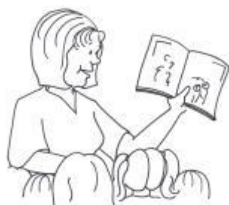


# CO-OP CAPERS

The Newsletter of the Williamsburg, Vermont Cooperative Preschool

## From Our Teachers



### Susie Powell's One Day Twos

At the time of this writing, we have only met twice, so we are still getting to know each other. As the parents you know your children are tender little toddlers in the throes of being two. Their faces are so sweet and their eyes constantly wandering telegraphing their thoughts of "Ok, what next?". The children are busy exploring what Co-op has to offer. Overall they seem excited to be here and are enjoying all the things they can do at Co-op.

On the playground, they take every truck, car, bucket, shovel and smoother out of the boxes to see what each can do. They push, pull, and ride the cars, scooters, and wagons on the figure eight. With help, they climb the playset, observe from up high or slide down. In the classroom, they examine every toy, kitchen item, truck, train and car available to them. Movement from one opportunity to another (toys, art, play dough, easel) is fast paced, reflecting the excitement felt by the children generated by so many offerings. Soon the children find items of special interest to them and the pace slows. We are at the beginning stages of learning to act as a group and hand washing, toileting, traveling together, and circle time are where we practice this new togetherness. During these times I get a mental picture of a mother hen trying to gather her chicks under her wing, and just as soon as she has one under wing, another one escapes. We are busy learning a new routine, enjoying new things to do, and getting to know new friends.

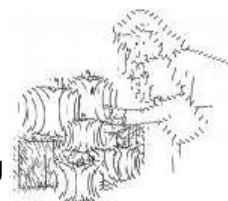
Thanks to the helping parents for all of your hard work in the classroom thus far. I look forward to working with all of you by October's end. In October look for activities that reflect the fall, pumpkins, and Halloween themes.

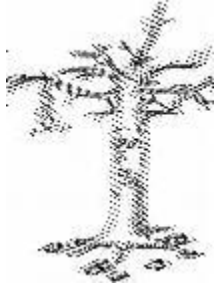
### Susie Powell's Two Day Twos

This group of children really has fun at Co-op. They are so familiar with Co-op (seven are siblings of alumnus) and equally comfortable in classroom, playroom or playground.

They walk right into the playroom, find a familiar toy and set to play. They have all enjoyed mixing, pouring, scooping, and splashing at the water table. Regularly we line up the chairs and drive to the

store—we've even driven as far as New York City for shopping. The children enjoy drawing on the board with markers and cleaning the board is a collective effort that is a marvel to observe. As many as eight manage to clean it at once, without causing each other any distress. The dollhouse, cars, and marbles are favorites, getting lots of play each time we meet. In the classroom, the children have favorite things to do. The play dough table gets lots of traffic from bakers making and baking muffins, to sculptors rolling and molding balls and worms, and of course we can't forget the squeezers. The little heads and arms of the squeezers shake with effort and their faces contort reflecting the effort it takes for them to push the play dough through the tubes to make pasta, spaghetti, and worms. They relish the opportunity to paint at the big easel. Eagerly they describe their paintings of pigs, airplanes, family, and colors, spending time completing the picture before moving on to something new. The children tackle the art project three or more at a time, most producing several projects, and almost without exception come to the table without prompting. Each day trains (Fisher Price, Brio, and Toano) transport people, animals, and cargo all around the classroom. The blocks come out for roads, tracks, towers, and homes for the animals. Dress-up gowns and shoes are admired by all and worn by many. There is one pair of shoes that is especially clickety-clackty and we had a great lesson in sharing that day as many wanted the pair that sounded most musical of all. Music and movement are a part of every class. They like to sing and dance together and to themselves. It is not unusual for one of the children to break into song, only to be joined by others. One afternoon three of us started dancing to Ring-Around-the-Rosy, chanting the words and laughing as we all fell down and by the time we played the song for the fifth consecutive time eight of us were in the ring together. They are so comfortable joining in with each other and letting everyone take part – something I rarely see at this early stage of the year in a two-year-old class. The children are settling in to the routine of hand washing, traveling, circle time, and snack quite nicely. Playground time is an active time with two swings going





at once, cars and scooters on the track, climbers and sliders on the playset and boaters at the water table. This class knows how to savor each opportunity and moment.

