



Butterfly Newsletter

October, 2015

Dear Parents,

This month we have had a golden autumn. We said goodbye to the Oktoberfest, and have enjoyed activities with leaves where your children had lots of sensory experiences involving autumn colours: red, yellow, green, orange and brown.

Once again, thank you for coming to the parents' evening. We appreciate that so many of you make the effort to come to these evenings, as it's a great way for us to exchange information and to get to know you all a little better. If you'd like a copy of the video that we showed at the end, feel free to bring a USB drive and we'll copy it for you 😊.

We all enjoyed our first party of the year, our Oktoberfest party. Thank you for dressing the children up so beautifully in their Dirndls and checked shirts/Lederhosen. We started our party with a "Wiesn" breakfast. We had Brezen with "Wiener" and "Obatzda". We then danced and listened to some Bavarian hits. We blew up balloons that were thrown into the air, we chased them around and some of the children even held them tight while dancing! It was a lot of fun!!!

We had two great sing-a-longs with some of the parents in the beginning and the end of the month. We sang some of the songs that we currently sing at morning circle. As you know, they are held the last Friday of every month, the next date being November 27th at 3pm.

As the children may be singing some of our new songs at home, we thought we'd include the words of one of our songs, from our autumn theme, so that you can sing along too...

The Leaves are Falling Down (tune is "The Farmer in the Dell").

The leaves are falling down.
The leaves are falling down,
Red, yellow, green and brown,
The leaves are falling down.

A leaf is on my head,
A leaf is on my head,
Red, yellow, green and brown,
A leaf is on my head.

The leaves are blowing wild...
The leaves are falling down...

What have we been up to?

Theme – Autumn

Arts and Crafts:

- Before our Oktoberfest party, we decorated our own tablecloth! We used our fingers to make blue dots on large sheets of white paper.
- We have been experimenting and enjoying play-dough on a few occasions.
- The children painted on some cardboard leaves. They could choose which colours to use: yellow, brown or red.
- The children used brushes to put glue on some leaves that we collected at the Playground so that they last longer. Some of those leaves are used at morning circle, when we sing “The Leaves are Falling Down”, and the rest are part of our autumn decoration.
- We used some felt-tip pens to decorate some kites.

Maths and Science& Experiments:

- This month we did a lot of counting with the children. During our circle times we counted various items, like leaves and our fingers and the children.
- At morning circle, we held leaves up high and all dropped them at the same time. We observed them falling, like the leaves that fall down from the trees.

Nature and Environment:

- At the Johannisplatz playground, the children loved running and trying to catch the leaves falling off the trees as we sang our “The Leaves are Falling Down”. They also collected some, which we took back to Little Daisies. 😊
- We had some beautiful sunny mornings in the forest. The children are starting to explore more and to go further without asking for our assistance.
- The children have been driving the bobby cars and tricycles around the garden and in the courtyard.

Movement and Sport:

- We have put our big mat down a couple of times and the children have been jumping on it.
- We’ve used the “Pickler Dreiecke” and their slides. The children did some climbing and sliding: sometimes on their bottom, sometimes on their tummy!
- We’ve introduced a new game in the Turnzimmer. One of us plays the Tambourine and the children have to run around. Once we stop, we say an action and the children have to do that: hide, jump, lie down, turn around, etc. That’s been a hit this month!
- After sport time, we sometimes encouraged quiet time. We used little beanbags and one child lay on the floor while the others placed the little bean bags on the child’s back. On other days, we had massage time, and the children used some massage balls to massage another child.

Circle Time & Language:

- At morning circle, we have started introducing new songs to the children. Some of them have been: “The Leaves are Falling Down”, “Flutter Flutter Butterfly” and “Die kleine Hexe”.
- At our daily circle times, we have spoken about autumn and how the leaves fall off the trees and their colours when they fall. We have spoken about other fruits and nuts that also fall from the trees in autumn. We also made some flash cards so that the children can see what these fruits and nuts look like. We then had an action song, in which each child was either a fruit or a nut (they could choose which one they wanted to be) that fell from the trees in autumn, and when we clapped our hands, they then fell to the ground and then the next child had a turn.
- Recently, we’ve started doing story time before lunch. Our favourite books this month have been ‘Up, Up, Up!’ and ‘We All Go Travelling By’. They are song books, so we’ve been looking at them and listening to the music on the accompanying CD. Some of the children have already started singing the chorus 😊

Music Class (with Nici):

- As usual, Nici starts her class with the greeting song. The children may choose how they want to be greeted. Some have us dig for them (we pretend to be construction equipment), while others have us drive for them (don’t forget to attach your seatbelt), or fly for them.
- The children did a chestnut dance. When the music is quiet and calm the chestnuts are still in the tree, but when the wind gets wilder, the wind is blowing and the chestnuts drop, so the children tap them on items to make lots of noise.
- Another day, the children learnt a story about some leaves. Nici told them a story, and each of the children held two leaves. They then did different actions with them.
- Nici has a very funny song about a cat (Miffi) and a mouse. She brought them (they are some cute little soft toys) with her and sang the song of the mouse who stole Miffi’s bell. As she sang, all of the children shook some bells. Luckily, Miffi got its bell back!

In November, we have a few dates for you to remember.

- **November 3rd is our first Elterncafe, beginning at 19:30.**
- **November 17th at 17:00 is our Laternenfest**
- **November 27th is our third sing-a-long, beginning at 15:00.**
- **During the month we are looking forward to meeting you for our parent talks.**

**We hope you have enjoyed reading about our month.
Here’s to lots more fun next month!!!**

**Your Butterfly Team,
Lisa, Maria and Mia**