



St. Viator

Pre-K 4/Room 104.

November 10, 2017

# Ms. Natalie's Newsletter

## Themes

This week, we continued working with the "Fall/Leaves" unit. We discussed why leaves fall off the trees and what types of trees they come from. We sang a song from *The Leaves on the Tree* book about what makes the different leaves unique like the sassafras leaf looks like a dinosaur's foot and the ginkgo leaf is shaped like a fan. On Wednesday, we went on a leaf hunt and students looked for at least three small leaves, one big leaf, two green, and four small leaves. We also looked for the different types of leaves that we read and talked about. Students glued the leaves they found and marked off their checklists. With one of the leaves they found, they made a leaf book. In the leaf book, they traced and drew a picture of the leaf, counted and wrote how many pennies could fit on it, and wrote how long the leaf takes to hit the ground when they dropped it.

On Monday, we did a lesson from the Rush Executive Functioning program on problem solving. I read the book *Stuck* and we discussed how the character in the story tried to solve his problem or challenge by coming up with strategies. Students learned a song and different ways to solve challenges that might happen in class.



## Stories

*Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers

*The Leaves on the Trees* by Thom Wiley

*My Leaf Book* by Monica Wellington

*Fall Mixed Up* by Bob Raczka

*Leaf Jumpers* by Carole Gerber

*The Fox and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

## Activities

**Language Arts:** We began the 3<sup>rd</sup> unit in the Happily Ever After series centered on the story *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. The story is about a poor shoemaker and his wife who gain help from three elves who help make shoes for them. In return, they make the elves clothes and shoes of their own. Students listened to the story, made their own books, and answered comprehension questions. In the second lesson, we discussed the concepts we will be studying in the unit including: top, middle, and bottom; parts of a whole; the color green; and the shape circle.

**Math:** With the theme of the week, students were working with patterns. They were using different types and colors of leaves to make patterns. They completed a sheet where they had to finish the leaf patterns.

**Religion:** We studied Chapter 9: "God's Promise". Students listened to the story about Noah's Ark and learned that God promised him and us that he will always love and care for everyone and every living thing. Then, they matched the animals that went into the ark and colored them the same color. Lastly, we sang a song about the story.