My thanks to all the helping parents for all the help you provide each time we meet. Many of you know the routine so well; you have

finished what I need you to do before I even have a chance to ask you to start. You are great anticipators and the children and I both appreciate this immensely. It has been a pleasure working with each one of you and getting to know each one of you. You and your children are a lot of fun to play with every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon!!!

#### Kathleen Stewart's 2 day AM 3's Class

The Two Day am Threes are beginning to settle in to their new surroundings. We will work on getting our routine going, it's so hard to go to circle time when there's so many great things to play with! Friendships are growing and before too long play dates will be arranged (probably without Mom knowing), three year olds can be little social butterflies. Speaking of butterflies, unfortunately we didn't get to see our butterfly emerge from it's chrysalis, but we did get to see pictures of it. Little eyes became big eyes each school day as we watched the caterpillar transform before our very eyes.

The children are having fun exploring our classroom, paying special attention to dress-ups and the living area. I love to look and listen to what's 'cooking' in the kitchen. It's almost like watching 'The Iron Chef' on the food network. Anything you can cook, I can cook better! Children have such wonderful imaginations, I could listen to them all day long.

The month of September brought us apples, which we cut and cooked. The applesauce was delicious! I was amazed at just how much the children enjoyed this project, especially the boys. October is a favorite month of mine. We will start with pumpkin projects, (look out for all that orange coming your way), followed by spider week, which is always fun.

On Tuesday October 30th, we will celebrate Halloween. Please bring your child to school wearing his/her costume. We will meet in the playroom as usual and then have a parade, which takes us on a very long journey to Colony Square Shopping Center! It will be so much fun, I look forward to seeing the children in costume (which I've heard so much about).

Thank you for sharing your little ones with me, I

am truly grateful for all that you do as parents. We could never do this without you. Co-Op parents are the bestest!!

#### Sue Barton's 2 Day PM 3's

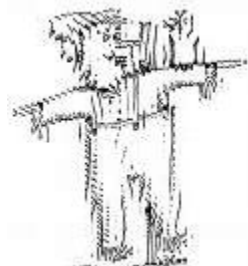
How wonderful it is to be back among Co-op families and friends! The class is settling in nicely to our afternoon routines, and they seem to be enjoying the day's activities. It is great fun to watch them grow and explore. In just a few short weeks we have already made progress in separating from loved ones, sharing toys and taking turns. I am pleasantly surprised by the rapid growth in their attention spans at circle time and their laughter at songs and finger plays is best described as "infectious"! With the unusually warm September weather, water play has been a big hit – both inside and out. Although a few are reluctant artists, I will continue to encourage them to try at least one project each day. This, however, is an area where we let the child choose; so don't be disappointed if nothing comes home. These students help balance those prolific artists in our midst who threaten to empty the supply closet by December .

Thank you for sharing your children with me on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I look forward to getting to know them (and you) better in the months ahead.

#### Susan Axtell's 3 Day 3's

Despite some sultry barefoot days, all too soon brisker fall weather will bring with it freer, bolder movement, indoors and out. This independent and energetic class is working hard to mesh its complex and inventive social interaction with a wide range of individual sensibilities. Both new and old bonds have been warm and affectionate, but no early exploration of territory and routines is without its tender or tough spots. Adults marvel at the variety of personalities who are taking one another's measure! We all need help—and practice—to master the exacting art of friendship, but all the basics are at hand. Every year I am grateful for the loving launch these adventurers have had from family (and Susie!) to make them eager for what each new day brings.

In the classroom, picnics and playmobile vie with art projects and cooking for attention. Things that crawl and fly are in special favor, and fond memories of visiting caterpillars and ladybugs crop up daily. Busy and noisy moments alternate with focused and quieter ones. These children are enthusiastic story listeners



if they can be lured to circle after snack! We will continue to talk tactfully about turn-taking, friendly behavior, indoor voices and walking feet, as we cope with the triple-whammy of fall birthdays, adjustment to daylight savings time, and the hangover of Halloween hype. Pretending to be a roaring dinosaur, a caped crusader, or a mean monster is often a child's way of walking the tightrope of his own fears. Pogo's classic, "We have met the enemy and he is us" may be an existential statement or a description of three and four year olds playing out their love/hate relationship with the big bad wolf by becoming one! The puppets that appear in the classroom are meant to provide the same sense of child-power and control. We do, of course, need to stand by to reinforce limits: to explain that superheroes zoom in to help people or that puppets talk and don't just munch on nearby arms!

