



# The Comets' Comments

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## We Love Lily!

In collaboration with the ASPCA and the Delta Society, we have regular visits with Nina and Lily. Lily is a beautiful West Highland Terrier, who comes to visit the Comet class every other Thursday. The Comets are getting very good at asking Nina if they can each have a turn to pet her dog. They must say, "Nina, may I pet your dog?" When Nina says it is okay the Comets

carefully allow Lily to smell their hands and then pet her on top of her head or her back. The Comets love when they receive little wet kisses on their hands and sometimes even on their faces!!!



## The Comets Explore Math



Math is so much fun! The Comets have been exploring math using manipulatives or little toys that help us count, sort, and explore the world of mathematics. In small groups we have been learning to identify and understand the values of numbers from 1 to 10. We

have also been learning the concept of more and less by making graphs of our favorite things like colors and food. The Comets have just begun learning about AB patterns (ex. red, blue, red, blue, red) using stickers, snap cubes, and the Smart Board.

## Social Studies: Fall

This month we have been learning about the season Fall. The study intertwined with all classroom activities including, math, reading, art, writing, and science. In math we counted leaves and sorted them by color. In reading our weekly rhymes had fall themes including pumpkins, leaves, and apples. We also read many books that helped the Comets better understand how we can identify the season as fall. We determined that the leaves change colors to yellow, brown, orange, or red and then fall off the trees. We also observed through community walks that the temperature outside gets colder. In Art with Kate we studied paintings and then created our own works of art that used real leaves, chalk, and water colors. One of the favorite activities during this unit was carving a pumpkin to make a Jack-O-Lantern. During group time we touched and smelled the inside of a pumpkin and discovered it is VERY slimy. The Comets all voted to decide if they wanted a happy, sad, or angry face. The majority ruled and we made a happy faced pumpkin. In writing the following day we worked very hard to sequence the steps it took to make the pumpkin into the Jack-O-Lantern using photographs from our activity. Teachers then wrote the words that were dictated by each Comet. Finally, in Science with Andrea the Comets began exploring other fall materials using a microscope. To help the Comets learn and use the fall vocabulary we made a list of all of our fall words and hung it up in the classroom (ex. Fall, pumpkin, apple, leaves, Jack-o-Lantern, and Halloween).



## Letter of the Week

This month the Comets were busy exploring and learning different letters. We begin by learning the formation of the letter using big lines and little lines from the Handwriting Without Tears program. We then incorporate Sounds in Motion to help us distinguish and identify the sounds each letter makes. All of our letter activities are hands-on following an active learning approach where we explore materials and play games.

During the first week in October we learned the letter F. During this week we went fishing for the letter F, made a graph of our favorite

color fish, and practiced counting and making patterns with the ever so yummy fish snack. We even practiced making the letter F in foam (shaving cream).

The following week we began our study of the letter E. The letter E took the Comets on an egg hunt around the room. Once each child found an egg they had to identify the picture or letter inside and decide if it began with an E or "Not an E."

After E we learned about the letter H. The Comets entered the room on Monday morning surprised to find a giant bail of Hay sitting in the middle of the

classroom! The Comets enjoyed feeling the hay and thinking of other words that begin with H, like horses and house. At the end of the week we used the Hay to make a scarecrow. The Comets were shocked to find out that a scarecrow has 5 different H words: head, hat, happy face, hay, and hands. Another activity that the Comets enjoyed was making HUGE hand-print Hs. The Comets are very excited about learning all of these new letters. A great activity to play while walking in the city is "I Spy." You can have your child find different letters and you have to guess where they are seeing it!

# Grandparents' Day

The Comets spent an entire week planning and preparing for our special visitors on Grandparents' Day. We began by reflecting about the important and memorable activities we share and do with our grandparents. Some of the books that we read that helped to spark our ideas were: *What Grandpas Do Best*, *What Grandmas Do Best*, and *Hooray For Grandparents' Day!* The Comets worked together to make tablecloths, placemats, and their very own pumpkin necklaces. The Wednesday before Grandparents' Day we went on a walk to purchase pumpkins to decorate on the day of the event. When Grandparents' Day finally arrived the Comets were very excited and eager to give their guests a tour of our classroom, act out and present our *5 Little Pumpkins* rhyme, decorate pumpkins and enjoy a nice lunch together. The event was a huge success; thank you to everyone who joined us for this special day!



## Mark Your Calendars...

- No School– 11/11
- Picture Day– 11/13
- Thanksgiving Feast– 11/24
- Noon Dismissal– 11/25
- No School– 11/26-11/27

## Thanks!

Thank you to all of those who were able to come to Fall Family Fun Day. It was wonderful seeing everyone enjoy the beautiful weather and seasonal activities.



We welcome Cindi Clarke into the Comet room. She has joined our team as a paraprofessional. Cindi has worked at Gillen Brewer since last winter. We are very excited to have her in the Comet class!

## Plan Do Review



Dominick is reading to the pumpkin, while Max watches.



Jamel is building the "tallest house."



Jacob is building a tall tower for his telescope using recycled materials.



Dominick and Gabriel play one of our class favorites– Cariboo!