



The Learning Tree

Volume 30

Number 1

October 2009

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- **Thursday, October 1:** NO SCHOOL
- **Monday, October 5:** : Visit from Cumberland City Fire Department
- **Tuesday, October 6:** : Visit from Cumberland City Fire Department
- **Friday, October 9:** 4's Visit Higson's Farm
- **Tuesday, October 13:** Music with Ms. Angela
- **Wednesday, October 14 :** Music with Ms. Angela
- **Friday, October 16:** No School
- **Monday, October 19:** Visit to the Library
- **Tuesday, October 20:** Visit to the Library
- **Wednesday, October 21:** Clown makeup demo.
- **Thursday, October 22:** Clown make-up demo.
- **Thursday, October 22:** 4's visit Country House
- **Friday, October 23:** 4's visit The Kensington
- **Monday, October 26-Friday, October 30:** 2's Halloween Parties
- **Thursday, October 29:** School Wide Halloween Parties
- **Friday, October 30:** School Wide Halloween Parties
- **Friday, November 6:** NO SCHOOL



“WE’RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE”

(To the tune of “If you’re Happy and You Know It”)

*We’re so glad to have you in our Learning Tree,
 We’re so glad to have you in our Learning Tree,
 We’re so glad you’re here today-
 We will sing & learn & play,
 We’re so glad to have you in our Learning Tree.*

Friendships are in the air—as bright and cheerful and changing as the fall leaves on the trees. As we start the second month of school we are discovering that we have friendships of all kinds happening at the Learning Tree.

We have children renewing old friendships and many others are discovering new buddies—while we still have a few that prefer to play by themselves, all of this is very typical and normal. We are also very pleased to notice that as parents either wait at drop-off or at pick-up time, they are also making new friends. This too, is a very important part of a pre-school experience.

Mostly, the children are settling into routines and looking forward to new activities. What few tears we had at the beginning are now starting to turn to laughter (both the children and parents have stopped crying!) It happens every year. All these anxieties disappear with the excitement that the fall activities bring.

We are so pleased that you have chosen the Learning Tree as your child’s pre-school. It is such an

important and wondrous time in the life of a child (and their family). We are so glad that you have allowed us to share this time with your family. We hope you will find it to be a rewarding, happy and loving experience.

October will be a very colorful month. The school will come alive with many fall activities and projects.

Part of our program is the monthly publishing of this newsletter informing the parents of the various activities taking place throughout the school—things that the children have done, are presently enjoying, or plans they have for the future. Each month please take the time to read the entire newsletter and find out what the whole school is doing. Don’t forget to take one to the other members of your car pool!

We hope that by now you have put teacher names and faces together (the children may or may not- even never!) The staff remains the same in our 2’s and 3’s with Ms. Angela as lead in the 2’s, assisted by Ms. Beverly. In our three year old class Ms. Tricia starts her 30th year. She is assisted by Ms. Sandy and Ms. Lu Anne. Ms. Dinah returns to lead the M.W.F. 4’s. Helping her is Ms. Beth and Ms. Pam. We are excited to have Lynda Sokoloski as the lead in the T. Th. 4’s Lynda is a kindergarten teacher who for the past decade has been home raising 3 wonderful daughters (LT alum’s) and a son Mathias (in our 3-year-old class). Lynda is also a YMCA aerobic instructor. Working with Ms. Lynda is Ms. Beth and another new staff member, Jessie Gates. We met Jesse several years ago

when she enrolled her daughter Maggie in our program. Jessie subbed a lot with us last year.

We are so blessed to have such a loving and caring group of women at the Learning Tree.

THANKS FOR A GOOD JOB!

Most of you have done your homework—good job! We always sing a song for everything at the Learning Tree, so this “Good Job” song is for you!

