



## Big Bear News

### 10/20/2017

School Year  
2017 - 2018

### Important Dates

Thursday and Friday,  
10.26 & 10.27.17:  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

Tuesday, 10.31.17:  
Halloween Celebration



Washington University  
Nursery School

### What's happening in the classroom?

We naturally progressed from learning about our Big Bear families to learning about our wider Big Bear community and those who help our community. We specifically chose our theme to help the children understand that WE are our own little classroom community and that we are all connected.

To concretely reinforce this concept with the kiddos, we engaged in two group challenges: 1) Each child designed a piece of a larger class puzzle, and then we solved the puzzle together. 2) We used a ball of yarn at circle time and together we created what some called a spider web, another called a sunshine, and others called a building of triangles and squares to show connection. Our continuing conversations about using kind words, performing their jobs, and helping particularly at clean-up time go hand-in-hand with learning about community.

We have also been learning about community helpers. The Clayton firefighters paid a visit and discussed all things firefighter and fire safety. All of the Big Bears mustered up their courage even as our visitors put on every piece of their safety uniforms.

In centers Big Bears transformed into community helpers - firefighters, police officers, construction workers, office administrators, astronauts, and vets in dramatic play, engineers and mathematicians measuring around the room, examining, recording in the math/science area, and authors/illustrators/artists in the writing and art centers. They enjoyed using a wide variety of materials to freely create their own career person in art, and also practiced learning their Big Bear friends' names using alphabet stamps and name cards in writing.

This week we will also take a field trip to the WU Bon Appetit Cafe and talk with the manager Ms. Amy about just what her job entails. And of course we cannot wait for our parent visitors who have generously volunteered to visit and share their careers with us. (We are working on understanding the difference between *asking questions* and *telling stories* before you visit!)



Love,  
Miss Suzy & Miss Heather