Happy autumn!

We have had a wonderful first few weeks of school and it seems as though everyone has made a smooth transition. If your child is still having a difficult time separating, please feel free to make an appointment with your child’s teacher so we can discuss more ideas for easing the transition. Not to worry, I am sure if it hasn’t already happened, transitions will be nothing but smooth sailing soon enough!

If your life is anything like mine, I am sure you have found yourself dropping off one child, picking up another and heading to soccer practice or scouts, sandwich in one hand and homework in another! Although all of the extra-curricular activities are exciting and fun, sometimes they can be stressful for all of us. Children, no matter what age they are, need down time. They need opportunities to be creative and find ways to self entertain, almost a lost art in the technological age we live in. I encourage everyone to find together time and even some time to “do nothing.” Embrace your family time together…eat dinner together at the table, enjoy each other’s company, dare to be creative with your children and enjoy all that this beautiful fall weather has to offer!

Tonya Rivera, Executive Director

A Note from the Board of Directors

Campus Pre-School Families & Staff,

As we continue into the new school year, I’d like to introduce myself as the new President of the CPS Board of Directors. It is an honor to serve as President and, as a parent of a Pooh Bear, I look forward to working with the rest of the board and the staff over the next year as we review and begin to implement our Strategic Plan.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Jackie McKenna for her hard work, dedication, and leadership as President over the past year. Members of the Campus Pre-School Board of Directors are appointed for three year terms, and we would like to acknowledge Angelique Jenks-Brown and Lisa Altman, whose terms have recently ended. Angelique and Lisa were active members of our board and we thank them for their years of service.

To replace the vacancies on the Board, we are excited to welcome Scott Geiger, Jenna Rosenberg, and Jie Yin as our new members. In addition, we are also accepting applications for a current vacancy on the board for a term ending in October 2016. If you are interested in applying, please visit our website, http://www.binghamton.edu/campus-pre-school/board.html.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at CPSBOD@binghamton.edu, or by placing a note in our “Comment Box” in the entry hallway.

Zach Staff, Board President

The Director’s Corner

As many of you know I have been working at CPS for the past month as the Interim Executive Director. I am excited to share that I will be staying with the pre-school as the Assistant Director. I come to CPS with a background of ten years in Pre-School Administration and three years as a Pre-School Teacher in a center day care setting. I have a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education and working with young children and their families continues to be my dream career. I have enjoyed my time here so far and look forward to getting to know everyone better. If we haven’t had a chance to meet yet, please stop in at the office.

Freedom Morehart, Assistant Director
The Wees are loving fall! The crunching leaves, the busy squirrels, the gourds and pumpkins (now Jack-O-Lanterns), and all of the spooky Halloween “stuff”—All delight the Wee Bears. We welcome Stephen to our class, he is here Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He really enjoys using the ball maze and singing songs. Many of the Wee Bears love singing and dancing, they are beginning to sing along with the music.

Throughout the rest of Autumn we will be making applesauce, playing in corn meal, decorating the front bulletin board and enjoying the cool autumn days outside. If you dress your child in layers (including hats and coats) we can remove or replace layers for them as needed, so they remain comfortable!

Kelly
Nicole

In November we will continue our fall themes, introducing the color blue, turkeys, feathers, and preparing for our Harvest Feast just before Thanksgiving Break. The Bear Cubs will be baking pumpkin bread to share with our Pre-school family.

Just a reminder about outdoor clothing. Now that the weather is getting cooler, your child will need a hat, mittens and warmer jackets. If you do not have snow clothing (snowsuits, boots, hats, and mittens) this would be a good time to shop for them, before stores deplete their stock. If you have any questions on what works best for snow gear, please see Chris. Children love to go out and play in the snow, and proper clothing is important!

In November we will also be celebrating our new friend Arielle’s birthday on November 11th, and Yihong’s on November 21st. Happy birthday!