*You did a good job,
You did a fine job.
Give yourself a pat on the back.
Pat! Pat! Pat !Pat!*

- 1) Medical and emergency forms
- 2) Monthly juice- 1 can per family
- 3) Tissues-2's please bring their box of tissues in September, 3's in December
- 4) Tuition payments are due on the first of each month (a check made payable to the Learning Tree is preferred) October tuition is due Oct. 1-10. Likewise Nov. tuition is Nov. 1-10.
- 5) Any special requests that the teacher may have (ex. a picture of your child)
- 6) A labeled tote bag with all essentials requested by the teacher
- 7) For dressing your children in play clothes (especially no sandals, hee-lies, crocks or dress shoes for the children's safety we request tennis shoes or rubber soled shoes)
- 8) A very special thank you for putting your child's name on his or her belongings they bring to school (especially tote bags, rest blankets, sweaters and jackets)
- 9) For picking up your child(ren) at dismissal time. The children are very anxious when their special person isn't here on time. Many times teachers have appointments or afternoon plans and need to leave promptly after school. Please be considerate of your child's teacher and your child(ren)
- 10) FOR NOT PARKING IN THE SPACES SET ASIDE FOR THE CHURCH STAFF. Don't forget to tell whoever is picking-up and dropping-off your child.

- 11) For the disposable camera that we may use to take all those special Learning Tree moments that your child is experiencing.
- 12) Four year old's for the hand sanitizer

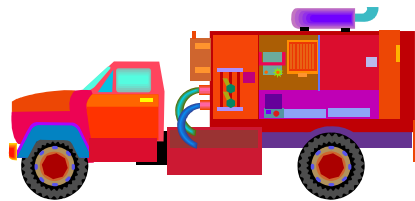
REMINDERS

Tuition is due before the **10th of each month**. Checks are preferred. 1 day per week=\$35, 2 days per week=\$65, 3 days per week=\$95 and 5 days for 4's =\$160

ALWAYS walk your child to their classroom door. For their own safety, **NEVER** let them enter the building or parking lot by themselves. We love your children and want to ensure their safety and well-being. We also like to see you!!

If you did not receive a handbook or have not turned in medical forms please see Barbara.

Remember to relay all messages, bulletin board notices, newsletters, etc. to all members of your carpool!



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

The children are celebrating National Fire Prevention Month with a visit from the fire truck. During this week we will be teaching and that the firefighters are our friends. Here is our favorite fire song for fire prevention week.

Stop drop and roll
Stop drop and roll
First you stop
then you drop
(cover your face)
rolling all around
Stop drop and roll
Stop drop and roll



ABOUT SPECIAL EVENTS:

You will note on our monthly calendar we have scheduled a fire

truck visit for **Monday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 6**. We will look at the fire truck. The firefighters will talk to us about their job, the uniform and the fire truck. This kind of activity is very special to us. We cannot schedule the fire truck all 5 days, (we would like to, but can't). We try to schedule activities to hit the majority of students scheduled. Most children come to school either M/W/F or T/Th. Therefore, if we schedule one activity M/W/F and another on T/Th, that should accommodate most of our children. Our roster is not flexible enough for children to come to school on a day other than the one for which they are enrolled. Hopefully, we will schedule enough activities that if your child missed one special event, he/she will experience another one. If your child misses the fire truck visit he/she will do clown make up.

Where do we get the ideas for these special events? From everywhere—church, community, and you! If you have an idea or would like to share your talent; pasta maker, quilter, skier, pilot, antique toy collector, musician, or Santa, please talk to Barbara. The children love these enrichment activities and really enjoy sharing their mom, dad, grandma and grandpa, etc. **In November we will need a quilter and turkey caller!** While these programs are special, they are just a small part of the Learning Tree experience. Each classroom teacher has wonderful, creative and exciting activities planned each and every day that your child comes to school. If you can't volunteer—please share your about ideas!

HEALTHY CHILDREN

Keeping children safe and healthy can sometimes be a challenge. Children are exposed to so many other children in school; it seems inevitable that they will get sick. We will do our best to try to avoid this from happening. During our time together we will encourage hand washing to prevent germs, bacteria and viruses from spreading. We ask that you as a family set a good example for the children to follow by encouraging them to wash hands frequently.

During this pending flu season we are trying to be a little more careful.

