school." She said she was happy at Epiphany. I explained how she has to move on to big-girl school next year. She said no thanks. I told her she can't stay at Epiphany so if she wasn't going to SH, how would she spend her days. Her response: "I'm going to Dunkin' Donuts."

This is reminiscent of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, when with each catastrophe Alexander encountered he responded: "I think I'll just move to Australia." I like Dunkin' Donuts better, it's closer and I love that coffee! (They also give a 10% discount to teachers, which is really thoughtful).

Halloween and our beloved Heavenly Hats Parade have been visually spectacular and we never tire of watching our children dress up, be it pirate, princess, animal or super hero. Our days are filled with the joy of costumed children swashbuckling, twirling and belting out songs and all the while learning.

We had our Annual Fathers' Pancake Breakfast and invited back some former students to help sell at the School Store. One dad paused at the table and ECNS grad Rohan said, "Would you like a coffee mug?" The dad replied, "I don't drink coffee." Without missing a beat Rohan responded, "Then you'll want the water bottle!" The kid is meant for sales!



Selfies of the Twos teaching team getting ready for the start of the school year with relaxing facials. Here's to a fun and fabulous year!!

Happy fall and Go Giants!

Wendy-

Mark Your Calendars



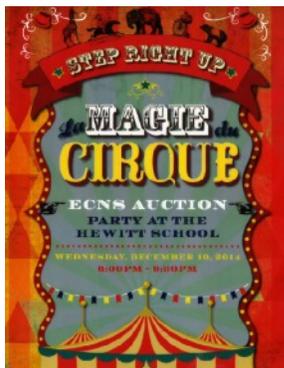
Nov. 11
ECNS Fathers Day
For 3s, 4s and 4/5s
11am dismissal for
all classes



Nov. 27 to Nov. 30
ECNS closed for
Thanksgiving



Dec. 10
ECNS Auction 6-9:30pm
The Hewitt School
45 East 75th Street



Dec. 15
2/3s Holiday Party
10:30-12noon



Dec. 16
Y2s Holiday Party
10:30-12noon



Dec. 17
3s, 4s, 4/5s Holiday Party
10:30-12noon



Dec. 18 to Jan. 4
ECNS closed for
Winter Break

Have you met...

Julie Wolf, the new director of 74th St. MAGIC?



Julie comes to 74th St. from "all over the world". She is a self-proclaimed "army brat" who moved a lot with her family. She spent much of her childhood in Southeast Asia and her high school and college years in Washington DC. (She studied music because she had wanted to be a

performer in NYC ever since she was five years old when her grandma took her to see *Cats*.)

While in college, Julie worked with Lenore Blank Kelner (pioneer in arts integration in education) and learned that she enjoyed working with children. After college, Julie stayed in DC and performed in theatre, and also worked with children in the local Gymboree. She started as an instructor and then worked in curriculum and professional development. The five-year-old who had wanted to move to NYC never left Julie so when Gymboree offered her a position to develop curriculum in New York, she jumped at it.

For a while, Julie performed on stage as well as worked with children, but then she was hit with an epiphany during an audition - she liked her work with children exponentially more than her work on stage. She decided then to shift her focus to children.

"I knew I wanted to work here [MAGIC] the moment I walked in," Julie said of her first day in July. It seems her initial feelings were correct. "The kids are great, the families are wonderful and the teachers are passionate," is what she says now. Her vision for MAGIC is to let out the secret of this neighborhood's "hidden gem" to other neighborhoods.

MAGIC runs a variety classes for children (two months to early teens). Julie is more than happy to help families find the right class. Come by her office on the second floor and say hi, or send her an email (juliew@74magic.com)!



Michelle's Twos

Are you wondering what goes on in the Twos? First and foremost, everyone is happy and having a blast. Our Twos have really taken ownership of their new classroom by striding in with confidence each morning, visiting their cubbies, hanging up their coats, and delving into free play activities. Some of us may take a while to warm up while others take to the trucks, the cars, and the trains immediately. Many of the children love building with pegs and doing puzzles. We love when the children make breakfast for each other and teachers in the housekeeping!

