

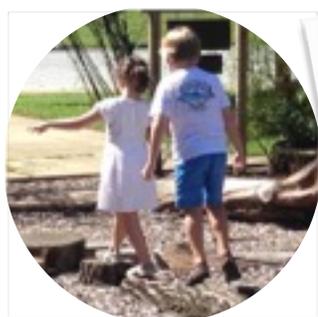
NATURE NEWSLETTER



NATURE THEMES

"Our Backyard"

We jump started our year with the theme, "Our Backyard". The beginning of the school year is filled with so many new activities, getting to know our classmates, teachers and new routines; but, also exploring our surroundings. Brown children are encouraged to actively explore our outdoor spaces, stepping off of the traditional playground and into the gardens and woods. This year, we were fortunate to have an unending harvest with our green bean tee pee and cheery tomato plants. The occasional cucumber and carrot were also found on our snack tables. Goose gourds and pumpkins were picked, brought into the classrooms for decorations as they began to decay, the fun part really began as we dissected and explored the inside of our garden treasures.



“Tremendous Trees”

Our second theme of the year is “Tremendous Trees”. We are blessed at Brown, to be surrounded by a large variety of trees. During this season, as leaves are falling to the ground, children can be seen gathering leaves and acorns, inspecting the different shapes and colors. There is much discussion about identifying trees simply by the leaf shape, an activity that is carried into the classrooms as we match leaves to game boards. The shedding of leaves, offers a new view of bark and branching structure, giving the children a view they may not have noticed before.



“Quiet Rocks”

It has become a tradition in the fours class to have “Forest Friday”. Each Friday, after playtime on the hill, both fours classes walk down the nature path and enter a very special area in the woods, referred to as “The Quiet Rocks”. As everyone gathers on the rocks, the children are asked to close their eyes, use their senses, and “take in” the forest. Sharing then begins, as we discuss what we have heard, seen and felt. Our most recent discussions have involved the tree canopy, how it is changing during this season, and why it is changing. With the fluctuation of rain, the sound of the stream has been constantly changing, an aspect in which, all the children are very in tune. To close the time in the woods, the children gather on the stream bank, and toss leaves and sticks into the stream... some trying to reach the other side of the bank... others simply watching their leaves and sticks float downstream. An old-fashioned nature experience. This space is also visited as a part of our Yoga Lunch Bunch program... a wonderful space to put ourselves in the mood for yoga.



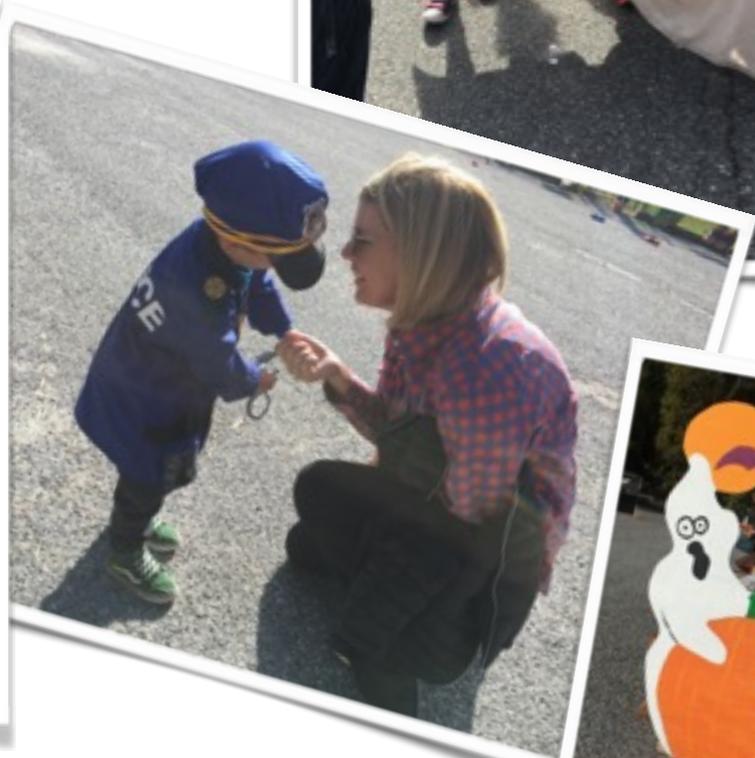
Upcoming BMWs events at St. Thomas Church:

Saturday November 18 10:30-12:00 Nature Club Meeting
(10:00-10:30 Indoor facility open for a quick peek)

Saturday January 20 Open House

FALL FESTIVAL

BMWS celebrated it's annual Fall Fest on October 28th. The event was very well attended. Thank you, to the Parents Association!



Holiday Reminders:

Thanksgiving Break: School closes at noon Tuesday November 21
School closed November 22-24.

Winter Break: School closes at noon Wednesday December 20
School Resumes Wednesday January 3, 2018

