

"Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the
Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
November 2023


12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 30, Reston, VA 20191
Established 1990

simoncenter.org

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DIRECTOR

Director:

October was another fun month at the Simon Center. We were busy... taking t-shirt orders for our weekly Simon Center t-shirt day (every Friday); doing our annual school picture day 😊; getting the artwork ready for our fall  fundraiser; and with weekend community activities, like the Reston Baby Expo and a fun "meet-up" at a nearby farm. To end the month, we hunted for "pumpkins" in our costumes... can you say, "Fall fun!"?

In November, we will start the month with our fall highway clean-up and a fundraiser at Chipotle, both on Saturday the 4th. We have invited the Walker Nature Center to the school to do their fall "Crack-a-Nut" program for the preschool classes on 11/6; we will have a "pajama day" in class on Veteran's Day (11/10). Please order Original Works gift items by the November 15th deadline. On the TUE before Thanksgiving, we will host a Thanksgiving dessert for the parents in our SR rooms. "*Pie time*" is at 3:30 PM... Gobble-gobble!!!

- Leila





Assistant Director:

The leaves are finally changing colors, and fall is here. We have been enjoying some warmer fall weather, too! I love watching the children point out all the colorful leaves. In October, I was excited to see the children dressed up for picture day at the beginning of the month and in their costumes to end October. So cute!

On November 23rd and 24th, we will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. This month, we will be giving thanks to our wonderful teachers who work hard every day to provide developmental learning through play. Their love and care for our students is truly amazing.

We want to thank all the parents as well. It means a lot that you put your trust in us! Now, it is time to welcome some cooler fall weather in November, and don't forget to "fall back" on the 5th for the end of daylight savings time. Happy Thanksgiving!

- Jessica



Board of Directors:

It's hard to believe it's nearly Thanksgiving and the start of the Holiday season!

It was a fun-filled October, as we continued to celebrate our wonderful teachers and leadership on their successful completion of the NAEYC accreditation renewal.

The Board provided the staff with a catered lunch to celebrate their achievement; thank you again for your hard work!

The Board set up a booth at the Reston Baby Expo for the Simon Center to give new and soon-to-be parents a chance to learn about all the Simon Center has to offer.

Classes continued with the Music for Life special activity through October. I love seeing the videos of the classes dancing with scarves and learning the basics of music tempo. We hope your child has had fun learning more about different instruments and songs from around the world.

As a reminder, Simon Center is proud to support the health of Reston's natural environment by participating in Virginia's Adopt-A-Highway program. We have adopted the 1.5-mile stretch of Reston Parkway between South Lakes and Lawyers Rd. As part of this program, we are responsible for picking up litter along the side of the road twice a year. The Board is holding a litter pick-up event on Saturday, November 4th. We will start at 8 a.m. with a safety review, and we are looking for more volunteers. Dunkin coffee will be provided! Please contact Jessica Ferro (FerroJessica@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

Additionally, another opportunity to support the Center is coming up on Saturday, November 4th at Chipotle on Sunset Hills Road in Reston. The fundraiser is from 4 – 8 p.m., and we hope to see many of you there. If you can't join in person, you can use the Simon Center code (KRZLNKTH) when making an online order to go. Thanks!

- Kelly (Mom of "Panda" Grace)



Nursery 1 Penguin class:

The past two months have flown by at the Simon Center! The babies have been working on tummy time, crawling, sitting, standing while pushing toys, and learning the basics of walking. Our infants have adapted very well, alongside our new friends Elijah and Evie. Both “newbies” have blended in great and are loving engaging with our other Penguins.

Evie loves tummy time and enjoys grasping for soft toys. She also loves to be held now that she is used to the new faces.

Elijah loves exploring our classroom by crawling and using furniture to stand. He enjoys playing with cars and balls. Elijah has already started to eat our school foods and is practicing drinking from a sippy cup.

Max “army crawls” everywhere in class, and boy is he moving fast! In October, Max really enjoyed time spent outside during stroller walks and sitting near the fallen leaves. We have been practicing moving Oscar from tummy to back and predict he will have this new skill mastered soon. He enjoys playing with soft books and the little fishes. Rio is now able to pull and push himself from furniture and the divider. His favorite toys are puppets and enjoys flipping the pages in hard books.

