

OCTOBER
2016



KTK News of the Day

Notes from Our Feathered Friends

Baby Chicks: Happy fall, everyone! The weather is getting cooler, and we are excited to see the leaves start changing colors. The babies have been doing some painting with a zip-lock bag and fall-colored paints. A few of them also did some sand play with hands and feet. We are always busy playing, singing, and snuggling. Outside, we have heard the birds chirping on the deck. We also hear them on our walks around the neighborhood. Beckett has been visiting and is doing great making his way around the Penguin room. We are excited for him to continue to learn and grow. We also have a couple other babies that will be starting to visit! We are looking forward to Halloween and doing some fun activities; if you have any ideas to share, let us know. Happy Halloween – BOO!!

Penguins: Welcome to fall in Wisconsin! This past month, we welcomed Hugo and Dalton from the Chicks class; they are doing great and are showing off new skills every day. This month, we welcome Beckett. He has visited some and is enjoying his new adventures. Also this month, we will be working on fall and Halloween projects and activities, so keep an eye out for some new décor around the room. We continue to work on our social skills, such as sharing and gentle touches. We hope you all have a happy Halloween; we look forward to seeing the kids' costumes.

Parrots: The Parrots have been busy learning about ourselves and the world around us. We especially had fun creating our apple tree in the classroom. Of course, our playground is getting cooler, the birds are gathering food, and the leaves are starting to change color – which means fall is here. Our themes for October include Fall, Fire Prevention, Leaves, and Pumpkins/Halloween. Speaking of Halloween, be on the lookout for more information about our trick-or-treating plans later in the month. We must also send Nathan off to have new adventures with the Peacocks, while we welcome Abigail and Ronan to our room and center.

Peacocks: The Peacocks are enjoying being outside every morning and afternoon, even though it's turning cooler. With that cool weather blowing in, we plan to lead into a Fall Harvest theme. We are going to graph leaf colors, taste apples, explore the inside of a pumpkin, and take a field trip to Busy Barns Adventure Farm in Fort Atkinson. Remember that you can visit Koala-T-Kare's website (www.koala-t-kare.com) to find information about our classroom. Click on Peacocks to see the weekly

lesson plans that we post in the classroom. You can also see pictures of your child by signing up and creating a new account.

Preschool: We have an addition to our Starlings family this month: please help us welcome Sriman to all-day fun in our classroom. Also, our friend Sanjay is joining us from the Peacock class. Welcome to the Starlings room! The Starlings have been learning lots about autumn, things animals do in the fall, big words like "migration," "hibernation," and "echo location." It is great hearing them talking about these things with each other or, even better, going home and sharing the information with others. We have a pretty smart group of kids! Kindergarten teachers beware: you may have to come up with some pretty complicated stuff to keep these kids going. We have been going on nature walks to observe changes in the environment and take note of the animals we still see and those that are now missing. We've learned about different kinds of weather, the water cycle, and how we change in the fall: the way we dress, the things we do, etc. This month we will be building on what we learned in September by doing more with apples, leaves, and pumpkins. We are going to observe some fun holidays: Homemade Cookie Day, Mad Hatter Day, Curious Events Day, Take Your Teddy to Work Day, Fire Safety Training (provided by Firefighter Jon), Count Your Buttons Day, Punk for a Day, and, of course, Halloween for which we'll be making trick-or-treat buckets.

Reminders:

- As cooler weather prevails, please have a warm jacket, hat, and mittens for your little one so we can continue to enjoy the outdoors. Your child will appreciate it!
- On Halloween (Monday, October 31), we trick-or-treat around the building, at 4C, and the Brookdale Community. Our friends are welcome to wear costumes that day for the festivities! (We typically trick-or-treat after breakfast, so we ask that you bring a costume for younger children and let us help them change – this way their costumes don't get dirty!)
- The Starlings and the Peacocks will be taking a field trip to Busy Barns Adventure Farm in Fort Atkinson on Thursday, October 27. Please let us know if you would like to join us on in exploring the farm and getting a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. The cost for chaperones is \$10, which includes entrance to the farm and the bus fee. Let Ms. Kristi or Ms. Sue know if you are interested.



A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Happy Halloween month! The kids and teachers are having lots of fun getting into the autumn decorating and classroom activities. October will be a busy month, with the Peacock and Starlings classrooms going on a field trip to Busy Barns in Fort Atkinson on Thursday, October 27. We will also be doing a center-wide trick or treating day around the building and also visiting a few places in our neighborhood (4C and Brookdale Assisted Living). Please see your child's teacher for directions on costumes for that fun-filled day. Our new Art Room is coming along nicely, a huge shout-out to Ms. Kristi for spearheading this project, and also to anyone that has made donations. We know this space will get a lot of use once ready to go.

The "Best of Madison" voting goes until October 20th. Keep those votes coming!

Amanda Johnson
Koala-T-Kare Director
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Halloween Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe on Halloween.



Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Upcoming Events

Oct. 9: Children's Theatre: Juggling Extravaganza (Waisman Center Auditorium) 1:00 pm
Oct. 10: Columbus Day
Oct. 12: Yom Kippur
Oct. 15: Space Yoga (Madison Children's Museum) 10:30 am
Oct. 17: National Boss' Day
Oct. 22: Skate with the Badgers (Kohl Center, 10:30 am – 12:30pm)
Oct. 24: United Nations Day
Oct. 31: Halloween

Kids in the Rotunda (Overture Center)
Saturdays, September thru April
9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm



October Birthdays

Oct. 8: Nathan
Oct. 10: Alyssa
Oct. 12: Sanjay
Oct. 22: Alex



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

News from the Kitchen

Happy October, everybody! It's crazy to think we're right around the corner from the holiday season; where did this year go?

October means temperatures falling, leaves changing and, of course, Halloween. While Halloween is a super fun and exciting time for children, it can be tough for parents to figure out how to handle all the candy that comes with it. Do you set limits? Do you let kids decide how much to eat?

There isn't one right answer. Use your best judgment, based on your child's personality and eating habits. And keep these tips in mind:

- Before kids go trick-or-treating, try to serve a healthy meal so they're not hungry when the candy starts coming in. Talk to your kids about what candy will be allowed when they get home and talk about how the rest of the candy will be handled after Halloween. Candy and snacks shouldn't get in the way of kids eating healthy meals.
- Know how much candy your child has collected, and don't store it in his or her bedroom.
- Be a role model by eating Halloween candy in moderation yourself. To help you avoid temptation, buy your candy at the last minute and get rid of any leftovers.

Finally, if you're hosting or going to a Halloween party, bring a healthy snack like this one. The kids will love helping out with this fun treat!

Banana Ghost Pops

Ingredients:

Bananas
Vanilla yogurt
Coconut (optional)
Chocolate chips
Toothpicks or popsicle Sticks

Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray. Cut bananas lengthwise into thirds. Insert a toothpick or popsicle stick into each banana, carefully to avoid squishing it. Lay the bananas on cookie sheet and freeze for two hours. Once frozen, remove from the cookie sheet to the freezer and dip each banana in yogurt. Roll the dipped banana in coconut (skip this step if you don't like coconut), and then press on the chocolate chip eyes. Store the banana pops in the freezer until you are ready to serve them.



Have a safe and happy Halloween!

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