

October 3, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Wow. We are now in the month of October. The children are continuing to build stamina in the area of reading to themselves. We are practicing reading to another person and trying to retell what we heard, working on word work packets which include spelling words, word searches, stamping words, making words with wikki sticks, and other activities, and writing in our journals.

In math, we are starting to work on telling time using an analog clock. Analog clocks are found in all the classrooms at Willow so it will be good practice for them to tell time. We will also be working on ways to make a group of ten. Right now we are putting some pennies in one hand, or on one side of the paper, and the rest of the pennies in the other hand, or other side of the paper. This helps the children set a foundation for learning math facts. We are practicing count forwards and backwards by ones, fives, and tens. If you have time, practicing these patterns would be helpful.

We learned about Johnny Appleseed and in his honor, we are observing what happens to cut up apples. When you come to Open House, please ask your child to show you the apples in the bag and the apples hanging out. This week, we will learn about Christopher Columbus. This year not only will the children think about how famous people changed things when they were alive, we will also be thinking about how our lives have been changed because of what they did. The children felt that because of Johnny Appleseed we have lots and lots of apples to choose from and that apples are good for us.

Open House is this Thursday, October 6 from 6:45 to 8:00. Please come and visit the classroom and look at your child's desk, book box, the apples, and tour Willow School. While you are in the room, please sign up for a Parent Teacher Conference. The signup sheet will be by the Room Mother, Mrs. Petrovic, and the signup sheets for the parties. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Order forms for the October Scholastic Books will come home on Wednesday. You can order on line or send back the paper form to me if you wish to purchase books. The date the orders are due is Friday, October 13.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send me a separate email or call me at Willow.