

# Curriculum Corner - November

While all around us animals are busy getting ready for the long winter, we'll be inside having a lot of animal fun. During the first two weeks of November we'll be exploring the theme of pets. Children will read about different pet animals, compare and contrast themselves with the animals, imitate them by making wonderful noises, dig for hidden bones in the sensory tables, and make a lot of fun art projects. We'll learn about the important role that veterinarians play in caring for and treating our pets. We'll paint our faces with whiskers and make colorful pasta necklace collars. We'll learn new songs and sing some of our old favorites as we bring our favorite stuffed animal pets with us on a pet parade throughout our classrooms.



Preschoolers will encounter the rectangle shape and the letters C and D, their sounds and familiar things that begin with them including Cat and Dog. We'll have another visit this year by the cherished chicken named Henrietta and perform the amusing chicken dance with her. We would be delighted to have 'pet' visitors come in to see us. If your child would like to bring a pet in to share with the class please speak to your child's teacher regarding allergies and timing.



During the second half of November, Flamingos, Bluebirds and Canaries will travel back in time to explore American history. We'll become Native Americans as we learn a little bit about their deep respect for nature, wear headbands while doing a rain dance, make teepees, instruments and learn about some of the crops that were harvested and shared with the pilgrims. Some of the teachers will be reading "Stone Soup" or "Rabbit Stew" and make their own vegetable soup with the children. The children will also enjoy making a mock journey across the ocean from England to America with stormy winds and heavy rains, little food and crowded conditions. We will talk about what they would each take along with them on their journey and wear our pilgrim hats and bonnets. Following our long arduous journey, we will thankfully join the Native Americans in a Thanksgiving lunch feast and discuss all of the things that we are thankful for. We will learn several new songs and enjoy using our senses to smell, taste, see, feel, and hear all that this rich theme and time of year has to offer us all.



Right after the Thanksgiving holiday, we'll introduce the preschoolers to the unusual but fascinating world of Pablo Picasso, through some of his works of art. We will uncover how his emotions affected his work during the rose period and the blue period, and how to alter the shades of blue and red by adding white to it. The preschoolers will also dabble in sculpture making and create fabulous collages for display in the classroom 'museum.' During this week, the flamingos will be going to their classroom zoo to learn all about the animals that reside there. They will all have a chance to be each one of the animals and partake in the role of a visitor. They'll enjoy making art projects with elephants, monkeys, zebras and giraffes and learn new zoo related songs. We will stomp around the classroom with elephant ears and jump from tree to tree screeching like monkeys. Children are also welcome to bring in their own stuffed animal or favorite zoo book to share with the class.

