



Dear families,

We are in the prime season for some pumpkin fun! I have done these activities countless times in my career and it has always engaged my students in their learning while having fun and being festive at the same time. You won't believe is how much learning can take place while carving a pumpkin.

Start off by making estimations on how much your pumpkin weighs. As the children are learning estimation skills they are also developing a better sense of number. Provide some comparisons to help your child with their estimation. Does the pumpkin weigh more or less than a bag of potatoes?

Next, make predictions about whether or not your pumpkin would float in water. When making predictions, students are activating prior knowledge and making connections between new information and what they already know...a very important skill for readers. Why do balloons float? They have air in them. Do you think the pumpkin will float? Why or why not?

The next step is my personal favorite. Take out all of the seeds. (Did you notice how much space for air there was in your pumpkin?) Make an estimation on how many seeds are in your pumpkin and then develop a plan to check your estimations. Try to group seeds and skip count by 10s to determine how many seeds there actually are. How close was your estimation? What was the difference? Was your estimation greater or less than the actual amount?

Finally, carve your pumpkin and write about it. Discuss word choice by making a list of adjectives that you can use to describe your jack-o-lantern. Is it bumpy or smooth? Does it look like a happy or grumpy jack-o-lantern?



Science, math, art and writing, oh my!