The Halloweenies will soon be upon us. Be prepared for all sorts of strange critters to arrive via artistry and imagination. Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> will be our dress-up parade. If it's not pouring we will parade for the Colony Square Shopping Center that morning, and hope that the 'crowd' will be swelled with parents and friends. Later in November, we will discover hives and holes and houses. We'll also have a passing acquaintance with a few turkeys before Mr. Axtell visits with his peek at Indian culture while we share a snack-feast with Mrs. McMillan's class. I am already thankful for your faithfulness and enthusiasm, for your instinctive help with ever-tricky transitions, and for your irrepressible and loveable children!! When I don't have enough hands—or eyeballs—I am so grateful for yours!

#### Lisa Old's 3 Day 4's

What a great start of the school year we've had! I've enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the children and parents. With a smaller class size, I'm seeing several close bonds being made already.

The children have already demonstrated their unique interests inside the classroom, with large groups splitting their time between the blocks and cars and the dress-up and housekeeping areas. We've also seen some interesting art expressions at the easel and play-dough table. Many children have jumped aboard the art projects, exploring new ways to create art with cars, ping pong balls, sunflowers, toothpicks and so much more.



September has been a busy and productive month. We have learned about each other and spent a great few weeks settling into a comfortable routine. We've learned about the ocean,

construction and transportation, capping off the month with a great field trip to the Williamsburg airport. Our thanks to Sarah Keuser (Izzie's mom from Mrs. Wright's class) for taking the time to show us the airport and to the staff at the airport for allowing us a behind-the-scenes view of how an airport works. We also had some great pictures of the children sitting in the cockpit of a small plane.



October is sure to be a great month. Hopefully we'll see the weather cool off a bit as we learn about autumn. We'll focus on the changing season and of course Halloween projects. Bats, pumpkins, cats and owls will find their way into our art projects as well. We'll be taking a field trip to Pumpkinville and will end our month with a costume parade on Halloween. I look forward to the creative costumes the children wear to school!

I want to thank all the parents for allowing me to spend a few precious hours with their children every week. I've truly loved getting to know each child and the special attributes that they all bring to our class. I also want to thank the parents for their hard work and dedication to our class. I've enjoyed getting to know all of you and look forward to a great year together.

#### Lori Wright's 3 Day 4's

We have had a great start this new school year! The children have adjusted well to new friends, classroom, and routine. Sweet "mommies" take care of their babies in housekeeping while planes landing on airstrips and cars driving in and out of garages take place in the block area! Stories, songs, and of course, talking turns fill our circle time. Your children are a delightful group to work with!

Our first field trip was at the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport on a sunny (but very HOT) day!! We were thrilled to have Sarah Kueser (current Co-op parent) to guide us through the airport grounds. Visiting a hangar, watching an airplane take off, and actually sitting in a small plane were the highlights of our trip! We all had great time.

As October progresses, we will visit Pumpkinville on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Excitement abounds as we go on a hayride, walk through a cornstalk maze and pick out a special pumpkin to take home for Halloween! This is always a fun and lively trip. Our Halloween parade to the Colony Square stores will be on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The children look so precious in their costumes. Parents are welcome to walk with us!

November brings cooler weather (will it EVER get here?), discussion of Powhatan and Settler life years ago, Thanksgiving projects, and fun turkey songs at circle time.

I appreciate your dedication, humor, and enthusiasm while in the classroom. I could not do my job without you. I look forward to a wonderful year together!



October means leaves, pumpkins, apples, and popcorn, which bring many fun and messy projects! We will enjoy field trips to Noah's Ark, Massie's Construction, and Pumpkinville. I enjoy dressing up just as much as the kids enjoy showing me their Halloween costumes, and we will once again parade through the shopping center to show everyone! We hope to see you there!

Emma McMillan's 4-day 4 & 5

The four-day fours and fives and their parents are adjusting nicely to a new schedule, new room, new songs, and new teacher! The friendships, old and new, developed quickly and we were off and running! September flew by with lots of playground time, talking about "ME," and sharing things from home at "share time." We love our families and talking about them is always a fun theme. We have drawn pictures of our moms and dads and counted how many brothers and sisters we have.