Each morning the classroom is set up for different types of skill development and the children are always eager to explore new and exciting things. Songs are an integral part of our

day. We sing for just about everything; we find that singing has helped tremendously in transitioning from one activity to another. The children have come to learn and love the "Clean up Song" which is always preceded by our "Five Minute Warning" song, "Put Your Finger on the Wall, on the Wall", as well as the "Don't Touch Your Neighbor in the Elevator" song.

We have covered several themes over the past few weeks which include starting school, colors, shapes, apples, and Halloween. We have produced several masterpieces which are proudly displayed on the bulletin boards. We have created shape collages, paper plate apples, foot print ghosts, and spooky ghost costumes for Halloween. We all cook and work on science projects together. We are learning to take turns and cooperate with all of our new friends. Our young chefs have been cooking up a storm and have mastered the culinary art of glitter playdough, apple sauce, and chocolate chip pumpkin bread.

The children are becoming enthusiastic participants at circle time. They're proudly coming up and sticking their pictures up on the attendance board! We have been singing the "Good Morning Song", reading the schedule, and working on our calendar skills. We have also been singing some movement songs which help us to pay attention and keep our hands to our own bodies when sitting on the rug.

We anticipate a wonderful year in which we can all learn and grow. There are so many terrific things to look forward to in the Twos room!

-Michelle, Chini, and Erica

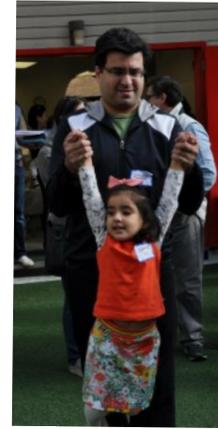




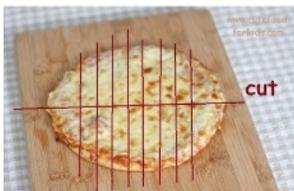
+ Dads (& some moms)



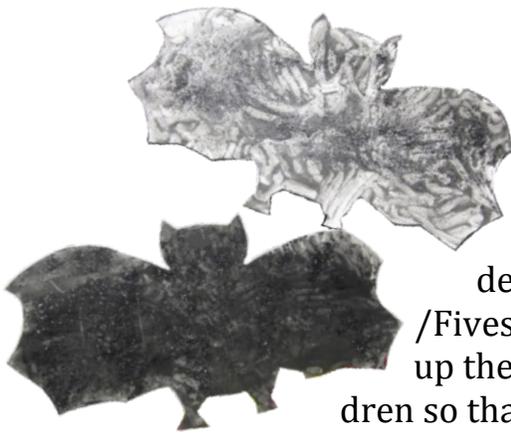
a great morning!



Ideas for fun and healthy Halloween Snacks



Four/Fives



This year is off with a bang! Not only did ECNS welcome the new Four/Fives students, but we also welcomed two new Four/Fives teachers, Shevaun and Melissa. We set up the classroom rules together with the children so that they are the more meaningful and everyone understands them fully. Once the children learned what was expected of them, exciting things, like picking out jobs and trying new activities and foods, began! The children are awesome at trying new snack items as well as foods we've cooked such as applesauce, banana bread, cucumber-dill dip with homemade pita chips, and "dirt" which is always a hit.

We are so lucky that we start our year with an exciting field trip to Dr. Davies Farm in Congers, NY, because what better way to learn about the Fall than experiencing it first hand. We picked so many apples that we each got to take home one bag full AND have two HUGE bags for the class to snack on and cook with! We could not have asked for a better day to go on our trip, and everyone was so well behaved it makes me even more excited for other field trips to be had this year! Prior to our trip we had done a "lacing and stuffing" apple project. The color of each child's paper apple was based on the apple he thought he would like the most. After the trip, we talked about if their predictions were correct or not.