Our friend Uma is free standing and loves playing with dishes inside the small house. She also enjoys shaking the bottle shakers.

Brooks is a very active boy! He is learning to push his legs and is practicing getting into a crawl position. We have been practicing his sitting with our support while he grasps rattles and plays with plastic keys.

Ziana has been on vacation for most of October; we are all excited to have her back!

Leo has been busy doing furniture walking and free standing all around the room. In October, we will say, “Happy Birthday!” to Leo. 😊

As the weather continues to change, please remember to bring an extra change of clothes. We hope all our families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





Nursery 2 Monkey class:

October rhyme:

This month is October.

The air is turning cold.

The leaves are changing colors.

It's now Halloween!

Our little Monkeys kept busy exploring fall. This month we did sensory play with pumpkins and leaves. We made “fall leaf hedgehogs,” decorated our classroom door with pumpkins and bats, and we decorated the floor with “footprint candy corn”. The Monkeys enjoyed learning the *skeleton dance* and as always enjoyed the Music for Life classes with Mr. Diego. The children made Halloween bags with handprint witches and handprint spiders. This group loved our nature walks and enjoyed the changing colors on the trees and watching the squirrels gathering nuts. In October, we also welcomed Michael to our class. He is enjoying our “Monkey business”. 😊

In the month of November, we will learn about vegetables, food, turkeys, family, and Thanksgiving.

Reminder – As the weather is getting colder, please make sure to bring warm clothing for your child. 😊 Thanks and have a happy Thanksgiving!

- Reena and Alicia



Do you like the Simon Center?
Please spread the word on Yelp, Nextdoor, Bing, and Google.



You are our best advertisement!



Junior 1 Dolphin class:

The beautiful autumn leaves are falling all around us, and the children are having fun scooping them up and throwing them in the air. October was a busy month with our school picture day and the “costume” day at the end. We also enjoyed many fun weekly theme-related activities.

The Dolphins talked about “Leaves” and had fun painting leaf cut-outs by pushing the paints over them inside a Ziploc bag.

During our “Pumpkins” week, the children enjoyed doing a pumpkin roll and a pumpkin toss game. We also read books about pumpkins of different sizes and shapes, and about how they grow from seeds to mature pumpkins.

Our next weekly theme was “Harvest”. Through songs and books, the class learned about how farmers harvest fruits and vegetables during the fall season. We then did some harvest activities: like vegetable stamping, paper plate pumpkin pie craft, harvest delivery obstacle course, and washing fruits & vegetables as a sensory activity. The children loved handling real fruits and vegetables: like apples, pears, zucchinis, squashes, bell peppers and pumpkin gourds throughout the week.

In late October, we discussed “Spiders”. The toddlers had fun singing one of their favorite songs, *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, and reading books with pictures of different spiders. They also loved making spider web art by painting with Q-tips and making a paper plate spider by using black paint and gluing on eight legs. We had some sensory fun while rescuing plastic spiders from an “oobleck” pond of cornstarch mixed with water. In November, the Dolphins will learn about bats, owls, turkeys, bears, and we will celebrate Thanksgiving together. Along with each weekly theme, we will continue to review alphabet letters and numbers in songs and in books, and we will also continue to learn about taking turns with toys and using gentle touches with our friends during play. We wish all the best to Luca who is leaving the center to meet new friends and teachers, and to Emmett who will join the JR 2 class mid-month. We love you and will miss you! We are so thankful for our Dolphin children and families who give us so much love and trust and support every day. We love every moment with our children, and we are so proud of all the things they accomplish each day. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and families. Happy Thanksgiving and ... Gobble-gobble!

- Julia, Warda, and Sameey





Junior 2 Goldfish class:

In October, we had discussions about farms. At circle, we looked at pictures of different things on a farm, including animals and crops. We sang *Old McDonald had a Farm* using animal props; we made butter; and we milked a pretend cow. We also learned the *5 Little Apples* rhyme and each children held an apple while acting it out.

