

FALL 2022

We had a wonderful summer and are having a great beginning of the new school year. The children are adjusting well to their new classrooms, routines, and new friends!

With Fall, comes seasonal planning. We will be going on leaf hunts and having the fire trucks coming in October.

This year we will be having Halloween Classroom parties on Monday October 31st. The children can wear/bring their costumes. (Please see more about Halloween on page 6.) There will be a sign up sheet for your child's classroom for those who would like to bring in special treats for the party.

We have had some staff changes, so there are some new faces around. If you haven't yet feel free to introduce yourself.

Parent/teacher conferences will be by parent request only this fall. If you would like one with your child's teacher, please let me know.

Best,

Jilleen Grice & Terry Kuhl

Teachers

Ms. Jackie, Ms. Justine, will continuing in the infant room, with Ms. Kayti assisting.

Ms. Lori is the teacher in the Cubs room, and Ms. Brie is floating in the upstairs classrooms. Soon she will return to the Cubs room with Ms. Lori.

Ms. Anissa and Ms. Izzy are continuing in the Koala room.

Ms. Kim, Ms. Nikki, and Teacher Kaedyn are in the Panda room.

Ms. Lori is also working as our school age teacher for before and after school, and during non school days.

Ms. Barb will be returning as our cook.

Ms. Nikki is also the assistant director, so she will be doing some management and closing duties.

We have also just hired Ms. Kate. To start with she will be floating in all classrooms.

Cubs

Welcome to the Cub room! Brie and I are very excited to welcome some new faces, as well as having friends move to our room from the Teddy Bear room. We are a very young group right now, and we are working on doing a lot of small motor stuff like using our spoons during meal times, and using crayons and markers for art.

I love this time of year for doing lots of art projects, so our little ones will definitely get a workout with their small motor skills.

We do go outside twice daily weather permitting, so please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the temperature.

Ms. Lori and Ms. Brie

Teddy Bears

Happy Fall from the baby room! We would like to welcome our new families to the Little Bears Family.

We recently had our in-service day. Some of our babies moved over to the toddler room and some of the little babies moved over to the other side.

We have been busy growing and learning new things every day! Some of our older babies have taken their first steps here at Little Bears! We are just as excited as you to witness their milestones! The older babies continue to work on their sign language. We teach some of the basics; more, please, all done, milk, eat and thank you. Feel free to ask one of us if you would like us to show you the signs to help communicate with your child at home.

If there is any change in your child's feeding schedule please let us know. The center provides 1% cow's milk. We do have a few families that prefer whole milk for their child. Instead of every child bringing in a jug of milk, Ms. Jilleen has a list of these families that take turns bringing in a gallon to share. Please let Ms. Jilleen, Ms. Nikki or one of us in the baby room know your preference when that time comes. Table food is also offered. You can find a menu on the center website if you would like to highlight what you are comfortable with your child eating or you can cross off what you are not comfortable with your child eating, when the comes time to transition them. As the children transition from purees to table food we encourage family style dining at the table and introduce spoons and sippy cups!

All families should have received an email to join Teaching Strategies. If you have not yet joined, it is a great way to communicate with us throughout the day whether it be just to check in to see how your child is doing, check to see if they are low on supplies or if you simply miss your baby and need a picture:) You are also able to view your child's developmental progress as we complete assessments. Feel free to call the center if you have an immediate need or question and do not get a reply back on Teaching Strategies.

We will continue to help your child learn and grow over the fall by offering tummy time, sitting with them, encouraging them to crawl and take their first steps as well as introducing sign language and reading daily to help expand their vocabulary. We also encourage "nice touches and manners" so that the children can build friendships with their peers. It is also important for us teachers to build a relationship with both the child and our families! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

Ms. Jackie, Ms. Justine & Ms. Katy

Koalas

Hello from the Koala Room! We want to welcome all of our new cub friends that have joined our room. Happy October! September was such a beautiful month with just a hint of Fall weather. On that note, the weather will continue to become chillier, so please make sure your child has seasonally appropriate clothing in their cubby, as well as a sweater or sweatshirt for chilly mornings on the playground.

