



St. Viator
Pre-K 4/Room 104.
October 27, 2017

Ms. Natalie's Newsletter

Themes

This week, we continued working with the "Pumpkins" theme. Students learned about what we can make using pumpkins and how a pumpkin grows or the life cycle of a pumpkin. As a special treat, we made pumpkin pie in a bag using pumpkin, vanilla pudding mix, and milk, cinnamon, and ginger. Students got to help mix the ingredients by kneading the bag and watched as we measured and mixed the ingredients. With graham cracker crumbs at the bottom and whipped cream on top, it was a great pumpkin pie in a cup! We counted the seeds in our big pumpkin. There were 597 seeds! We looked at our estimates and the closest guess was 300. The students learned that a pumpkin starts out as a seed, grows on a vine; and the seed grows leaves and then a flower (blossom). Underneath the blossom, the green pumpkin grows into a ripe orange pumpkin ready to be picked. To show the life cycle, students made a visual representation using a paper plate for the orange pumpkin and string to tie together the other parts of the life cycle in sequence. With a few smaller pumpkins we had in class, we made different observations. After choosing a pumpkin to use, students measured how tall it is using Unifix cubes, identified its size (round or tall, small, medium, or big), counted its lines, and determined whether it sinks or floats in water.



Stories

How Big Could Your Pumpkin Grow by Wendell Minor

The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll

Pumpkin Town by Katie McKy

Pumpkin Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington

Spooky Hour by Tony Mitton

Activities

Language Arts: Along with studying the letter G we continued the 3rd unit in the Happily Ever After series. In one lesson, the students found circles, traced them, and colored them red, yellow, and blue. In another lesson, they identified soft and loud sounds. Lastly, students practiced identifying same and different pictures based on the position words on or in; and identified pictures in the same category such as items that give light and items used for travel.

Math: With the theme of the week, students were counting, estimating, measuring, and using descriptive words. They were using descriptive words to make observations about the pumpkins and they measured their heights using non-standards. Students made estimations about the number of seeds inside our big pumpkin. It was difficult but was a good introduction of the concept.

Religion: We studied Chapter 8: "We Care for God's Creation" and we discussed how we can take care of God's creation. Students listed ways they can help at school, home, and outside. They also learned a song about taking care of themselves.