



First Steps

Monthly Newsletter

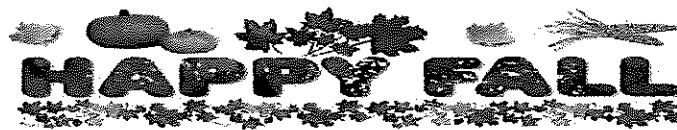
October 2022

Pat Blakely, Editor

First Steps Early Childhood Education Center
233 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY 679-6301

First Friends

The children were asked,
"What makes you special?"



- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Azaela: | "Mommy cuddles" | Ari: | "Gems" |
| Ariela: | "My robots" | Brianna: | "My lamby named Miami" |
| Brayden: | "Build " | Luca: | "Cars make me special" |
| Callie: | "Tatoos" | Naoemi: | "Mia" |
| Carmine: | "Trains " | Anthony: | "I love Lily" |
| Charlie: | "Me" | Gary: | "Daddy" |
| Chloe: | "The food" | Isabella: | "Eat Food" |
| Daniel: | "My home" | Islay: | "Go for a walk" |
| Elijah: | "My stuffy nose" | Jozie: | "I have a jewelery box at home" |
| Helena: | "My special rock" | Levi: | "Mommy plays with me" |
| Leo: | "Playing at school" | Madelyn: | "Love hearts" |
| Lily F: | "My mommy"" | Maximus: | "I can sit on the deck" |
| Lily H: | "My dress" | Quincy: | "My necklace" |
| Miles: | "My mom" | Sasha: | "My Dolls in my bedroom" |
| Nora: | "Because mommy loves me" | Singer: | "Playing with my toys on my birthday" |
| Novalee: | "My hair" | Walker: | "Eating at mommy's house" |
| Zahra: | "My daddy hugging me" | Milli: | "Toys" |
| Zachary: | "Daddy always Kisses me" | Aidan: | "Play with playdough" |
| Scarlett | "A cookie" | | |



OCTOBER PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Hello families and Happy Fall!

We have had so much fun and getting to know each other in September and we are so excited to see what October has in store for us!

Each month we select a few themes to learn about and incorporate them into our daily activities. In September we learned about caterpillars, butterflies, apples and friends!
In October we will learn about Autumn, pumpkins, fire safety and farm animals!

We will also be picking a community member to learn about each month! In September we learned about teachers and in October we will learn about firefighters!

We also do 3 to 4 science projects each month. Our weekly updates will give you a bit more information on what we do each week, so be on the lookout for them!

As the weather grows colder, please remember to change out the clothes in your child's bin on top of their cubbies. They will also need warmer clothing for play outside as well; coats, hats, boots, and mittens. We prefer mittens (especially waterproof mittens for snow play!) over gloves since they are easier for our little ones to get on by themselves.
Also, if your child wears boots to school (rain or snow) please send in a pair of shoes for them to wear inside. Shoes are easier for them to play in while on the floor and their feet won't get overheated.

Dates to remember:

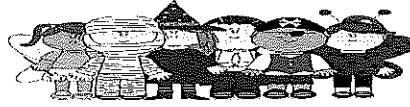
October 12-Woodstock Fire Department Visits First Steps!
October 26-Field trip to Kesicke Farm in Rhinebeck!

If you have any questions or need information, please email us at heatherandkathysecec@gmail.com

We thank you for all you do!!
Heather and Kathy

First Steps News

The smell of autumn is in the air—a wonderful time of the year! The children are so excited to be taking nature walks, recognizing the change in the colors of the leaves, and, of course, talking about what they want to be for Halloween!



We are off to an incredible start and continue to strive for a sense of community and teamwork between the staff and families, which is essential for the greatest growth and development of your child. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please speak with me! We will be conducting Parent Conferences in Oct. (We will let you know when shortly) Please take advantage of this opportunity to individually meet with your child's teacher. The collaboration will help us all work together, providing the best support for your child.

Health and Safety Reminders



Slow down—Many vehicles are driving too fast for the utmost safety of our children in the parking lots. Please Park in the **rear parking lot**—not along playground road.

Turn your vehicle off—for the safety of our children and the environment, please do not leave your car idling while dropping off and picking up children. Parking lots with children are always cause for concern; we are in the business of preventing accidents. Air-conditioning and heat can wait - children can't. Thanks!

Lunches: We love seeing all the healthy lunches coming into the Center! Please remember NO Cookies, Candy, soda, or sugary snacks. We will allow your child to eat their lunch in any order they want, so make sure it is all healthy.

