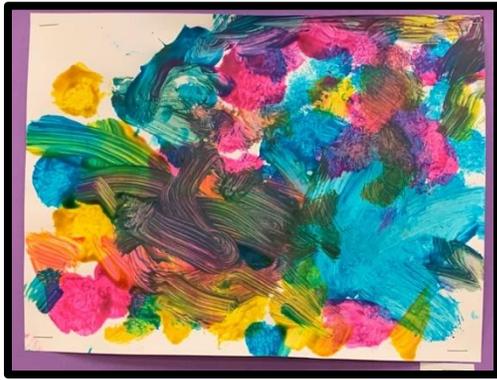


October 2020



October is here and the children have settled in so well. New friendships are being made and old ones renewed as friends see each other after a long break. All the classrooms are starting to look like Fall with apples, colorful leaves and pumpkins making their appearances.

Everyone at York Avenue Preschool participated in our first Spirit Day of the school year. Each student decorated a bag, which will be sent home to fill with food to donate to the New York Common Pantry. Our students really begin to understand the concept of giving through such concrete experiences as this. The actual donations will take place in early November in preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our **Twos** classes have successfully separated from their parents and caregivers, adding the teachers as new trusted adults in their lives. They have successfully partaken in all of their specials. The twos no longer seem new to the school, having acclimated to all of their routines with ease. The classes have been exploring the fall through songs, books, and hands-on experiences. They have collected leaves, tasted apples, and concocted fall-themed recipes.

The **Threes** classes have been diverging into their own areas of interest. They have touched on such themes as apples, fruits and vegetables, and fall harvest. Although related, each class has taken their curriculum in different directions with such activities as apple printing, making fruit smoothies, and a farm stand set up in the dramatic play area. These activities support the development of creativity, measurement, simple math, cause and effect, cooperation, conversational skills, and fine motor skills through fun and play. All the classes have particularly enjoyed Mr. Alex's "Falling Leaves" song in music class.

In the **Fours**, the students have been excited to reconnect with their friends and socialization has been a big focus as the month has progressed. They have been reviewing the letters of the alphabet and have been introduced to journaling. Following prompts such as "Don't let the pigeon drive the..." the students create their own story with words and pictures. Many of these prompts are inspired by books by the Author of the Month, which is Mo Willems for October. The class has also been learning about artists such as Gunther Forg, Grace Hartigan, and Hannah Hoch with Ms. Jess, our art teacher. The children have been inspired by these artists to create their own works in the mediums of photomontage, watercolors, and oil pastels. In library, the fours continued with both fiction and non-fiction sessions.

Of course, October means Halloween! Our children will be celebrating safely in their classrooms, decked out in the costume of their choice. Parties will give them a chance to celebrate in a year when many of them will not be able to trick-or-treat.

We hope that you will visit our Director's Corner next month as we give thanks!