Of course the highlight in any four and five year old classroom in the Fall is not the season, but their favorite holiday - Halloween. To get our classroom ready the children each chose to make either a puffy paint ghost or a puffy paint bat. Most of the kids loved painting with their hands and the texture of puffy paint is very different from normal finger paint; and they loved how it dried. What would Halloween be without some jack-o-lanterns? The children mixed yellow and red watercolor to make the perfect orange for their pumpkins, then they used crayon to draw on faces. Each jack-o-lantern face really represents the individual child well. We made and wore our adorable Horton the elephant costumes to go trick-or-treating. Our classroom party was of course the ultimate highlight of the fall and we all had a blast!

Thank you to the moms who came in to teach us about Diwali and Eid, and those who did a special Halloween activity with us; we always love learning about new things!

We look forward to many more parents joining us and of course learning TONS more things in the Four/Fives!

Happy Fall and we can't wait for a great winter!
-Meredith, Shevaun and Melissa



Alumni News



At dance class.

From left, Christian Kim, Sawyer Niehaus (dancing), Chloe Alto, Christian Doscas, Griffin Davis ('08) (dancing)



Heading to Boston University!!
Kylee Manganiello ('01)

Dear Wendy,
Without ECNS (and you), I would not be where I am today. Thank you for giving me the foundation necessary for my academic success.
Love,
Kylee



School trip.
From left, Ella Metke, Annika Melwani, Ella Sunshine ('11)



Gerilyn Lucas (mom of Hayden, '11)
At the Corner Bookstore talking about her newest book About surviving cancer.



Reading to 2/3s in her former classroom.
In center, Ellie Craige ('09)



1st day of school in Westchester.
Petit brothers, Griffin, (y3s '13) and Declan ('12)



Partying.
From left, Jackson Koslow, Ethan Saitowitz, Chase Katz, Sophie Vogel ('12)



Buddies hanging out.
From left, Truett Napolitano, Lucas Evans, Tayjus Jain ('14)



In a play.
Luke Niehaus ('12), with Wendy

LINCOLN CENTER THEATER AT THE MITZI E. NEWHOUSE

André Bishop
Producing Artistic Director

Adam Siegel
Managing Director

Hattie K. Jutagir
Executive Director of Development & Planning

presents

The City of Conversation

by Anthony Giardina

with (in alphabetical order)

John Aylward Kristen Bush Beth Dixon
 Barbara Carrick Andy Lucien Jan Maxwell
 Luke Niehaus Kevin O'Rourke Michael Simpson

John Lee Beatty Catherine Zuber Tyler Micoileau
 Sets Costumes Lighting

Mark Bennett James FitzSimmons
 Original Music and Sound Stage Manager

Daniel Sweet Linda Mason Ross Philip Rinaldi
 Casting Director of Marketing General Press Agent

Jessica Niebanck Jeff Hamlin
 General Manager Production Manager

Directed by
Doug Hughes

This play is a recipient of an "Edgerton Foundation New American Plays" award.
 The original music for this play was supported by
 The Frederick Loewe Fund for Dramatic Theater Music at LCT.
 Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust
 for supporting new American plays at LCT.
 LCT gratefully acknowledges an extraordinary gift from the Estate of Edith K. Ehrman.
 Support for the Mitzi E. Newhouse season is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.
 American Airlines is the Official Airline of Lincoln Center Theater.

Old Threes



Old Threes are off to an incredible start to our school year! Mariel, Phyllis and I are so proud of the sense of teamwork that is already developing in our room and how loving and welcoming the children have been to

one another throughout the day. We've watched them comfort sad friends, ask one another to join in on a game, listen to one another's words, and share. There's a fantastic sense of respect that is being shown every day and it's absolutely beautiful to witness. Here are two photos of some friends working together.



Along with working on our social skills, Old Threes have

also explored



and discovered different aspects of fall throughout the past few weeks. We have read lots of stories, including our favorite *10 Apples Up On Top*, and have sung numerous songs. We've also created lots of artwork including our fall color collages, our 10 Apples Up on Top project, squirrels, a class fall tree mural, hats for the Heavenly Hat parade, jack-o-lanterns, splat spiders, and our Halloween costumes.