- ❖ Drop off is through the playground gate. Our UPK classrooms do not open until 8:50, we cannot take students early because teachers are preparing for them.
- ❖ At pick up time, you can get your child from the playground. Please do not come in the playground when children are on it. We are happy to retrieve your child and bring them to you. If you are picking up before we are on the playground, go through playground and ring the bell. Our staff will answer the door and bring your child to you.
- ❖ We go outside in all types of weather. Please provide your child with appropriate outdoor clothing. The weather will be turning colder, so please check your child's change of clothes to be sure we have long sleeve shirts and pants socks, and underwear.

Thank you so much for sharing your children with us!

***The Fire Department will be here on Oct. 12 @ 9:15
Please have your child here by 8:50***

***We will be going to Kesicke Farm on Oct 26 @ 9am return 1:45
See Field Trip Information in this newsletter!***

“The best Teachers are those who show you where to Look, but don't tell you what to see.”

Field Trip Information

Kesicke Farm, 229 Middle Road, Rhinebeck, NY

When: Thursday, October 26, 2022

Arrival Time to First Steps - NO LATER THAN **8:30AM**

Parents are asked to provide:

- A brown bagged lunch with **child's name clearly visible on bag**
- **PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, the honeybees are very present at the farm in the fall season. We ask that you provide water as a beverage and no jelly in any sandwich. In past years, children have been bothered by bees on their juice box and jelly in their PBJ.**
- Children should dress appropriately for a day at the farm, wearing **sneakers or solid shoes...please no sandals.**
- Children should come to school with **sunscreen already applied!**
- **Due to NYS seatbelt law, all our children must be restrained in either a car-seat or booster while riding the bus. Please mark your seats with your child's name, making it clearly visible ON THE TOP OF THE SEAT.**

We are very excited to be going on our 1st Field Trip! When we arrive at the farm, we will divide into two groups. The children will participate in a small corn maze, wagon ride, hayride, pick a small pie-size pumpkin, pet farm animals and play in the corn box. We will culminate our trip with a bagged picnic lunch.

The cost of the day on the farm with all activities is \$15.00 (Please speak with Miss Michelle, Miss April, Miss Kathy or Miss Heather if this amount is cumbersome.) Checks should be made payable to First Steps. We will board the bus at approx. 1:00 for our return trip to First Steps. All parents who are not chaperoning should be back to First Steps no later than **1:45pm** to take your child home (unless your child is enrolled in our Thursday Full-Day Preschool/Wrap class or is one of our Full Day UPK students.)

All children attending must have a completed and signed permission slip dropped-off by Monday, Oct. 3, with cost of \$15.00. Parents are welcome and encouraged to chaperone; a sign-up sheet is posted outside each classroom door. ****Please note:** *The children can have one adult accompany them at no cost and any other adult is \$5 each. As a side note for parents Kesicke Farm is cash only-- they do not accept credit cards, but they do have an ATM on site if needed.*

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Kimberly Johnson

Note: This field trip is for students of First Steps and not siblings. If you plan to chaperone, please make other arrangements for siblings. Parents are encouraged to car-pool with other parents, since parents will not be riding on the buses.

Miss Michelle's October News

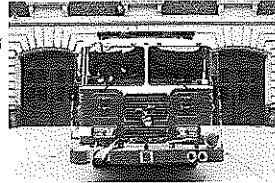
Dear UPK Families,



Happy October! It's hard to believe that fall is here, and the leaves are starting to change. We've

taken advantage of the beautiful fall weather by taking walks around the school and using our senses to talk about things we see, hear, feel, smell, and touch. We look forward to extending our classroom outdoors as much as possible and as long as the weather cooperates! Fall and everything it has to offer will be a big part of our focus as we head into October. We look forward to enjoying this time with your child and are excited for our upcoming fall projects and learning activities.

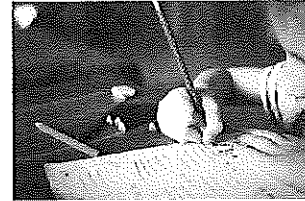
October is Fire Prevention Month, and we will be learning about fire safety through reading, activities, and a special firetruck visit right to our school! This is always a very thrilling activity, and your child will sure have a lot of exciting things to share with you. We will also learn about one community member each month and this month we will be learning about firemen. We will learn about their job, why it is important to have firemen in our community, and what they need to do their job safely.



