



Curriculum

Science: We will be exploring trees. We created a tree in our science area that we will add to all month while learning about the structure and function of trees. We will be making comparisons (similarities and differences) between trees while using our five senses during our observations. We will also learn how trees change throughout the seasons.

Gross Motor: October is a great time to be exploring the outdoors, so this month we'll be spending lots of time outside for our gross motor curriculum. To build on our learning about trees, we'll make trips to the tipi and yurt to investigate and observe the trees around the Poker Hill property.

We'll also be working in the garden, getting it ready for winter. We'll finish harvesting the last of the vegetable crops, pull out the dying plants, and sow winter rye.

When the weather isn't conducive to outdoor activities, we'll practice soccer skills in the gym, with a focus on passing, kicking, and stopping the ball.

Social Emotional/Literacy: We will be talking about feelings and experimenting with our own facial expressions and body language that may go along with each feeling. We will also be reading fall harvest stories, leaf stories, and later in the month we will read Halloween stories.

Art: MWF children will be exploring photography this month. We will photograph signs of fall, our animals, "homemade" Adam Goldsworthy sculptures and more. Photos will be printed regularly for students to cut and collage. At the end of the month we will use our photos to create decor for our special harvest celebration.

TTH children will be creating many fall crafts with natural materials found at PHS. We will create beautiful pressed leaf sun catchers, print with leaves, paint pumpkins, and more! We will also be developing our fine motor skills at the art table this month with lots of practice with cutting.

Upcoming Dates

October 19th – No school / Professional Development

October 27th – Leafy Luncheon and Tipi Hike 10-1

November 13th – Board Meeting 7:00-8:00

Fundraising Meeting 8:00-9:30

November 17th – 25th – No School / School Recess

Harvest Days

To celebrate the end of our harvest we will have harvest days on October 25th & 26th. We will have zucchini races, centerpiece making and a harvest snack.

Music: As usual, it will be a very musical month at school filled with song and dance. We will continue to sing through the fall season with songs about harvesting, changes in weather and animals preparing for winter. Children will learn

about musical pitch as we explore high and low notes using keyboards, xylophones, various percussion and some other unexpected objects. We will create a drum set out of pumpkins to see what kinds of high and low pitches come from the different sizes.

Dramatic Play: Children will be focused on our campus at Poker Hill School as they construct with cardboard and build with blocks. Children will have opportunities think about our animal friends at PHS through small world farm play and story reenactments. The children have been building barns and chicken coops for our block animals (pictures of our own farm friends attached to unit blocks).

We have been thinking about our school buildings, playground, trails, and gardens through map making, and we have started constructing the school building out of cardboard. This dramatic play experience has been student led and driven, and we are excited to see where it takes us as the children discover and establish their place at PHS!

"Who's that trip-trapping over my bridge?" Tuesday /Thursday children are re-enacting a few classic stories. Ask them about the *Three Billy Goat's Gruff!* In between story telling we will be building barns and coops that remind us of PHS.

Tree of Hopes & Dreams

Children and families wrote down their hopes and dreams for the school year on leaves. Here are some...

Children

- I hope to make friends.
- I hope to eat good food at PHS this year.
- I hope to learn about cows.
- I hope to learn everything at PHS this year.
- I hope to learn about crocodiles.
- I hope to learn about books and reading.
- I hope to make a best friend.
- I hope to learn about soccer.
- I hope to learn about bunnies.
- I hope to learn about chickens and caterpillars.

Parents

- I hope that you get even more brave every day at PHS.
- I hope you have fun adventures with your friends and teachers.
- I hope that you will be kind, generous and a great friend. Kind words take you far in life.
- I hope that you have new and fun experiences both indoors and out.
- I hope you have new discoveries, excellent adventures, and a loving & empathetic approach toward meeting new people.
- I hope you learn through PHS how significant you are to your family, the community and the world.
- I am overjoyed you are getting to experience this amazing place. I hope you carry these lessons of love & kindness for all your days.

Snow Days & Delayed Openings

Snow days and weather related delayed openings are called in conjunction with Chittenden East Supervisory Union. If there is a delayed opening, Poker Hill School will open at 8:30 (no before care). We never have early closings and we do not make up snow days in June. An email will be sent by 6:30 a.m. if there is a school closing or delayed opening.

Book Club

If you would like to read the book *Small Animals* by Kim Brooks and discuss parenthood in the age of fear, please email Becky Ruess (Peter's mom) at rebeccaruess@yahoo.com. Once Becky has a list of who wants to participate, she will coordinate a date and time that works best for the group.

Reminders

- The weather is changing! Please make sure children are dressed in warmer clothes and wearing appropriate shoes for hiking and outdoor play. Check their extra clothes bin too.
- Please try to keep toys from home at home. We have so many toys at PHS and toys from home can be challenging to manage and a distraction.

Fundraising

Poker Hill School will be participating in the wreath and centerpiece fundraiser again this year. This has been a very successful fundraiser in past years. Please print out the attachment in the email and start asking friends and family! Orders are due by November 5th and wreaths will be available by December 7th. **We need help with on fundraising committee.** Please join us on November 13th at 8:00 to plan our next event.

Leafy Luncheon and Tipi Hike

The Community Building Committee has planned a soup potluck and hike to the tipi on Saturday, October 27th from 10:00-1:00. The rain date will be Sunday October 28th. All are welcome! Please use the link in the email to sign up to bring something to share.

Wellness Policy

In order to keep everyone as healthy as possible during the school year, we have a wellness policy. Children should only come to school if they are well enough to participate fully in the day's activities, including outdoor time.

- If your child needs medication for a fever, s/he is too sick to come to school even if the medication has brought the fever down.
- If your child has diarrhea, s/he is too sick to come to school.
- If your child has vomited in past 24 hours, s/he is too sick to come to school even if he appears to feel better.
- If your child has developed a fresh cold, s/he should stay home and recover and not come to school and infect everyone else.
- If your child has a temperature over 100 degrees F, please keep them home.
- If your child has experienced diarrhea, vomiting, or a temperature they must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning.
- If your child has been treated with an antibiotic for an infection s/he may come to school 24 hours after the treatment has begun.