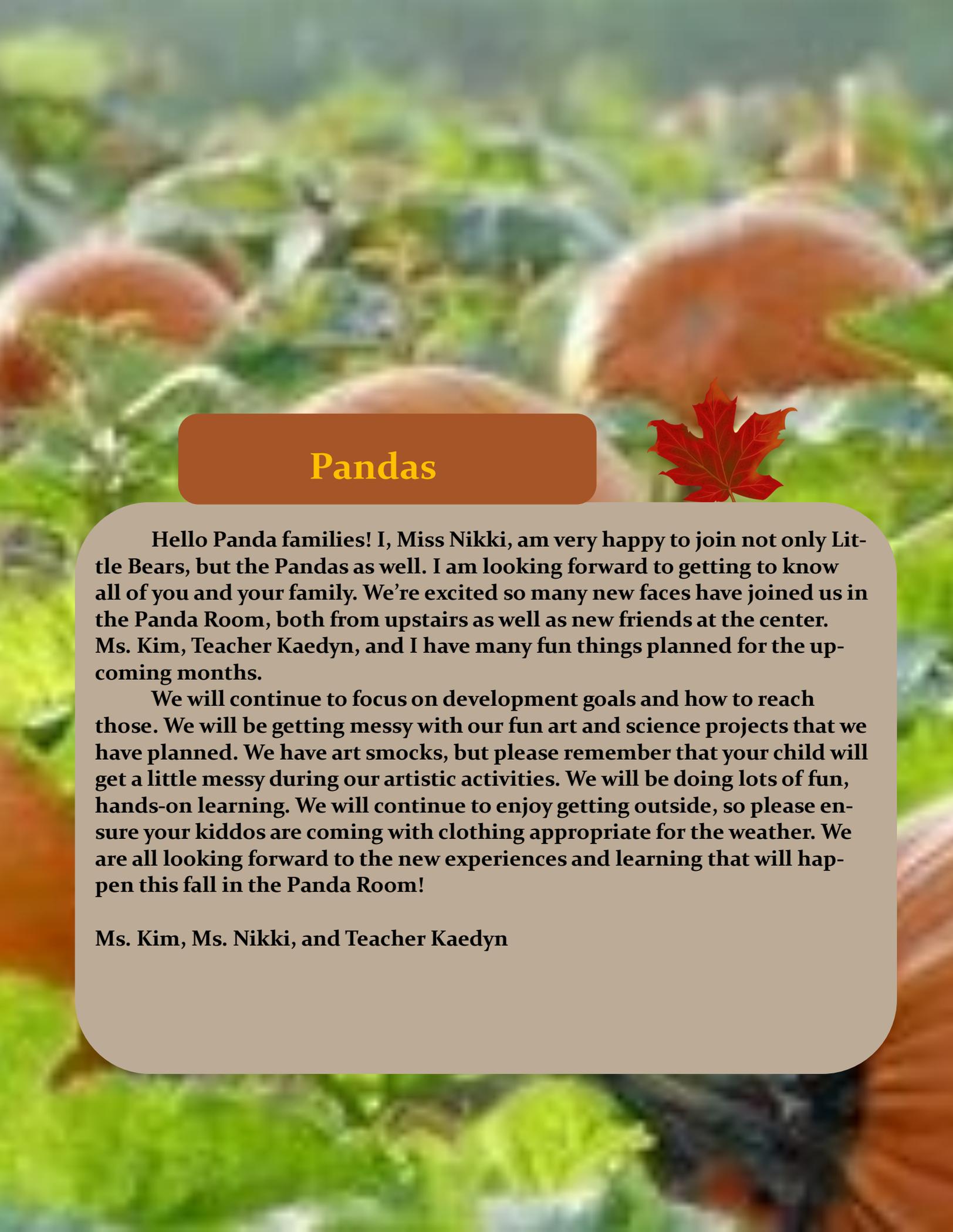
We have been working hard these first couple weeks on using our silverware at mealtimes and having good manners at the table. This is the time where we usually start introducing the potty to the children.

We like doing circle time. When we sing the hello song and ask all our friends how their day is going. We also like to sing the weather song, days of the week song and our month song.

