



Big Bear News

**School Year
2017 - 2018**



Washington University
Nursery School

Thank you for meeting with us to talk about your delightful Big Bears at conference time. We appreciate your openness and continued willingness to work together to support your special children.

Important Dates

**Day with Dads,
Granddads,
Special Friends:**

**Friday, November 17
Big Bear Classroom
10:45 - 11:45 am**

**Pajama Day:
Monday, November 20**

**Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL
November 22 - 24**

What's happening in the classroom?

We have loved having so many Big Bear parents visit the classroom in order to share their careers with us. We have learned about what it is like to be a band teacher, a lawyer, an ER doctor, a medical school professor, a travel agent, and a software engineer. The children have at the very least learned that there are endless career opportunities and ways to help others. Taking a peek at the Big Bear graph about what they want to be when they grow up, perhaps this is already obvious: the choices range from doctor to firefighter to fisherman to monster truck driver to artist!



Our Big Bear visitors have extended our focus on community helpers, which naturally leads to our next unit on Being Thankful. In the writing center we have been creating individual gratitude books. The books are repetitive – each page begins with “I am thankful for...” - and will make a great nighttime read for you and your child at Thanksgiving time. We are also setting up our class post office with individual mailboxes where the children will be able to write and draw notes to friends showing their love and gratitude.



We have combined our unit on Being Thankful with a smattering of play with all-things-fall. We have had candy pumpkins as well as pumpkin seeds in the estimation jar. You would not believe how many seeds can fill just the bottom of our jar! For learning sake we often fill the jar with the same object and refer back to the previous week’s estimate, or have the children consider the size or shape of a previous week’s jar-filler. We keep those little brains growing!

We have enjoyed playing with fall foods. (Remember: playing = learning!) We compared and contrasted the shape, size, color, and feel of various gourds. We fearlessly tasted both pumpkin and acorn squash, and graphed our opinions. In addition the Big Bears have gathered fall leaves and created leaf rubbings, some of them for the first time!

Heading into the holiday season and with an eye on growing gratitude, we will adopt one of the 100 Neediest Cases. We will be asking for your help, so be on the lookout for more information!

*Love,
Ms. Suzy & Ms. Heather*