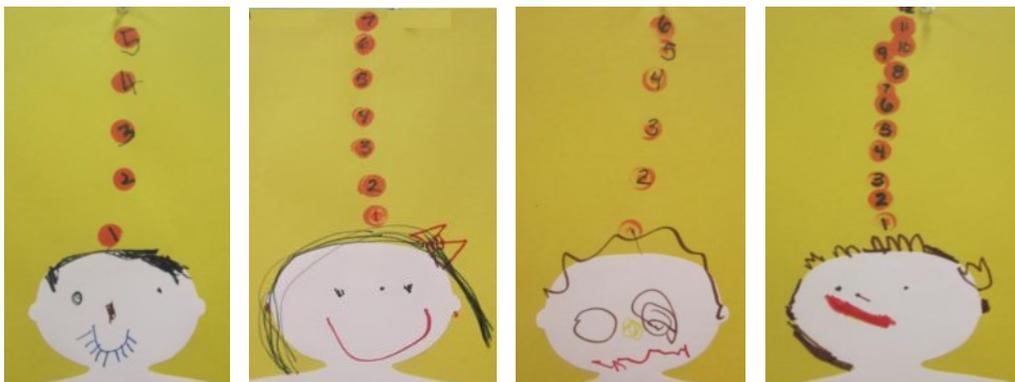


We've been cooking on Tuesdays as well and so far we have made playdough, applesauce, apple oatmeal cookies, pumpkin soup, and graveyard cups. Our cooking projects will always coincide with whatever theme we are working on throughout the year.



Since we've had some rainy days, we have also begun yoga in the classroom. We like to go on imaginary adventures when we do yoga and it's amazing what animals we discover! The children look through imaginary binoculars and tell us what animal they see, and then we do the yoga pose for that animal. Old 3s love to go on "underwater adventure". We go into boat pose and sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" to help us get to the middle of the ocean. Then we dive into the sea and look around. Some animals we usually see are sharks, crabs, sea horses, and fish!

Thank you for all your support thus far. We're looking forward to an amazing year and can't wait to share more stories from the Old 3s classroom!



~Becky, Phyllis, and Mariel

Fours



Fours have had a great autumn so far! We spent our beginning weeks learning new routines and rules. The children helped us come up with some rules - no pushing, hitting, biting, smacking, squishing or scratching and no taking other people's things! Additional rules include eat with your mouth closed (very important), clean up after yourself and, with a little help, use your words to solve problems. Two rules we are still working on are learning how to really freeze and listen when the lights go off and raising hands to speak during group time so we are not all talking at once. We are also learning to be responsible for ourselves but not be afraid to ask for help. If you take out a puzzle and then have trouble figuring it out, ask a friend to help. We have been very happy to see how many of the children are not only so good at helping each other but also very often enjoy working collaboratively.

Our apple picking trip was a great success; thank you to all the parents who came - it meant so much to the children. The weather was beautiful and everyone really seemed to have a great time. The class made a trip book in which each child got to draw a part of the trip that was especially fun for him/her. We divided up extra apples and shared them with to some of the other classes. We asked the children to guess how many apples were in one of the bigger bags. Estimation projects such as this are fun and offer a view into each child's number sense. The guesses ranged from 8 to infinity! The child who estimated 50 was the closest (the actual number was 57)!

Our Letter of the Week study has been coming along nicely. This year we added a few new twists and turns to the way we had done it previously. First, for "B" week, we all shared special books. It was wonderful to see such a variety of books! We saw Super Hero books and early readers, sports books and current Disney stories. We saw funny books, rhyming books, Halloween books and even a special dictionary! The second new activity is having the children work with their family to collage ONE letter for a large special classroom alphabet chart. We hope this will be a fun opportunity to get inspired and be creative with your child. It will be lots of fun to see this special hand-made alphabet chart unfold as each week goes by! Lastly, we reminded the children that just about anything (food, person, pet, toy, etc.) can be brought in for Letter of the Week sharing and, to give them a head start, we began a list of specials items and then help them figure out which week would be good. First on the list, a ballerina box, could not be shown for "B" week, but may be used for "M" week because it is also a music box. A green blanket and a doggie blanket may be brought in for "G" and "D" weeks, and a toy Mercedes may be for "M" week or for "C" week. This is a great exercise in getting children to use different vocabulary to describe their special items.