During the next few months we have a lot of fun activities planned along with still working on colors, shape recognition, the alphabet, and counting. The first two weeks of October we will talk all about the fall season. We will observe and describe the seasonal changes in plants, animals, and their personal lives. We are hoping to spend a lot of time outside, taking nature walks and doing some leaf collecting. Our art activities will include watercolor leaves, leaf rubbing, nature collages and so much more. The children will be making a variety of pumpkin inspired artwork and decorating their own pumpkin too. Some of the other themes we have going on this Fall are Hibernation, Halloween, Forest Animals, and basic concepts like colors, shapes, numbers and alphabets.

We have had a blast working with your children and getting to know them.

Ms. Anissa & Ms. Izzy



Pandas

Hello Panda families! I, Miss Nikki, am very happy to join not only Little Bears, but the Pandas as well. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your family. We're excited so many new faces have joined us in the Panda Room, both from upstairs as well as new friends at the center. Ms. Kim, Teacher Kaedyn, and I have many fun things planned for the upcoming months.

We will continue to focus on development goals and how to reach those. We will be getting messy with our fun art and science projects that we have planned. We have art smocks, but please remember that your child will get a little messy during our artistic activities. We will be doing lots of fun, hands-on learning. We will continue to enjoy getting outside, so please ensure your kiddos are coming with clothing appropriate for the weather. We are all looking forward to the new experiences and learning that will happen this fall in the Panda Room!

Ms. Kim, Ms. Nikki, and Teacher Kaedyn

Grizzlies

Hello Grizzly families! I am so happy to have joined the Grizzly Bear group this fall. The Grizzlies have just returned to school, and this means a few of them have started riding the bus for the first time. That is very exciting for them.

When here at LBC, we have been playing lots of games, and putting together puzzles. The children are also great at building fantastic Lego creations. They also love making their own art projects by drawing and cutting things out.

When we have more time such as non school days, winter break, etc. I would like to add to our Loose Parts center. This is an area where the children can take apart old (non-working) electronics or small appliances to see how they work. If you have items that you would like to donate for this purpose, please talk with Ms. Jilleen, Ms. Nikki, or Mr. Terry.

Finally we do still go outside, weather permitting, after school. Please talk with your children to remind them to always bring their outdoor gear back from school with them.

Ms. Lori

Halloween

The children will be going trick or treating in the center on Monday October 31st. They may wear their costumes, or you can bring them for us to change them into. Please watch for signup sheets in the classrooms for party treats. They will be having party snacks in the afternoon in their classrooms. If you have signed up to bring in a special treat/snack, the food can go directly to their teacher. Thank you in advance for your participation!

A few reminders:

- **As a reminder, please do not bring in items that have peanuts or tree nuts in them.**
- Bring a labeled bag/bucket for treats (please no plastic bags, paper bags or cloth reusable bags are acceptable)
- The children will be going outside, weather permitting, so please bring alternative clothes for outside play.
- Please be sure that your child's costume is appropriate for the center.
-Costume restrictions include, but are not limited to: pretend weapons, nothing bloody or gory, no skin baring, and no inappropriate or scary face masks. Thank you in advance.
- All food brought into the center for trick or treating or eating for snack needs to be pre-packaged store-bought food. We cannot have anything homemade.
- Please consider donating healthy treats or just treats for trick or treating in around the center. If you guess Max's favorite treat with your donation you will win a gift card! Watch for Max's clue to his favorite treat!

Important Dates:

- No school for Waterloo Elementary on Friday, Oct. 14
- No school for St. Johns school on Thursday, Oct. 27 and Friday, Oct. 28
- November-Parent/Teacher Conferences by parent request
- No school for all schools on Wednesday, November 23
- Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th — Center Closed for Thanksgiving

Reminders

- Please remember to call if your child will not be here by 9:00 am. Also please tell us if they will not be returning on the school bus after school.
- It is that time of year with warm and cool days. Please keep a variety of seasonal clothes here for your child, or at least bring in a sweater or jacket for us to layer them with.
- Please bring in a family picture for us to display in our classrooms.
- Please remember when picking up and dropping off to turn off your vehicle. It is a licensing violation for running vehicles to be in our parking lot.
- Remember we do close at 5:30 pm. That means that all children should be out of the building by 5:30 pm. Please take into consideration the time it will take you to get your children ready to leave during the colder months.
- Also, remember that we will need extra time to get the children ready for the bus in the morning when it gets colder. If your child needs to eat breakfast before school, they need to be here by 7:00 am.