November brings an election for moms and dads, as well as the favorite care bear election in our class. The kids will listen to campaign speeches and talk to the two candidates—GRUMPY and FUNSHINE bear! Who will win this year? We will be going to Jamestown and we will visit our friend Max at the spinners and weavers in Colonial Williamsburg. Our annual sharing of snack with Mrs. Axtell's class will be a highlight of the month and will begin the anticipated holiday season.

Thanks to all you wonderful parents for sharing your children with me and for making us the Co-Op! FOUR DAY FOURS AND FIVES ARE FABULOUS!!!

## CO-OP CALENDAR



October 2 (M)

Monthly tuition due

October 7 (Su)

An Occasion For the Arts:  
Co-op participates in Youth Exhibit



October 14 (Su)

Ice Cream Sundae Sunday 2-4PM

October 30 & 31 (T, W)

Halloween Celebrations (check with teachers)



November 1 (R)

Monthly tuition due

November 3 (Sa)

**Auction** at St. Martins, 6:00 p.m.




November 8 & 9 (R, F)

NO SCHOOL— Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 21-13 (W-F)

NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Vacation

Deadlines for submissions to Co-op Capers vary. Please contact Lorelee Clark at 258-3254 for further information. We welcome news of local opportunities for family activities and/or any parent- or child-related materials. Submissions via e-mail are strongly encouraged:  
[loralee13@widomaker.com](mailto:loralee13@widomaker.com).



## Preparing for... An Autumn Night to Remember

That familiar flurry of excitement is in the air as the Auction Committee members, Co-op teachers, and Co-op families prepare for our annual fall auction to be held Saturday, November 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

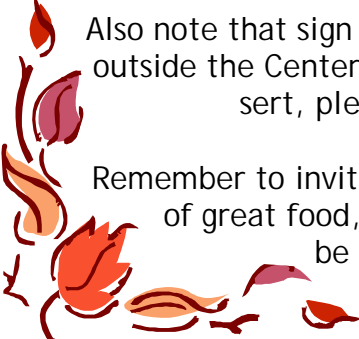
Thanks to all of you who have generously donated an item or monetary contribution to your child's class basket—these are always a highlight!

As the big night approaches, please keep the following deadlines in mind:

October 19th: Donation forms and class basket items are due.


October 25th & 26th: Auction items may be dropped off at Co-op from 9 am - noon and 1 - 4pm.

November 3rd: Baked items may be dropped off at Co-op from 12-2 pm. Please place items in disposable containers and wrap them in clear plastic.



Also note that sign up sheets for food and beverage items will be posted outside the Center room. If you'd rather not make hors d'oeuvre or dessert, plenty of "non-perishable" items will be listed.

Remember to invite your family and friends to join you for an evening of great food, lots of fun, and lively bidding, of course! It will be a fun-filled evening with lots of auction surprises and entertainment.



WARNING:

MAGIC ERASER BURNS

Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, Scotchbrite Easy Erasers and other brands like them contain a harmful alkaline chemical that can burn your skin. There are no ingredients listed and no warnings on the boxes, other than "Do not ingest." Please do not let your child help with any household chores using these products, as they could experience severe chemical burns. For more information, Google "Magic Eraser Burns."

Thank you Sue Barton and Susan Axtell for bringing this to our attention.

## Synopsis of our Emergency Preparedness Plan

In an effort to comply with state and local regulations, we offer the following synopsis of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. We were fortunate to have the expert help of Melissa & Alan Bennett in developing this document, and hope you will find its information more helpful than alarming. A detailed version is available for you to read. Please let us know if you have any questions. In the event of an emergency situation, the Co-op Director shall declare an emergency situation and institute the appropriate response actions. In the event that the Director is not available, the next person in authority shall assume the responsibilities of the Director.

### NOTIFICATION OF FACILITY

Per Wilton Bobo, Emergency Services Coordinator, 564-2141: Co-op is now on the list to receive automatic notifications from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will be notified at the same time as the public schools (before siren warns general public).

### DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION:

**Shelter in Place:** Sudden occurrences (e.g. hurricane, tornado, severe storm, intruders, chemical spills/hazardous materials) may dictate that taking cover inside the building is the best immediate response. The shelter in place site at St. Martins is the huge bathroom across from the church offices.

**Immediate Evacuation:** Students are evacuated to a safe area on the grounds of the facility in the event of a fire, utility failure, or bomb threat. Evacuation will be to the playground, zigzag building (building next to the playground) or in front of the Polo Club behind the church.