We will be beginning to do our fall self-portraits soon and are very much looking forward to delivering left over Halloween candies to the children at Ronald McDonald House.

Have a great Fall!
Liza, Alexis and Danielle





Starting
School!
Yay!



Interesting tidbit:

Did you know that Dr. Davies farm was started in the late 1800's by Dr. Lucy Meriwether Davies, one of the state's first female physicians, and Arthur B. Davies, who is credited with introducing modern art to the United States?



Middle Threes



Middle Threes have had a wonderful start to the year. All the children are very excited to come to school and start their day. They enjoy the routine of the day and we believe they will enjoy it even more as our year progresses. The children are beginning to use word and picture clues to figure out what jobs they have for the week, and they do their jobs very well.

As we stated at our curriculum breakfast (thank you all for coming) these past few weeks were devoted to the fall season and holidays. We've finished our unit on apples and leaves but will continue to use apples in our cooking projects. So far, we have made such great food as Apple Sauce Cake, Apple-in-Oven Pancakes, Apple Crisp, Pumpkin Cookies, "Spiders", Banana Chocolate Chip Loaf, and Aggression Cookies. It was very interesting to see the star shape at the center of apples when we cut into them. We had a fun time with our apple tasting, choosing from Honey Crisp, Granny Smith and Golden Delicious. The children all enjoy cooking, especially if it involves eggs in the recipe. The world of cooking is magical to children and being asked to help with cooking makes children feel grown up and important. Reading, science and math concepts abound in cooking experiences. Children learn to recognize numbers and words from recipes and most of all *it is fun!*

The children continue to enjoy our felt board stories and puppet shows relating to the fall. They particularly liked the Ghost Puppet Shows and ask for it many times a week. The "Spooky Walk", "Pumpkin Round" and the Doggy Doggy are special songs that we sing. Our dance parties and marching band are also very popular.

Heavenly Hat Day was very successful! At our meeting time we discussed why there is a Hat Day at our school and how important it is to help others in our community. The party hats were wonderful to decorate and wear on that special day.

For Halloween, not only did we make our costumes, but we also made ghosts, bats and spiders. The children loved to touch and work with colorful leaves. We hope everyone likes our "leaf people", fall collages, and mash monsters. Our science experiment to see which autumn items (acorns, leaves, gourds, mini pumpkins, feathers, etc.) would sink and which would float taught us a lot.



The children loved the stories we've read. A few of the favorites are *Go Away Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberley, *There is an Alligator Under My Bed* by Mercer Mayer, *There was an old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves* by Lucille Colandro, *Alphabet Mystery* by Audrey & Bruce Wood and *Franklin's Pumpkin* from Scholastic Press.

Children who are in sequencing class have been exploring patterns with colored blocks, simple procedures in sequential order and musical patterns using instruments and songs.