October is a great time to learn about the season changes with the noticeable

temperature change as well as the leaves changing colors and falling to the ground. One of our school-wide projects this month will be a pumpkin patch that will be on display in the hallway in our school. Be sure to look for your child's very own handmade pumpkin!

This month, we will begin our "Letter of the Week" in our classroom.

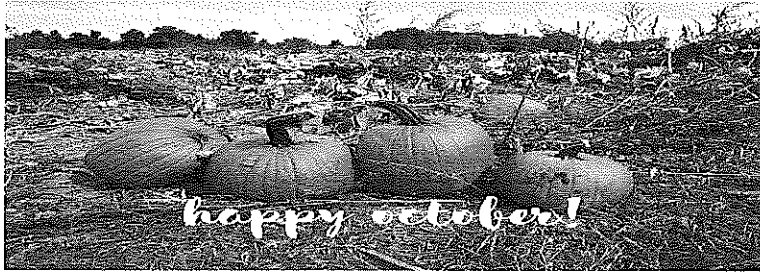


Each week we will focus on a different letter of the alphabet. Following the Handwriting Without Tears program, we will begin with letters F, E, D and P for this month. Each child will have the opportunity to explore the letter, build the letter with other materials (such as play-doh, popsicle sticks, etc.), learn songs about the letters, and write the letter.

It has truly been a pleasure getting to know both you and your child over these last few weeks. It is amazing to see how each child has grown in just a short amount of time. We are excited to begin a new month filled with more learning and fun as we welcome in October!

All our best,
Miss Michelle, Miss Brandi & Miss
Amanda

Miss April's October Newsletter!



October is here! The fall breeze is coming soon, and the leaves will soon begin to fall! We had a fun filled first month of school getting to know each other and our new classroom. We learned all about caterpillars, apples, family and our garden. Each month we will be learning about a different community helper. In September we learned about teachers and what they do.

This month is fire prevention month so we will be learning about firemen and what they do! We will have a firetruck visiting our school that we will get to explore, and we will get to see real firemen and learn about all their equipment. The firetruck will be visiting on October 13th at 9:15AM. We are very excited! We will also be learning about Fall. We will study all the changes in the environment around us (the trees, how cool it is getting and the animals). With fall also comes pumpkins! We have some cool science experiments with pumpkins. We will be wrapping rubber bands around them to see how many it will take before the pumpkin breaks. We will also be exploring what is inside of a pumpkin and use the seeds we find to try and grow our own pumpkins and then we will observe our pumpkin to see what happens when it dries up. We will also talk about the different kinds of animals we see on a farm. We will be going on a field trip to Kesicke farm on October 26th!

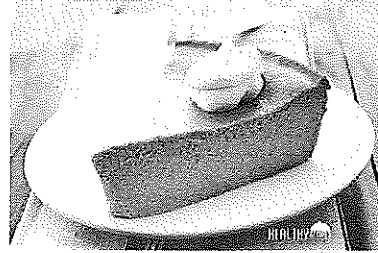
A reminder to please bring a sweater or jacket with your child to school. We will still be going outside as the weather gets cooler!

Thank you,
Miss April

Let's cook together...

"Impossible Pumpkin Pie"

- 1 (15 ounce) can 100% pure pumpkin (not pie filling)
- 1 (12 ounce) can evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup biscuit baking mix
- 2 ½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract



- *Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a 9-inch deep-dish pie plate with cooking spray.
- *Blend all ingredients together in a blender on high speed for 1 minute, or place in a large bowl and beat 2 minutes with a hand beater. Pour mixture into pie plate.
- *Bake 1 hour, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.
- *Let cool, then cover and chill at least 2 hours before serving.
- *Add some whipped cream to top if desired. *Yummy!*



5 Little Pumpkins

Rhyme

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate (hold up 5 fingers)
The first one said, "Oh my, it is getting late!" (hands on cheeks)
The second one said, "There's a chill in the air!" (arms around self)
The third one said, "But we don't care!" (swing pointer finger)
The fourth one said, "We are ready for some fun!" (hands in air)
The fifth one said, "Let's run and run and run!"
So whoooooo went the wind, (make a "whoooo" sound)
And out went the lights (clap hands once loudly)
And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight! (roll hands)



Did you know?

Unfortunately, new regulations state that popcorn is not allowed at First Steps. Popcorn has been found to be a choking hazard for young children. The safety of our students is our utmost concern. We ask that you not send your child to school with popcorn.

Thank you!