Finally, a little information on child development and the value of play: Although it sounds simple, Play is your child’s work. Emotionally, play is therapeutic. Since play is a natural medium for self-expression, it provides the child with a safe place to experience, express and celebrate feelings. In play, the child is given the opportunity to “play” out his accumulated feelings of tension, frustration, insecurity, aggression and fear. The more difficult and less obvious advantage of play is that it allows a child a place to learn how to handle anger and aggression. Although this is a long process, expressing turmoil openly in socially acceptable ways is vital for a child’s emotional well-being. As a bonus, through play children develop a sense of humor and an ability to show empathy to others. Emotionally speaking, play is vital to mental health and stability. Playing in play grounds gives children the opportunities to learn social skills: sharing, taking turns and cooperation. Patterns of behavior, acceptable ways to interact and ways of playing safely are also part of this whole socialization process.

Chris and Jamie

After exploring the Fall season and learning all about fire safety, leaves and pumpkins, November brings a lot of new topics for us to learn about. We will begin with farm animals and learn about all animals that live on farms. The following week, we turn to exploring fruits and vegetables and finding out which food items are healthy for us to eat. We will end the month of November talking about Native Americans and Thanksgiving through crafts and stories at circle time. November will come to an end with the Pooh Bears all making hats to wear at our CPS Fall Feast!

Thank you for your continued cooperation and generosity! You are a big part of the great year this is turning out to be!

Larissa, Sara, Kait

The month of October was exciting for all of us! Fire safety, going on our leaf hunt, exploring pumpkins, learning about spiders, and celebrating Halloween with our annual parade were just a few of the exciting things we experienced. Please make sure to check out the Honey Bear Buzz calendar and see all of the great activities the children are participating in daily.

Fall is upon us and with that comes colder temperatures. We still are going out to play so please make sure your child has a hat, mittens, and coat (labeled). As snow arrives, boots and snow suits will be needed as well. Please check your child’s bin and update extra clothes to warmer shirts and pants (labeled). Don’t forget extra socks!

During the month of November we will be talking about friendship and what we are thankful for as Thanksgiving is upon us. We will be having our annual CPS Feast on Tuesday, November 25th and the Honey Bears will be cooking for it!!!

The fall parent/teacher conferences are almost here. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet in the next few weeks.

Happy birthday in November to Sylvia Tong (11/1) and Victoria Schertzer (11/27)!

Happy Fall Everyone!

Claire and Brenda
TEDDY BEAR NEWS
Wow! Where did October go? Time is going by so quickly. We have been very busy getting ready for fall and Halloween. We have been working a lot on our cutting skills and all of the children have been improving every day. You will notice many projects coming home that they have cut themselves or with guidance. They are very proud of their accomplishments. Cutting is a very hard skill and they have been focused on mastering it. If a project comes home and you are not sure what it is, you can say to them “tell me about this” this way we keep it positive and they feel good about what they have done.

Recently, we had a visit from Finch Hollow. The speaker talked about what animals do during winter. We even got to touch some of the mounted animals. We look forward to Nathaniel’s mom coming in to make blueberry jelly and pumpkin pudding with us as well! In November the weather is going to start getting colder. Please make sure you LABEL ALL WINTER accessories (hat, snow pants, mittens, and boots). If you wish, you may leave a set here at school.

Also in November, I will be doing Parent/Teacher Conferences. There will be a sign-up sheet posted near the sign in/out sheets. This is a nice time for us to sit and talk about how your child is doing in school and discuss goals we will be working toward.

Happy Birthday to Bella! She will turn 4 in November.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to ask.
Happy Fall,

Gabe Michele Renee

GRIZZLY BEAR NEWS
Wow, October flew by! The Grizzlies loved going to Jackson’s Pumpkin Farm—especially eating their amazing donuts and drinking apple cider. Thank you parents for making this fun day a success. This month the Grizzlies learned about “our community helpers” dressing up and pretending to be doctors, dentists, astronauts, police officers, construction workers, mail carriers, and (one of my favorites) bakers—and we made amazing cupcakes.