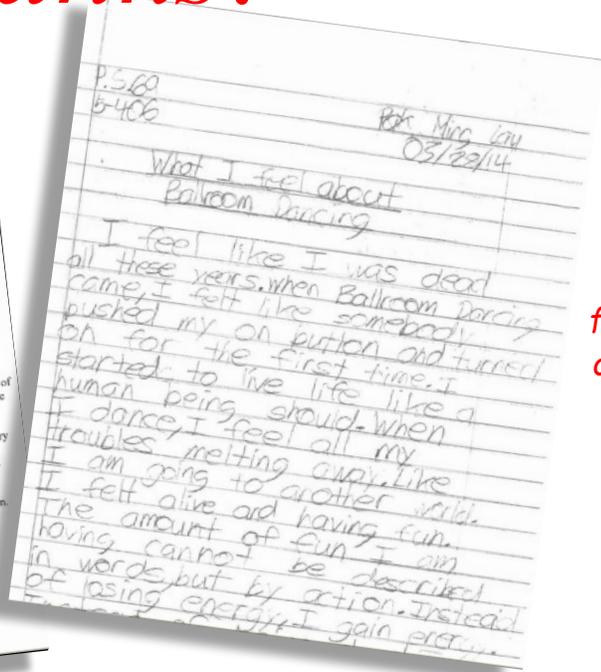
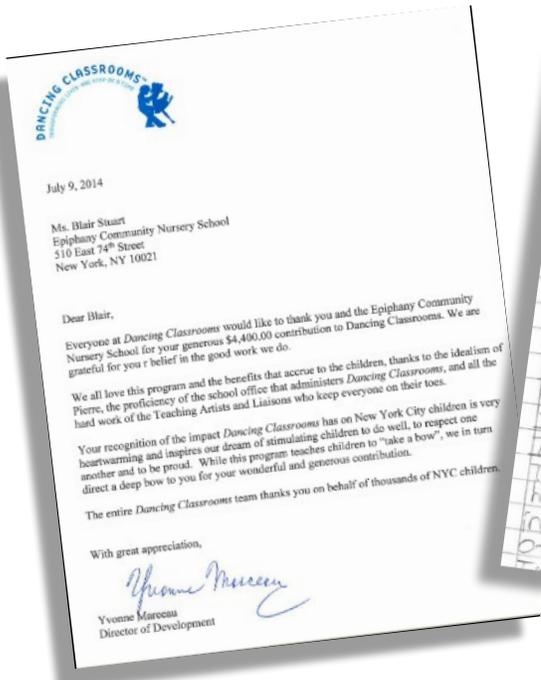
We have had such a great time these few months and just know that we are going to have more fun in the next coming months.

-Linda, Mekenzie and Caroline

Thank you Karishma, Maneesha, Kavita and Neha for teaching us about Diwali!



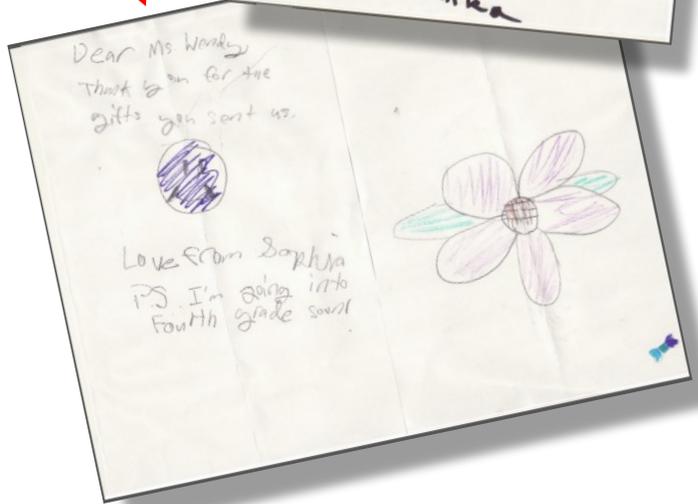
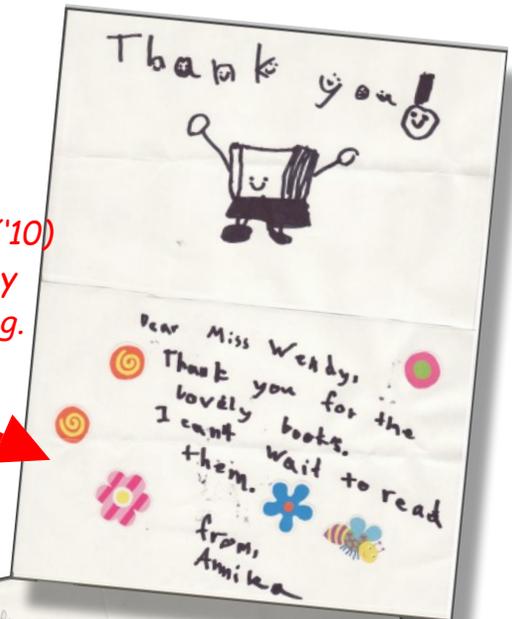
Many Thanks!