For the health of the other children (teachers too), we are requesting that if your child has had a fever, do not return to school until your little one has been fever free (without fever reducing meds) for 24 hours.

NO DONUTS WITH DAD

Oh no! We've taken away your time to come to school to eat many, many donuts with your little one and get points 'cause we called it "quality time"! Well have no fear. We are replacing our favorite breakfast food with our second favorite breakfast food—pancakes! On **Wednesday, Nov. 4th** and **Thursday, Nov. 5th** we will be celebrating autumn with you and your little one with "Pancakes with Pop" We will be making invitations and decorations for this colorful event. The children will bring Dad or dad substitutes to First Presbyterian Church any time **after 8:15 am** to be served a delicious and (and so healthy!) breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, milk and/or juice. Invitations will be sent home with your children. The cost is \$10 for Dad and child—sorry, no moms unless they are helping! (Moms, your turn will come with a lunch in May!) Please sign up with Barbara no later than October 23rd. Breakfast should be finished by **9:00 a.m.** in order for you to get to work and for us to get started with school! Can't come? Its okay, participation is optional. Donations of 1% milk, orange juice, tea, coffee or sugar would be appreciated.

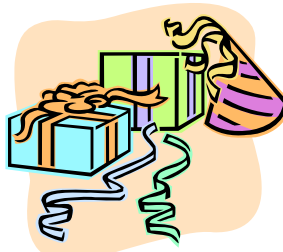


Dads—Got an old tie you'd love to get rid of for a good cause? We need one of your old ties for this project! Polka dotted, striped, red, and purple—it doesn't matter what kind of tie you are willing to give up! We will need it by **Thursday Oct. 15th**. Please note: it may not come back to you in the same shape that it was when you gave it to us or it may not come back to you at all!

OCTOBER TIME

*October time is pumpkin time,
the nicest time of the year.
When all the pumpkins light their eyes
(encircle eyes)
and grin from ear to ear.
(Big grin)*

*Because they know at Halloween
they'll have lots of fun,
Peeking through the windowpanes
(put hands over eyes and look)
Watching children run!*



Birthdays

We love sharing birthdays with your children and are very happy that you treat the children to birthday, pizza, ice cream cups, donut holes, cookies or any other tasty treat. We know for many families this is "the" party for their child's birthday. What no cup cakes? Sure they are OK, but... they tend to be very messy (especially the chocolate ones) and the children most of the time lick the icing and leave the cake, therefore there are other fun options available.

In the past many families have chosen to bring in treat bags for their little ones to share

We want to encourage you to continue doing this, but request that maybe the treat bags either be discontinued or toned down a bit. It is fun for children to hand their friend a treat as they go home, but it isn't necessary—the party itself could be enough. If you choose to give a treat maybe you can give stickers, a lollipop or some similar gesture.



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

Beginning in October, our own Ms. Angela will be creating wonderful music with your children. Angela will be replacing Sarah Jackson who taught a Musicgarten program the past several years while her children were here at school.

Angela has a great deal of experience in the music field. While a student at FSU she participated in performance art with the FSU chorale. Angela has directed 2 adult church choirs and for several years she has also been responsible for youth and children's choirs at her church in Frostburg. Angela is anxious to share her excitement for music with your children.

Music is an important tool for children—especially as a background for math, reading and language development. Most importantly, the children will have fun, fun, fun!

We are very fortunate to offer this program and thank Angela for her generosity in doing 2 jobs at Learning Tree!



HALLOWEEN PARTIES:

To the tune of "Farmer in the Dell"

What costume will you wear?

What costume will you wear?

To Trick or treat on Halloween

What costume will you wear?

What ever I'll pretend to be

I'll wear to Learning Tree

I'll share my costume with every one

Halloween will be fun

Halloween is a magical, make-believe time, but it can also be very frightening for many of our children. Therefore, October is a perfect time for us to discuss children's thoughts and fears about the unknown. Many

children have not developed the ability to discern fantasy from reality. Television and movies show monsters, “bad guys”, ghosts, etc. so graphically that it is hard for a child to sort out this information. Many children need to be reassured that these characters are actors playing pretend—just like school in the dress up corner.

