

UPK ROOM 1 - September 2023

Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

Happy Autumn, UPK Room 1 Families:

It's been almost a month since the new school year began and the children and teachers in Room 1 are all getting to know each other, one day at a time. The beginning of the school year is truly an adjustment period not only for the children but for the teachers as well. Every class is different from year-to-year, each one with its own unique set of challenges, characteristics, and personalities. September is truly the "getting-to-know-you" phase of this Pre-K journey.

Rules and routines are the foundation of a classroom and we spend a lot of time in September helping the children adjust to the transitions and expectations of the school day. It's a lot of repetition, many reminders, and some redirecting but in due time, they are able to navigate the classroom like pros. We will guide them as they become more confident and independent through the school year.

So far, we've explored mixing two colors to make a new color. We started with the colors blue and yellow to make green. Our explorations were inspired by the book ***Little Blue and Little Yellow*** by Leo Lionni. We made blue and yellow play dough (we make our own play dough!) and as the children squeezed, rolled, and squished them together, they ended up with green play dough. They mixed up



blue and yellow watercolor into uncooked rice to create different shades of green. We squeezed blue and yellow tempera paint onto our Creation Station table and the children fingerpainted green paintings.

The end of summer and the beginning of fall bring seasonal changes and we have been reading books about fall and discussing the changes we are noticing around us, especially the trees. ***Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kenard Pak*** is a good introduction to the transition between summer and fall. We explored the parts of an apple tree by diagramming and labeling it together on chart paper and dissected an apple to identify the different parts of the fruit. These explorations inspired discussions about visiting apple orchards and going apple picking with family and friends. It's great to hear that some families have already been apple picking! If you haven't yet, please do. It ties in to what we are learning in the classroom.

As the days grow shorter and chillier now that we approach October, we look forward to reading, discussing, and exploring more autumn-related topics and the holidays the season brings. Thank you for entrusting us with your children as we continue to build our classroom community.

Nathalie, Evie, & Trisha

Links and birthday announcements below:

September Birthdays

Happy 4th Birthday!

Avery Batista 09/14

Joel Vazquez 09/23

Book Links

***Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni**

<https://youtu.be/29a8kFbG4TM?si=iUo8cFiNHbi67GLA>

***Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak**

<https://youtu.be/SEuyPEqUNdk?si=TGUuokauhYUCviEv>