For the Halloween theme, we learned the *5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate* rhyme. Again, the children held pumpkins to act it out while we recited the rhyme. We did a felt board story called Just a costume, to help the children understand that they might see scary costumes, but that they are just friends dressed up. Next, we did a science experiment where we used baking soda and vinegar to blow up a “ghost” balloon. For art, we painted with leaves and acorns; made prints using apples; built Q-tip skeletons; marble-painted mummies; and used plastic pizza cutters to paint spider webs. For sensory play, we explored popcorn seeds and farm animals or black beans, jack-o-lanterns, and scoops in the sensory table. We also used farm animals in playdough and made playdough Jack-o-lanterns with Halloween-shaped cookie cutters.

Now that the temperatures are getting cooler, please check your child's extra clothes to make sure they are appropriate to the weather.

We had a lot of fun in October in the Goldfish room, and we look forward to another fun month of November in our fish “bowl”. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

- Angela, Fettouma, and Rama



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 4 (in AM) | Weekend Fall Highway Clean-Up, meet at 8 AM |
| November 4 (in PM) | Fall fundraiser at Chipotle 4-8 PM |
| November 6 | Walker Nature Center visits SR's in AM- “Crack-a-Nut” program |
| November 10 | Dress up “Pajama Day” |
| November 15 | Original Works online gallery orders are due |
| November 21 | Thanksgiving dessert for SR parents at 3:30 PM |
| November 23 & 24 | CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday (weekend) |



Junior 3 Panda class:

Wow, it's hard to believe November is already here!

In October, our discussion on fire safety was a great way to learn the emergency 🚒 number 911, and when to call it. We also learned to STOP, DROP, AND ROLL when our clothes catch on fire. We stressed with the children that there is no need to fear firefighters since they are just trying to help us in an emergency. We were quite proud of how well and how quickly the Pandas are learning new topics and safety skills.

This past month, we also learned about the four seasons in a year. The children enjoyed painting with the different colors seen in nature each season. We learned that in the springtime flowers start blooming; and in summer it gets very hot and sunny, and that "we can go to the beach and to the pool". In the fall, we could see the leaves changing colors and then how "they fall down to the ground"; and of course, how in winter it often gets very cold and sometimes we will see snow.

Next, while learning about transportation, we enjoyed making different types of transportation vehicles. We also learned which vehicles travel on land, in the water, or up in the air.

The "Fall Harvest" theme was interesting as we learned about some different fruits and vegetables that grow in the fall. The fall harvest most popular in October was harvesting the pumpkins. We hope everyone had a Happy Halloween! Cute or spooky... we all enjoyed seeing everyone's costumes.

We would like to congratulate Addie for moving up to Bears 🐻 in October, and we were happy to welcome Dax to our class last month, too. We are working on finishing potty-training with several of our friends who will launch to the SR 1 class soon. This coming month, we hope to welcome Adrianna to our room after the holiday.

In November since it will be getting cooler, please remember to label all your child's belongings (sweaters, coats 🧥, hats, etc.). Also, as you gather with family for a special turkey meal, please bring in one- or two-family photos (if you haven't already) to add to our family pictures display in the classroom. Thank you and happy Thanksgiving!

- Sarai and Mary 🐼





Senior 1 Bear class:

Last month, we learned about our 5 senses, fire safety, harvest time, and Halloween. We studied the letters D, E & F, and the numbers 4 & 5.

As always, the Bears enjoyed their yoga sessions with Ms. Nora and the weekly Spanish classes with Ms. Sarai. The children also continued having fun during our Music for Life classes with Mr. Diego. This fall, we've had our monthly storytelling virtually with Ms. Kelly, the Reston Regional librarian.

In October, we welcomed Addie to our class from next door in JR 3. This coming month, we hope to welcome more Bears to our class from the Pandas.

In November, we will continue our yoga, Spanish, and music special activities. We will also have a visit from the Walker Nature Center, too. Our November themes will be states of matter, animals in fall, Thanksgiving, and foods & nutrition. We will review the letters G & H, and the numbers 6 & 7. Happy Thanksgiving!

- Rozita and Maryam



Did you know... ?

