



*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Pumpkin Day at Charles City Elementary School

Williamsburg, Virginia (10/31/2024) – QuickStart Children of Virginia (QCV) is pleased to report we recently participated in Pumpkin Day at Charles City Elementary School. QCV manned the reading station, which featured *There Was an Old Woman Who Swallowed Some Leaves!* QCV Founder Lynda Harrill read the book to five different groups of preschoolers and kindergartners. Family members were included in the Pumpkin Day festivities. Jennifer Richardson, a retired teacher who now heads up community engagement for Charles City County Public Schools, organized the fun event.



Jennifer says, “Last Friday, Head Start and Pre-K students and their families celebrated Pumpkin Day. Students enjoyed listening to a great fall book, completed a pumpkin name craft, planted pumpkin seeds, and picked a pumpkin to take home with them. It was a great way to celebrate a beautiful Fall day! Fun was had by all.”

QCV Founder Lynda Harrill adds, “It was a perfect day to read to kids outside under a tree. I wasn’t familiar with the book, so I listened to several readings on You Tube to make sure I knew how to make the best out of the reading. I also picked up leaves from several different varieties of trees and shrubs and did a leaf show-and-tell. An oak tree was very cooperative as it had green, yellow and red leaves, all at the same time. The kids thought

that was very cool. There was also a “little old lady” prop (see photo below) with a plastic bag for a stomach to accumulate cutouts of all the different things the little old woman in the book swallowed – leaves, a shirt, a pumpkin, a pole, a pair of pants, a rope and some hay. Then she sneezed and it all magically became a scarecrow. After my reading, there were two boys who could tell me not only everything she ate but also the order in which she ate them. Talk about oral comprehension at such a young age! I was impressed. Another girl looked at my baggie that was labeled ‘viburnum’ and correctly pronounced the word to ask me what it was. WOW!”



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QuickStart Children of Virginia (AKA QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc.) is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved and at-risk youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. We leverage the fun of tennis to promote lifelong physical activity, healthy eating/lifestyle habits and a love of reading in the communities we serve. We believe early childhood literacy will solve many socioeconomic problems and produce kids who will succeed in school and in life.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/quickstartcentral).

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



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