Dancing Classrooms (ECNS Silent Auction 2013 Charitable Lot recipient) and excerpt from 5th grader's letter on how ballroom dancing has changed him.

Thank you,
Dr. "Flu", George Liakeas,
dad of Caroline ('08)
and Alexandra ('09),
for giving the flu shot
to ECNS staff!!

From Sharma sisters
Annika ('12) and Sophia ('10)
for the books donated by
ECNS families last spring.



Thank you, Nicole Hurwitz!!



Young Threes

The new school year has kicked off to great start for the Young 3s! We were all very excited to get the year started with a new environment and plenty of new experiences! The kids have really picked up the routine of our classroom and seem to thrive on the structure of the schedule knowing what comes next.

We have been very busy creating lots of art to make our classroom bright and colorful. We used a large variety of textures and materials when we made apples, leaves, bats and ghosts, just to name a few! We also made jack-o-lanterns with different emotions, because we all have different feelings and emotions.

A lot of time has been spent in the classroom learning our new friends' names by singing "Around and Around is the Name of the Game" and then jumping our names, which the kids love! We adore music in the Young 3s! We've learned new fall songs about picking apples and pumpkins, pretended we're in a band marching around the classroom with instruments and played freeze dance. "Spooky Walk" is the children's favorite Halloween song!

Many of our friends are great helpers in the kitchen! We have made banana bread, mini apple pies (or "apple cupcakes" as the kids called them) and cinnamon sugar cookies with sprinkles! The kids really enjoy being able to take part in the cooking projects, which helps make tasting new foods more exciting! Our class loves snack time and we like trying different types of foods. So far the best has been chips with salsa and guacamole!

The Young 3s' theme of the year is dinosaurs, so we used dinosaur stampers to decorate our hats for the hat parade. We were so proud to wear our hats and parade down the street for a good cause! Of course, we were also dinosaurs for Halloween! We loved dressing up in our homemade costumes and going trick or treating with our friends at school!

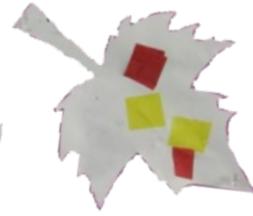
So far we have had a great fall and can't wait for all the fun experiences that we'll have with getting ready for winter and celebrating the holidays!

We are looking forward to a great year!

- Amelia, Jenn and Inez



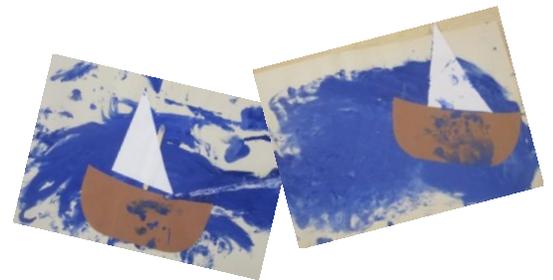
Daniela's Twos



Welcome to all the Twos and their families! In the short time that we've been in school, we've gone from some tears to some children singing as they played, from not knowing one another's names to not just knowing names but becoming friends! It is so nice to start our morning having the children come into the class with big smiles on their faces, ready to discover something new. And so the children's transformation has begun....

The play kitchen is a popular area for the Twos as they all take turns whipping up dishes like donuts mixed with spaghetti and waffles. Snack is a highly anticipated period in our day; ALL the children want to see what's on the table well before we're ready to eat. "More please!" is a common request at this time of day.

"All the Leaves are Falling Down" in the Twos class! This is one of the songs the children learned when they were busy exploring the fall season. We created apple trees with red pom-poms, multicolored leaves with tissue paper, fall-colored play dough that they got to bring home and jack-o-lanterns with funny faces. The children took a day trip as they sailed away in their finger painted oceans for Columbus Day. We even designed spooktacular headbands to wear on ECNS' Heavenly Hats Day.



