



THE LIVING TREE

LAKE COUNTRY

November Newsletter

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Gratitude

Daylight Savings, Veteran's Day, World Kindness Day & Thanksgiving



This is the time of year we are grateful for sunlight, military servicemen, strangers and all the gifts in our life.

I truly hope everyone had a delicious and lovely Thanksgiving with their families. It is important to take the time to meditate on what we are truly grateful for. We can always find a lucky blessing to light the spark of gratitude. I truly enjoyed using their golden manners, coloring pictures for family and friends, watering plants, setting the dinner table, giving others a hand, helping pick up our play area, etc. There was so much love going around, and it was especially wonderful because they were doing it so naturally for the joy it was bringing them. Let's continue to be role models and demonstrate for the children all the many ways we can show appreciation for each other and our community every day.

THIS MONTH'S
Highlights





Hikes

We are finding and taking many different paths around the property during our morning hike varying the distances and places we stop for breaks. The addition of snow made for some extra fun!





The children are spending the most time in the silver maple woods adding to branch structures, collecting deer bones, and riding their “horse”.



Sledding down the mountain with a sled or on our bottoms creates much joy and laughter.



On select days we have hiked to the beach or boardwalks for a whole new type of sand and water play!





Play

Occasionally we might have an extra book story during morning snack. We also elected to close some features to see how it would affect play and relationships. We truly feel it has aided the children in getting “unstuck” in some of their play and built new friendships.



The sandbox remains the number one location for concoctions and chalk decorations. We are trying a new rule to only draw with the chalk on features of the playard and the blacktop. The playhouse has been a “hospital” this week caring for many ailing creatures.





The firepit has been an amazing addition as the temperatures continue to drop. It keeps a cozy feeling, a place to rest, and heat to warm up cold hands.







Stories & Verses

Hansel & Gretel

A woodcutter is unable to feed his family. The stepmother decides to take the children, Hansel and Gretel, deep into the forest and leave them there. Hansel leaves a trail of breadcrumbs to find their way home, but the birds ate them all. The children wander through the forest and come across a cottage made of bread and sweets. An old woman lives inside who makes them a meal and a cozy bed. However, the old woman is a witch who locks Hansel in a cage and has Gretel cook for him until he is fattened enough to eat. Gretel tricks the witch into checking on the oven, pushes her inside, and slams the iron

door shut. She releases her brother and they find pearls and precious stones inside the witches cottage. They load up their pockets and apron and head back into the forest. They are able to find their way home, much to the delight of their father.



I'll Tell You How the Leaves Come Down

This is a poem about Father Tree who lets his colorful leaves play a little longer before releasing them down to the earth to rest and be covered by a white quilt.

The Lazy Squirrel

Dale is a lazy squirrel. He spends his time eating, sleeping, eating, and sleeping again. When it turns to cold weather, he steals nuts from Chicky Squirrel's home. Chicky Squirrel thinks her nuts are getting smaller in number each day. She puts gum on the nuts in her home to try to catch the thief. Dale's hands get stuck together when he steals them, and all the other squirrels find out he is the bandit. He is ashamed and bends his head down. The squirrels boycott the lazy and dishonest Dale for his wrongdoings.

Squirrel Nutkins Thanksgiving

Porcupine Pete is having a sad day because all of the animals are afraid to get close to him. However, Squirrel Nutkin is busy inviting all his farm and forest friends to a Thanksgiving meal at his tree house. He even invites Porcupine Pete! Every animal is going to bring a food item to share. Coyote jumps out from behind a tree and tries to catch the squirrel in his jaws. Squirrel Nutkin shouts from the tree that he will not invite him to Thanksgiving dinner because he has bad manners. While they are feasting, Coyote jumps out again and clamps down on Porcupine Pete by accident. He yelps, bumps into the hot pot, yelps, runs away, and they never see him again. Everyone thanks Porcupine Pete and they all enjoy each other's friendship and company.

An Advent Story

Long ago there lived an old light keeper. He tended the flame carefully and the other villagers used it to light their lanterns. He was getting old and it was hard to keep the light shining bright. The village grew dark. A young girl asked where to find light and the old light keeper told her to search deep in the forest and to walk carefully and listen closely. In

the darkness, the girl helps a stone off the path, props a tree back up, and aids an injured squirrel. When she loses hope she hears a whimpering child. She gives him her cloak and a piece of bread. Even though it is dark, the stars, trees, stones, and animal eyes glimmer. She finds her courage and with its warmth her lantern begins burning brightly and strong. She returns the lost child to its family and becomes the new light keeper.

“The Leaves are Green, The Apples Are Red”

The leaves are green, the apples are red,
They hang so high above your head,
Leave them alone till frosty weather
Then they will all fall down together!

The leaves are green, the nuts are brown,
They hang so high and will not come down,
Leave them alone till frosty weather
Then they will all come down together!

“Grey Squirrel”

Grey squirrel, grey squirrel
Shake your bushy tail.
Grey squirrel, grey squirrel
Shake your bushy tail.
Wriggle up your little nose,
Hold a nut between your toes.
Grey squirrel, grey squirrel
Shake your bushy tail.

“Squirrel”

These are brown leaves fluttering down
This is the tall tree bare and brown
This is the squirrel with eyes so bright
Hunting for nuts with all of her might
This is the hole where day by day
Nut after nut she stores away
When winter comes with its cold and storm
She'll rest curled up, all snug and warm.

“Wise Old Owl”

A wise old owl sat on an oak
The more he saw, the less he spoke
The less he spoke, the more he heard
Oh why can't we be like the wise old bird?

Projects

Made jack-o-lantern pumpkins with paper and squash seeds



Watercolor with red and yellow



Arm print trees with tissue paper leaves



Crafted felted acorns



Made squirrel feeders with baby pumpkins and birdseed



Restocked the woodshed for our fire pit



Celebrations

Thank you to all the families who have been making donations! Your time sewing, completing laundry loads, tearing down/resetting the classroom, making new families feel welcome, bringing in spice jars, contributing items for our Advent Spiral, and many more ways of sharing are all constantly recognized. Sometimes we might not get a chance to acknowledge everyone and everything, but please know it is whole-heartedly appreciated.

We received snow shovels, animal footprint castings, rope with pulleys and buckets, magnifying glasses, and a Radio Flyer wagon from our Wish List! All the children had a turn playing an adorable new game called "Sneaky Snacky Squirrel" as well. They use a squirrel pincer to pick up colored nuts and store them on their tree stump. Watch out for the wind that will blow the nuts out of your tree or that sneaky snacky squirrel bandit who will steal

your acorns!



More Information

[OUR WEBSITE](#)



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