We feel play is one of the best ways to deal with fears. When children pretend to be a monster, witch or ghost, they take on the attributes of the characters they fear the most. In turn, they gain a sense of mastery of the unknown, and a feeling of security by facing and even conquering these fears.

This month, we hope to provide many opportunities to discuss, sing, read about and experience fantasy and reality. The children are many times surprised and delighted when we teachers admit to being sometimes frightened too!

We hope that on the day of the “Big Event” we don’t have too many tears. We will remind the children that if they see a costume that looks too scary, to just look down at the persons feet. Your child will probably see a pair of sneakers (or Dorothy’s shoes!) reminding him/her that there is just another child under that spooky costume!

On the day of the party please have your children come to school with their costumes on, but with their school clothes underneath. For their safety and to help with the fears of some of our little ones PLEASE DO NOT LET THE CHILDREN WEAR MASKS. PLEASE NO GUNS OR SWORDS EITHER! As soon as the children arrive at school they will go to their rooms. After all the children have arrived, they will have a parade. If you would like to see our children in their costumes you are invited to join us to take pictures and ooh and ahh. Normally this parade takes place in the in the church fellowship hall. This may or may not be the case this year due to the construction. If the “bike room” is not usable for us (there may not be enough room for everyone) we will sing and parade for you somewhere in the building or outside in the parking lot if it doesn’t rain. We’ll let you know! We will then return to the classrooms, remove

costumes and begin our school day. If you would like to contribute to their snacks or treat bags, see the bulletin board for sign-up sheets. These notices will appear mid-month.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY SONG

(To the tune of the Happy Wanderer)

I love to go Trick or Treating on a Halloween night
 And as I go I’m sure to know
 The safety rules just right

Chorus (To be sung witch like)
 Halloween , Halloween , Halloween
 Hallowoooooeeeeeeeeen
 Halloween , Halloween
 Halloween is so much fun!

My flash light is all aglow
 As I walk so very slow
 I’ll say thanks for all my treats
 And won’t run in the streets

Chorus
 I always go with an adult and wear
 light colored clothes
 My parents then will check my bags
 For safety I suppose!

***NOTE ABOUT PHONE CALLS:**
 Please don’t call the church before 9:00 a.m. There is no one available to answer the phone. We really want to be available if you have a message for the teacher, so please either call the teacher at home or leave a message with Barbara, the office volunteer or the church secretary.

COMING IN NOVEMBER
 November 4th and 5th
 “Pancakes with Pop”

RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE!

As your child grows please consider recycling toys, costumes, dress-ups and videos to our program that they are either tired of or have outgrown.



(We really need larger big wheels or trikes

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Attached please find your copy of the school directory—tear it off and keep it handy. It will be helpful if you need to set up car pools or need addresses for parties, and as your child makes new friends you’ll have their phone numbers!

Just a thought...

By providing young children with the tools and skills that they need to keep healthy and safe, and by setting good examples through our own actions, we instill in our children the knowledge and opportunities that they need to make good choices now and through the rest of their lives.

TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS

What a treat to get to know all our new two-year-old Learning Tree friends and families. Beverly and I are seeing your children settle into the routine and becoming accustomed to us and their new friends. We have been able to be on the playground more than some years, and the playroom is a hit as are the bikes downstairs.

The color red, apples, and circles have all been introduced and reinforced through songs, and fingerplays. Look for orange to appear this month as we explore fall with our senses. We will have a visit from the firefighters and our large group music time will start in October.

Halloween will be celebrated the week of October 26, dressing up is encouraged each day. There are children who only come once a week and we don’t want them to miss out. The Halloween parade involving the whole school will be October 29 and 30. Look for the sign-up sheet outside our door to donate the candy for the treat bags pumpkins, and the special

snacks. Not everyone will need to sign up for this party since there will be other opportunities later in the year to donate.

Our annual breakfast with dads will be in early November, so the children will be keeping some of their art from this month to decorate for that occasion. Dads, look for an invitation mid-month.

