Hello families:

This year is quickly flying by! As we slide into October, the cooler weather brings us many fun events for the CCD. Be sure to see the bottom of the page for important dates this month. Additionally, there is a new calendar hung by the parent information board to help keep track of all of these dates. We have a very busy month ahead of us!

As we move ahead, I also love to reflect on the past. The month of September has shown us many new changes as well. The preschool playground has improved exponentially with the addition of some wonderful playground equipment. We have added some ball tosses, balance beams, hopping stumps, an amphitheater, and a musical instrument area. We are also in the process of getting a garden installed! The children have really loved getting to use the new equipment and we look forward to them using it for years to come.

Also in September we had to say a sad “see you later” to our wonderful Ms. Susan. She will be moving on to enjoy the life of retirement starting in October. Although we will miss seeing her on a daily basis, she has promised to stop in often to give hugs and smiles. She will be greatly missed!

As we move through the month, our teachers will be preparing for our annual Quality Stars visit that will happen the second week of November. This inspection is very important to us, as it determines our star rating for the Mississippi Quality Rating System. As you know, we currently hold a 5 (out of 5) star status, and would love to keep it that way. This means that the teachers will be reviewing their practices as well as materials in the classroom, and will probably make some new (and enforced previous) requests of you. Please do your best to adhere to these requests as they help us to keep our much-beloved quality rating!

I wish you all the best in this upcoming month. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to speak with me. I believe that our center runs best when staff and parents are in a collaborative relationship, and we strive to make that happen in every way possible.

Best Wishes
Stephanie Haney, Director

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**Children**

Hend Omran 10/1
James Harris Martin 10/2
Archer Pickering 10/4
Taylor Turner 10/4
Tatum Fowler 10/9
Mason Mitra 10/11
Lily Taylor 10/20
Lex Devereaux 10/23
Rhiley Heidelberg 10/23
Mary Allston Bennett 10/24
Annabel Quigley 10/27
Leya Shahabi 10/27
Kaitlyn Wright 10/29
Kasson Leggett 10/30
Carmella Blanch 10/31

**Staff**

Kristie Johnson 10/07
Angel Castillo-Taveras 10/31

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**Important Dates:**

October 7th: Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
October 11th: Stay and Play
October 20/21st: CCD Closed
October 28th: Infant/Toddler Tailgate
From Mrs. Melissa’s class…

It's Fall, my favorite season of the year and we are very excited!!! We've been looking forward to some cooler weather. For October we will discuss things about ourselves, our family, and our pets. It's always fun to get to know one another better. There will be two surprise lessons created by our student teacher. The infants are always looking forward to new and exciting things, so this should be interesting. In the spirit of Fall our center will get to take a trip to the Pumpkin Patch on October 7th, and everyone is welcome to tag along. We will get to see pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, gourds, and no day is complete without a roll in a bundle of Fall leaves. Later in the month we will get to enjoy an awesome lesson on Eric Carle. To end the month we will have character day, October 31st. It will be a great month.

From Mrs. Myrna’s class…

Happy Fall! October has finally made its arrival. Hopefully, we will be getting some cooler weather so we can take some nature walks. Our themes for the month will consist of Farm, Pumpkins and Eric Carle (books). During the week of the Farm theme we will discuss the animals, vehicles, make butter, and the food we grow on a farm. The week of our Pumpkin theme we will explore the inside of a pumpkin and decorate it for our friendly contest with the other classrooms in the center. We will end the month with our favorite books from Eric Carle.

From Mrs. Sherrie’s class…

This month in Ms. Sherrie’s Class we will be doing three themes: The first theme will be Farm. We will learn about animals on a farm and what sounds they make, types of equipment on the farm, and things that grow on the farm. We will also discuss farmers around the world and the things they grow. (We will go to Mitchell Farms on October 7th.) The next theme will be Pumpkins. We will explore the pumpkin both inside and out. We will explore orange paint as we make pumpkins. We will smell the pumpkins and feel the insides. The last theme will be Fall. We will discuss the changing of the weather and leaves. We will make collages with fall colored tissue paper and paint. We will count leaves that we have as well.
From Mrs. Samantha’s class...
Welcome to October! For the first two weeks of October the lesson themes are based on teacher’s choice ideas. These two weeks will include lessons and activities based on two famous books, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.” The last two weeks of October is all about fall and pumpkins. We can’t wait to explore the change in nature and experiencing real pumpkins in the classroom. We are also looking forward to having some of our great parents read to us during circle time every week this month.

From Mrs. Bridgitte’s class...
We want to give a great big THANK YOU to Mr. Tim for his recent visit to our classroom. He helped our children plant beautiful fall flowers in window boxes outside our classroom. We are enjoying watching them grow and taking care of them each day! The month of October is filled with amazing plans and great fun. We will start the month learning about space and fire safety. Next we will move toward a fall theme by learning about apples and pumpkins. We are all excited about our upcoming field trip to Mitchel Farms!

From Mrs. Kimmy’s class...
This is going to be such a fun month for us. Our first week of October we will be studying Space. On October 7th, don’t forget that we are going to Mitchell Farms Pumpkin Patch for the day. Our second week, we will be learning about Fire Safety. We will have a special visitor from our local fire department. During our third week, Apple week, we will experience an apple tasting extravaganza. The last week of October, there will be a Pumpkin Contest. Parents will have the opportunity to view, judge, and vote for their favorite pumpkin. More information to come soon. We are looking forward to a fun filled fall month with you.

From Mrs. Rachel’s class...
Fall is finally here! If only the cooler whether would swing right on along with it! Ms. Pam is doing a great job learning and growing with your babies. Thank you for all your kind words towards her so far this semester. The four themes we will touch on this month are Space, Fire Safety, Apples, and Pumpkins. As many of you know, the Mitchell Farms trip is planned for October 7. We hope to see you all there!
Nap mats:
As we prepare for our Quality Stars visit, I recently did an inspection of our nap mats. Some of them are in very poor condition! Each of the teachers will be looking through their mats to see which ones need to be repaired or replaced. We need to have these mats and covers in good condition by the end of the month. We have decided that the best way to do this is to give you all a month to bring in new or repaired mats, or we will assess a $20 fee onto your monthly tuition so the center can provide one for you. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this!

October is National Pizza Month.
Here’s a fun recipe to try with kids in the kitchen: http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/kid-size-pizza

Pumpkin Picks to do at Home

The mission of the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Child Development is to engage parents, teachers, and university students in developing healthy, motivated, and autonomous children in exemplary child-centered and developmentally effective educational programs that promote evidence-based practice and a joyful, lifelong love of learning.

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