



Lighthouse School
100 Cluster
October 2009 Newsletter

Notes from the Homeroom:

Fall is here for real and we as a school have fun celebrating it! The month of October was filled with activities, games, and events that got everyone involved. The Pumpkin Decorating Contest was a lot of fun for many students who had the opportunity to be creative and get a little messy with paints, yarn, and glitter. Inspired by the themes from their reading, the students made a Grinch and the Cat in the Hat, the "Nightmare before Christmas" pumpkin, a Storm Trooper, and a Witch. Many students enjoyed working together and to some of them the process of creating their pumpkin was much more important than winning the contest!

Then came the Fall Fair, which was a true multi-dimensional experience! First and foremost, the Fall Fair was full of opportunities within the Sensory Dimension. There were sweets and apple cider for the taste buds to enjoy, laughter and applause for the ears to hear, the petting zoo for the hands to feel, so many things to look at, and all of this in the special smell of the crisp fall air! Lots of experiences within the Social Dimension as well, since the day was filled with socializing, cheering, and shared excitement, even between the students who do not usually see each other on lessons. Tapping into the Affective Dimension, the Fall Fair also offered many opportunities for therapeutic interactions between staff and students. Some needed a word of encouragement when feeling sad and when losing was hard, while others deserved a high five for taking the risk and trying new things. And, of course, the Fall Fair was all about the Physical and the Behavioral Dimensions, with movement and action everywhere! Indoors, students worked on their fine motor skills with activities such as a puzzle assembly race or fall crafts. Outdoors, students used their gross motor skills in a Soccer Shoot and Football Toss.

Throughout the month, our sport teams have been representing the school spirit on the field. For many of our students, sports are an area of strength and through sports they learn important lessons that apply both to academics and life in general. Whether that is soccer or football, on the field the students continue to learn to endure, handle disappointments and build relationships. As they say, winning is most exciting after hard work and when you share it with a team!

Hope you had a happy Halloween and ate lots of candy!