Please, remember as the weather cools to bring a jacket or sweater with your child's name on it. The extra clothes in their bags may need to be changed for the season also.

In the beginning of November we will talk about family. Please collect some photos of your child's family members to bring toward the end of October. If you label the back of each with the relatives' names and send them in a plastic bag or envelope, we can share them during circle time and keep them safe to return.

You have been so cooperative with handing over your precious ones at the door in the morning that they feel confident that they are safe with us and they settle quickly. They are also excited to have you there at the door promptly at dismissal to greet them.

We are off to a terrific start. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

—Miss Angela and Miss Beverly

THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS

LuAnne, Sandy and I welcome you to our three-year-old class. We are enjoying getting to know you and your child. As the children learn their new friends' names through songs and games and become familiar with the routine of the morning, the worries about nursery school are subsiding.

In September, we concentrated on making friends, feeling comfortable with the routine of the morning and the color yellow. Our secret word for the day will hopefully stimulate conversation between you and your child about their day at school. It is always a word that correlates with the activities of the day. Please continue to check my bulletin board for any messages and if you ever have any questions, please just ask. We would also appreciate if you would label your child's backpack and coat. Birthday celebrations are always welcomed in the classroom but please

try to schedule it with us before the day. We have a lot of November birthdays and we want each child to enjoy their special day.

Autumn is here and so are the songs, books, finger plays, flannel board stories and art activities that pertain to this season. Red and orange will be the colors for October as we combine the themes of Autumn and Halloween. One of the most popular activities at school other than bike time is the special table that frequently changes contents. It will be filled with oatmeal in October. It is a wonderful activity that encourages interaction among the children. Our Halloween parties are scheduled for Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30. Sign-up sheets for the special snacks and treats for the Halloween bags will be posted on my bulletin board. If the spaces are filled you can contribute the next time.

Thank you for choosing our class and letting us become a small part of your child's life.

—Tricia

FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS (Monday-Wednesday-Friday)

I must agree—Miss Tricia's words are true. Last spring she said, "you are going to love this class", and we do! They are funny, happy, and so smart. Our first month of acclimating to being the "upstairs class" has gone so well, and we are quickly beginning our pre-k work. Name cards have been used from our first circle time, and some children are able to identify other friend's names already, in addition to his/or her own name. Our color this month is yellow, and the circle is our shape. Number recognition at dismissal is going well, and we hope the word of the day initiates some stories of your child's day at the Tree. We are learning the pledge to the flag, and are doing a great job sitting at circle time. Some favorite play areas are the corn table, the Playdough, dress-up clothes and blocks. The children are always interested in the art project of the day, and are proud of their work (don't forget to pick up art work on the shelf outside of our room). We have discussed our families, our feelings, and ourselves this month. When your child practices writing his/her name at

home, please teach lower case letters other than the first letter of the name. This is the kindergarten way and it is easier to learn correctly at first than have to re-teach! Beth, Pam and I are looking forward to many happy days with your children. We love being at the Learning Tree, and our families are the reason why!

A special welcome to Miss Lynda and to Miss Jessie from Pam, Beth and me. They are great additions to the four-year-old program. Also, I apologize to you all for the "boo-boos" on my face these last few weeks. I wanted to do this during the summer, but that isn't such a good idea apparently. The children have been great about it, and I'm a walking advertisement for sunscreen use! Welcome to 2009-2010 at the Learning Tree!

—Miss Dinah

FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS (Tuesday-Thursday)

In Ms. Lynda's four year old class we have been enjoying meeting new friends and playing with our friends from last year. We have talked, sung and learned that each of us is as special as the colorful fall leaves we see changing before our eyes. The children have been exploring leaves from different trees and classifying them in many different ways. We've counted and practiced writing and recognizing our names. The corn table is a big hit, and the creative little ones use it in so many fun ways. Our art work has been featuring circles and the color yellow. Be on the lookout for our new color and shape! We sure have been busy having fun and learning so far in the up stairs class!

—Miss Lynda

