Dear Parents,

It’s been a Happy Halloween week! At this time of year, I find myself reflecting on everything the child sees during this holiday. The fun costumes, and also the scary things. The child’s reality is very different than what ours is as adults. Everything they see is real to them. This includes cartoons they might watch then act out. The child is not able to differentiate between reality and fiction until the second plane of development which would be at the earliest 6 years old. This is why Maria Montessori instructed each directress in early childhood training to only bring real things into the environment for the children in the first plane of development. There are four planes of development: 0-6 years, 6-12 years, 12-18 years, and 18-24 years.

New lessons
We continue to introduce new lessons into our environment and this week we brought in squeezing/using a sponge as our newest lesson. The lesson is prepared with a container holding a sponge soaked in water. At first glance we do not see the water. We pick up the sponge and squeeze. There is so much water that comes out of the sponge! The child replaces the sponge into the container and it drinks up the water again. The child repeats the activity, gaining experiences and understanding with the repetition, then places the lesson back on the shelf to ready it for our next friend.

Cookies
On Wednesday, we baked our banana cookies again. The children are gaining recognition in the process. We were able to walk away for short periods of time during the preparation as the children knew what to do and we wanted to give them their independence!
Halloween
On Halloween it was time for our long awaited pumpkin carving! It was very exciting to see and feel what was inside the hard, dry pumpkin. Some wanted to touch and feel the insides and some wanted only to watch. Everyone had their very own pumpkin experience. We also began our footprint ghosts, which we finished today.

Art Festival
We hope to see everyone at our Art Festival next Saturday, November 9th (next weekend). There will be many activities as well as crafts. This is a wonderful event for the very young as it certainly fosters much independence to see all they can do on their own, and they have so much fun! Tickets will be sold for the crafts and activities and there will be food for purchase for lunch such as cheese pizza, homemade hummus, salad, pita, and water. Please bring cash.

Language
We continue our language immersion and introducing more objects and new language. Many of my friends are having intricate, involved conversations as others watch and are taking it all in, so beautiful to watch.
Thank you to
The Haspel family for healthy snack this week
The Burgess family for our apple sauce mummies