**Total Evacuation:** Children are taken to a relocation facility if danger (e.g. radiological emergency, flooding) is present in and around the facility. Children will be transported to the JCC Community Recreation Center on Longhill Road (intermediate site – 259-4200) and then transported to Charles City or Coliseum (depending on which way the wind is blowing).

Teachers will bring the Co-op handbook with them to contact parents about the plan of action. Parents can pick up their child at Co-op, at any time.

## COSTUME SALE

Looking for kid's dress-up clothes, supplies for a costume box, or a great Halloween costume? There's always a HUGE supply of costume and dress-up cloths for kids (and adults)! Come check out the annual Costume Sale at William & Mary's University Center (Tidewater A) on Wednesday, October 17 from 10-5. *All proceeds benefit FISH, our local food and clothing pantry.* Prices typically range from \$1 - \$5 and there is always a vintage section, too!



CO-OP CAPERS

Susan Zickell and her mom have run it for almost 20 years! There are some amazing costumes and dress-up outfits & TONS of kid accessories!

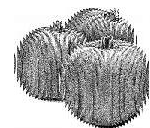
## Looking for a place to go apple picking or pumpkin picking?

It's one of life's little pleasures to walk down a dirt path with apple trees arching overhead and lift your little one up high to the sky so that they can pick that perfect apple. A smile creeps to everyone's face as they find the pumpkin with the perfect shape, size, stem and color so that they can create their special Jack 'O Lantern. There are many farms in Virginia that open their fields for these delights. Here are some web sites that will help you locate a farm.

[www.our-kids.com](http://www.our-kids.com)

[www.pickyourown.org](http://www.pickyourown.org)

[www.applejournal.com](http://www.applejournal.com)





**Change your snack mentality**  
 Instead of offering chips or cookies, fuel snack time with ways to get in a few more whole grains and the recommended 9 daily servings of fruits and veggies.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
apple slices and cheese or on-the-go: apple and string cheese	baby carrots with ranch dip or on-the-go: hummus-filled celery stick	fresh strawberries or on-the-go: squeeze yogurt	trail mix and chocolate soy milk or on-the-go: granola bar	no-butter popcorn with parmesan or on-the-go: nut butter crackers
vanilla yogurt with pear slices or on-the-go: banana and milk box	watermelon or cantaloupe wedges or on-the-go: fruit leather or strips	quesadilla with Monterrey Jack or on-the-go: carrot or whole grain muffin	small bowl of whole grain cereal or on-the-go: make your own snack mix *	fruit cocktail or apricots packed in fruit juice or on-the-go: fruit smoothie
fresh blueberries with cottage cheese or on-the-go: dried fruits and nuts	slices of cheddar or gouda with crostini or on-the-go: drinkable yogurt	whole grain toast with scrambled egg or on-the-go: boiled egg with wheat crackers	½ bagel with cream cheese and raisins or on-the-go: kids' nutrition bar	sliced avocado with vinaigrette or on-the-go: applesauce cup
fruit salad of mango, pineapple and kiwi or on-the-go: clementines or Asian pear	mini grilled cheese with sliced tomatoes or on-the-go: cherry tomatoes and baked pita chips	broccoli or cauliflower trees with dipping salsa or on-the-go: carrot/orange juice	rice cakes and chocolate almond butter or on-the-go: oatmeal raisin bar	cubes of feta with pitted olives or on-the-go: Greek style yogurt with fruit

\*combine your favorite whole grain cereal O's or squares, dried cranberries, yogurt covered raisins, sunflower seeds, dried apricots, toasted soy nuts or mini pretzels to create your own snack mix.

—Contributed by Alison Howell from [wholefoodsmarket.com](http://wholefoodsmarket.com)



# Crafty Kids: Falling into Autumn with Leaf Mobiles

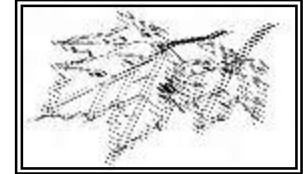
Leaves  
Glue

White paper  
Crayons

Aluminum Foil  
Wire hanger

Yarn  
Tape

Place leaves underside up under white paper. Using the sides of crayons, make rubbings and cut them out. Place leaves underside up under aluminum foil. Gently press and rub the foil with hands to make a leaf print. Glue the leaf print to paper and cut out. Tape yarn to the backs of the paper and foil leaves, hanging them from the wire hanger—you have a beautiful, shimmery reminder of fall.