To celebrate Halloween, little hands helped decorate our classroom with larger than life spiders and colorful, friendly ghosts based on the book *The Ghost Dinner* by Jacques Duquennoy. The children loved seeing these hanging from our ceiling. Making these decorations as well as designing their own 'always in fashion' pumpkin and bat costumes was a lot of fun and very exciting for them!

The tastes and smells of autumn also filled the air as our "mini chefs" made apple kabobs, yummy pumpkin seeds and delicious pumpkin bars. With all this designing and cooking going on, look out Vera Wang and Bobby Flay, you got some serious competition!

A big THANK YOU to all the parents who helped make our Halloween celebration a success by contributing treats for the children to take home in their Halloween bags!

Daniela, Kathy and Leslie





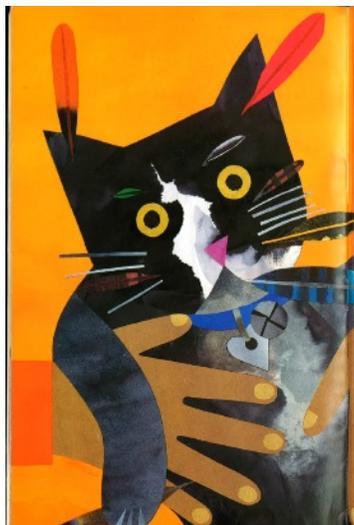
Heavenly Hats Parade!



Happy Halloween!



CARRIE'S



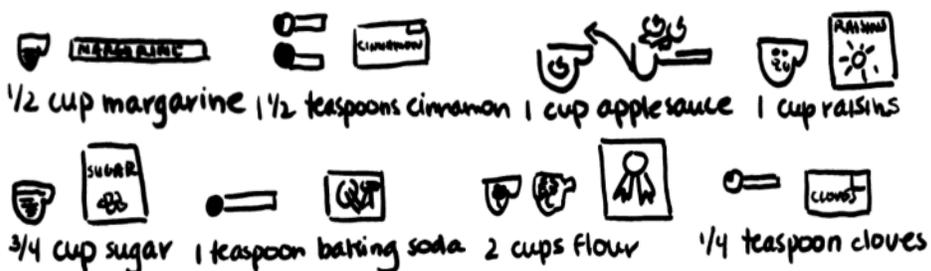
CORNER

As you all know, food is love here at ECNS. We cook once a week (and I don't mean slice and bake cookies).

Applesauce for applesauce cake does not come from the Mott's jar. We core, peel, cut, season, boil, mash, and put through the foley mill.

Here's a great applesauce cake recipe you can bake with your own homemade applesauce.

Ingredients:



1/2 cup margarine 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon 1 cup applesauce 1 cup raisins

3/4 cup sugar 1 teaspoon baking soda 2 cups flour 1/4 teaspoon cloves



1. Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 2 pans (8"x8"x2").
2. Cream margarine.
3. Sift in flour and baking soda.
4. Add sugar, cloves and cinnamon.
5. Mix in applesauce and raisins.
6. Bake for 30 minutes.

While we're on the subject of apples, here are some "apple" selections from our ECNS library:

Apple Sauce Seasons by Eden Ross Lipson

The Biggest Apple Ever by Steven Kroll

A Day at the Apple Orchard by Megan Faulkie and Adam Krawesky

The Apple Pie That Papa Baked by Lauren Thompson

And speaking once again of apples, there are delicious apple (and other fillings) pies offered during our annual pie sale. You can even donate a pie to the New York Common Pantry (formerly the Yorkville Common Pantry) and provide dessert for 8 needy people. If you need a form, please see me on the third floor, or download it from our website.

It was nice to see so many of you shopping at our Book Fair, for books as well as for your contribution to the class auction baskets. Many thanks to Elyse Herman, Melissa Grossman, Dana Breitman and their team of volunteers for all their hard work. As you know, we also encourage every family to donate a book. Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation. It is not too late to donate; the price is \$20. When you do, we place a handy dandy ECNS book plaque with your child's name in the book.

An apple a day makes you ready for work and play!

Carrie