

Dear families,

We are thankful! As Thanksgiving approaches, we have spent this week focusing on what the holiday means to us - gratitude, hugs, family, hearts, friends, community, turkey, and pie. We began the week by reading Todd Parr's *The Thankful Book* which celebrates the many little things for which children are grateful. [Here](#) is a link to a charming read aloud of the story. We took turns rolling a ball and sharing what we are thankful for and completed a page in our All About Me books.

In the art room, we turned our attention to turkeys, making torn paper art turkeys as well as name-turkey placemats for next Tuesday's "feast." Students also enjoyed reading the Five Little Turkeys action poem together and counting down as each turkey waddles away. This age is so sweet because they can't fathom why a turkey could possibly want to avoid Thanksgiving!

With the intersection of the letter C and Thanksgiving, corn was the focus of several fun projects. In the first, a STEM experiment, we added corn kernels to a jar of blue water and made predictions about what would happen if we added baking soda and vinegar. The children remembered that baking soda and vinegar made the pumpkin "explode" last month so they hypothesized that the jar might "explode" if we added that mixture this time. Fortunately, it was less of an *explosion* and more of an *overflow* of bubbles - all those bubbles attached to the corn kernels causing them to rise to the surface where the bubbles popped and sent the corn kernel sinking back down to the bottom. They continued bobbing up and down with the bubbles for several minutes which made it look like the kernels were "dancing." [Here](#) is a link to the experiment if you are looking for some at-home science fun. In the second experiment, we used an Air Popper to turn corn kernels into popcorn using heat which makes the starch inside the kernels expand into light, fluffy yumminess. Students enjoyed eating this science experiment for a snack! We also practiced forming the letter C with our fingers in a tray of corn kernels. Finally, we got a little messy rolling ears of corn in paint to create patterns for a Thanksgiving mural.

Also worth mentioning this week is that we practiced our breathwork in yoga with straws and pompoms, danced and played with the parachute in Spanish, and had a special visit from the Larchmont Fire Department on Wednesday. Firefighters Brian and Charlie talked to us about how they help, showed all their protective gear, and explained that "get low and go" is the key to fire safety. We got to walk around the fire engine and noted that the tires were even bigger than our tallest students!

Thank you for helping bring the letter C to life with such cute, clever and creative Show and Tell items!

**Books We Read:**

*Giving Thanks* by Chief Jake Swamp

*The Very Stuffed Turkey* by Katharine Kenah

*There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Turkey!* by Lucille Colandro

*Turkey Tot* by George Shannon

*Feeling Thankful* by Shelley Rotner and Sheila Kelly, Ed.D.

*Thank You!* by Betsey Chesson and Pamela Chanko

*A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker

*Thanksgiving at the Tappletons* by Eileen Spinelli

**Looking Ahead:**

We won't do a letter Show and Tell next week. Instead, on Tuesday, November 25th, we are asking the children to bring in 12 small helpings of a favorite food that they would like to share at our class Thanksgiving Feast. We will give everyone the chance to show and tell the class what food they brought. Please send in nut-free items that are easy to distribute 12 ways - things like cranberries, carrots, orange segments, apple slices, corn muffins, cheese cubes, and turkey rollups are great choices. We will enjoy everyone's treats while celebrating our classroom community during Tuesday's Lunch Bunch (no need to pack a separate lunch that day).

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,  
Kristen and Beth

