We loved learning about our friends and their families. We did many graphing activities—counting how many of our friends had certain eye colors, for example. We also counted how many brothers and sisters each of our friends had. We also made our “family trees”. We focused this month on the colors black and orange. Have your child sing you the “black and orange” song. They can make with them. We even did several art projects with pumpkins and carved some of them into Jack-O-Lanterns. Also in October, we worked together on a class project to create Haunted House. This was such a great month for the Polar Bear Class! We learned lots of great spooky songs, and explored with a lot of sensory experiences. We certainly worked on our fine motor strength and skills as we made, molded, and cut up our “Monster Slime” (Flubber).

The children had fun dressing up in their costumes for the Halloween Parade. Our Halloween party was a big hit! Grizzlies had fun playing games, receiving prizes, eating great food and dancing to Halloween song. Next month we will be discussing “My Five Senses”, as well as making Thanksgiving crafts and learning about the importance of Thanksgiving. We will also be focusing on the color brown and the letters ‘I’, ‘O’ and ‘X’.

Happy birthday to Faye Brown (11-2!)

Nicky and Carolyn

PANDA BEAR
October was a busy month! We took two field trips this month—Jackson’s Pumpkin Farm and Read for the Record at the Broome County Library, and had two special visitors: Lucy’s mom, Emily Crouse, helped us to create incredible flower arrangements with our pumpkins, and Mr. Tasber from Finch Hollow Nature Center taught us all about how animals survive in the winter (hibernation, migration, and adaptation).

November will bring the end of our animal unit and move us into Thanksgiving. We will discuss the history and celebrate in style with the annual CPS Feast on November 25th!

Panda Parent-Teacher conferences are November 17, 18 and 19th, so please make sure to sign up for a conference if you have not already done so.

November means colder temperatures which in turn means we are more prone to sickness. We ask that you please dress your child appropriately for the weather and provide warmer extra clothes to ensure a warm and sickness-free season!

We have been working feverishly on expanding our vocabulary as we prepare for kindergarten. Over the next several months you will notice your child’s growing interest in words and the language we use. Ask your child what “overcast” means—you’ll be impressed! :)
Reminder:
CPS will be closed
November 27th & 28th
for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Is it the flu?
Symptoms of the flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. Some people with the flu will not have a fever.

CPS Harvest Feast
All of the children and staff of CPS will feast together on Tuesday, November 25th in the CPS gym. Each classroom will prepare a portion of the lunch.

Why can’t I call Campus Pre-School?
If you have Caller ID, you may have seen the number (607) 777-2022 used when you are called by CPS, or another BU organization. When you dial this number back, you will receive an error message. You can reach us at our actual number: (607) 777-2695 during our regular hours, or have the option to leave a message after-hours.

Sick Policy
In the Parent Handbook on pages 29-31 you will find the CPS Sick Children Policies. Please refer to the handbook when questioning your child’s health and whether they can attend CPS.

November is National Family Literacy Month!
Ways to get reading as a family:
1. Visit our wonderful local libraries (Vestal Public Library, Broome County Public Library, George F. Johnson Public Library to name a few), check out books to read together and check out some of their awesome activities!
2. Institute a “story hour” at the end of a long busy day to both reconnect with your child and encourage them to enjoy a good book. Discuss the stories you read at meal times—see which characters they would want to come to dinner! :) 
3. Model reading habits for your children by finding a book that interests you and reading it! As they say, “More is caught than is taught!”

PARENT MAILBOXES
Parents, it is essential that you CHECK YOUR PARENT MAILBOXES EVERY DAY!
Vital communication from the office comes to your mailbox regularly.

Just a note:
Fall is the time for breaking out the warmer clothes, especially for rainy days and muddy walks or playgrounds. Please also make sure your child has extra clothes in their classroom in the event that their clothes get soiled.

Staff Birthdays
Andrea Head 11-3
Nicky Auerbach 11-4
Megan O’Hearn 11-21
Kait Calkins 11-27