- Our telephone number when we call you will look a bit different. To call us, please use 703-834-5880. To be sure you know when we are calling you, please save the following numbers to your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673
- As a non-profit, we have an Amazon “wish list” for various classroom wants & needs, as well as for much needed Center supplies. <https://a.co/4WoEviD>



- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page. Please “join us” at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>



Senior 2 Giraffe class:

Our class emphasized **SAFETY FIRST** for the month of October. We read books and talked about safety at home, at school, and on the road. We created pictures of traffic lights. We learned a new song, *BEEP, BEEP, THE SMALL JEEP*.

We kept repeating the phrase “NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS”, after reading a book about safety and identifying who strangers are.

We practiced our “Total Physical Response” (TPR) when we talked about fire safety. We learned that when our clothes catch fire, we should: STOP, DROP, and ROLL. That was when we did TPR, and we all had fun rolling & learning.

We changed *gears* towards the end of October. We decided to focus on the topic of **Mathematics in my World**. Math really matters in the world, and we talked about different math aspects, like sorting, counting, weighing, and pairing.

In addition to our class activities, we enjoyed our special activities of: YOGA, with Ms. Nora; SPANISH, with Ms. Sarai; and MUSIC FOR LIFE with Mr. Diego.

In November, we will cover the following themes:

- *Day and Night
- *Native Americans and Pilgrims
- *Fall Harvest and Pumpkins
- *Thanksgiving Stories
- *Music Makes the World Go ‘Round

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

- Pompeii



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Emmett

Grace

Leo

Teddy



Senior 3 Star class:

Wow, October is over, and we are now in November... how time flies!

During October, the Stars talked about pumpkins. We measured the class pumpkin, and for art the children made their own pumpkin patch.

Another October theme was fire safety. The students learned important safety procedures for when there is a fire. For art, the class made slime in fire colors using three ingredients: glue, baking soda, and contact lens solution. We really enjoyed the sticky fun!

Our next theme was spiders. The group listened to some great books talking about spiders, and really enjoyed a fun one called The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle. For art, each child made a handprint spider and a yarn spider web. The Stars were very excited to do our spider experiment called "fizzing spider".

Next month, our themes will be Jan Brett, food groups, all about my family, and Thanksgiving. Our November letters will be J, F, E & T.

See you in November!

- Roselle, Shatara, and Shirin



SIMON CENTER'S NOVEMBER "GIVE BACKS":

Center Giving Back

Robert E. Simon, Jr.
Children's Center

Cornerstones and Hunter Mill District
Winter Coat Closet

**Do you have a coat, hat, scarf
or gloves you don't use
anymore?**

Drop off your donations at the
Simon Center by **November 7th**

THANK YOU!

**2023 Hunter Mill District
WINTER COAT CLOSET**

When and Where to Get a Coat

For 2023 winter coat distribution will occur at the following location, date, and time:

North County Governmental Center
Saturday, November 18
10am - 2pm
1881 Cornerstone Glen Drive
Reston, VA 20198

Have a Coat to Donate?

Donations of new or gently used, clean, heavy winter coats, knit hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed.

Larger adult and all child size coats are especially appreciated.

We request that we cannot accept worn coat damage. Please tag coats only please. Thank you.

For more details, please visit our website at 50a.come.cornerstones.org/about-us/about-us-childrens-center.

Cost Donation Information

Cornerstones
October 9 - November 8
Monday - Friday
10am - 5pm
1156 Quail Ridge Road, Suite 210
Herndon, VA 20150

*There will be additional monetary and in-kind contributions to help all donations of coats. Please donate coats to the North County Governmental Center, 1881 Cornerstone Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20198.

Please contact our website: 50a.come.cornerstones.org/about-us/about-us-childrens-center for these items. Informational only. For these items, please call 703.476.0200 for information or to arrange a donation drive.

Cornerstones and Hunter Mill District Governmental Center would appreciate you bringing coats to the location and making a donation.

Cornerstones
Ability • Achievement • Hope

Volunteer Reston is hosting their
3rd Annual "Stuff the RA Camp Van"
Thanksgiving Food Drive
to help Reston families in need.

The Simon Center will be collecting non-perishable food
donations until **Thursday, November 9th**.

If you would like to participate, please have your child bring
in one item of non-perishable food. They will then take
their item on a "helping the community field trip" and walk it
over to the 12001 building and place it in the donation box.

All donations collected during the annual food drive would benefit the food pantry at Cornerstones.

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