## Looking for a Fun, Local Family Activity?

The **Richmond Indigenous Gourd Orchestra** ([gourdorchestra.com](http://gourdorchestra.com)) will be playing **Saturday, October 20th** at the **DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, 4 PM and 6:30 PM** for National Children's Day.

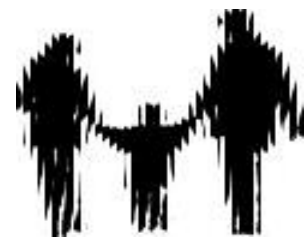
All instruments are made of gourds and they usually feature a gourd "petting zoo." A Good Neighbor's pass (\$10 for those 6 and older) or William and Mary ID (for faculty/staff) is all that is required for free admission into any Colonial Williamsburg venue.



## Try these fun, family activities for the Fall

- Pin the nose on the pumpkin.
- Jump rope or Hula Hoop® contests or relay races.
- A marathon where the fastest team wins; kids have to work together .
- A contest where kids draw faces on pumpkins. Prizes can be awarded for the funniest, scariest, prettiest, and so on, so everyone can win.
- Kids mold pumpkins from clay and decorate them.
- Croquet, or miniature golf using plastic cups held down with rocks.
- Water balloon toss—if the weather is warm enough.

( [homemadesimple.com](http://homemadesimple.com) )



# EARTH CORNER



Having an appreciation for nature makes you less likely to destroy it. Build memories, strengthen your child's "green development", and illustrate that we are all part of an interdependent web by becoming a species spy.

First, help your child make a list of all of the species you can find in your backyard, park, or in a nearby pond. Help your child organize them into plants, insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. If you need help, check a guide book out at the library. See how many different species live right alongside you!

Pick one of these species and visit the place it lives every day at the same time. Watch the species quietly for 15-30 minutes. Help your child keep a journal of what you see and what it does. Include pictures of it which you've drawn, photographed, and/or cut from magazines. Does it act differently when the weather changes? When other animals are nearby? Pretty soon your child will get to know that animal; how it acts and how it is connected to other species, including himself/herself.

(adapted from Planet Patrol, 2005)

## Family Fun: Leaf Identification

This is a handy activity to do in combination with this month's craft.

Wrap a piece of masking tape, sticky side out, around your and your child's wrist. Go on a nature walk and collect one leaf from each of several trees, sticking it on the "bracelet". When you get home, use a book from the library or other resource manual, let your child identify the leaves on their bracelet by shape and name.





## Leaf Song

By Keely Parrack

At the end of the day before the sun goes down, we go and listen to the leaves.

Just Luka and me.

The wind pushes against us, ruffling our hair. Wind chimes swing wildly. We walk faster past garages, windows and doorways.

Leaves rattle sideways tripping over our toes. A robin clings to the top of a swaying branch.

We stop under a tree. This is the perfect spot. I whisper to Luka, "If you are patient and very, very still, so still you are hardly breathing, you can hear the leaves sing."

We wait and we listen, trying hard not to breathe.

In between the bird song and gentle insect scuttles, the leaves take up a rustle and pass it on. One by one, cluster by cluster, branch by branch, until a soft song ripples through the tree.

The wind swirls whisking leaves to whirling delight. Leaf song echoes the galloping wind, soaring into the sky. Rising, roaring a crescendo of harmony. Fading to a murmur, a gasp. Silence.

A few weary leaves twist, sigh, and spin to the ground. Luka and I catch them as they fall, russet, golden and crunchy.

We chase them. This way, that way. We fall over each other, laughing. Then throw the leaves—Up! Up! Up! Until we are covered in autumn.

A scruffy cat slinks from under a bridge, stops, stares, then mooches on by.

The light is fading. Time to go.

We jiggle as we walk. Back past the dented garage door. Past the soggy tennis ball abandoned on a sunnier day. Up the steps, through the leaves, to our front door.

Luka and I stop to watch the sun go down. The wind has died. A faint aroma of wood smoke hangs in the air.

I squeeze Luka's hand. He squeezes back.

Tomorrow we will listen to the leaves again.

Just Luka and me.

—(motheringmagazine.com)



# Scary Woods

Get out of the scary woods. Watch out for the spider!

