

January News

2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to January 2012! We hope everyone had a very enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday. Lara and I enjoyed our vacation very much and we are looking forward to the new year. It is hard to believe we have already experienced one semester of school. Your children are growing so much. It is very rewarding to teach these eager, curious learners who make the most of our educational environment. Thanks for your support and encouragement at home. Also, we would like to thank everyone who helped with the Hanukkah and Christmas celebrations. The food and treat bags were outstanding. We know many parents contributed, and we appreciate your support.

During the first two weeks of January we will be learning how different kinds of animals adapt to winter. We will discuss hibernating animals such as turtles, snakes and frogs, as well as, adapters such as the chipmunks, bears, fox, deer, and rabbits. We will take a walk in our woods to feed the winter animals if the weather permits. On Wednesday, January 11, we have a field trip planned to the Bass Pro Shop in Broken Arrow. They have a wonderful collection of real "stuffed" Oklahoma animals on display. Please let me know if you would like to attend this field trip. Our letter sound for this unit is "Ww".

From January 18 through January 27, we will be learning about Mexico. We will become familiar with Mexican customs and culture. Maestra Hankins will share some pictures and family stories. On Wednesday, January 25, we are having Fiesta Day. We are taking a field trip to El Tequila (just north of I44 off of Harvard at 51st street) for lunch. Patty and Carlos

Aguirre (Jenny's parents) own the restaurant and have graciously offered to have our fiesta at their restaurant. If you would like to attend, please let me know as we will need a final count of parents by the morning of January 25th. The children are welcome to dress in Mexican attire for this culminating activity. Our letter sound for this unit is "M".

Curriculum Update

Cooking is an interdisciplinary activity. Children use math, science, language, prereading, and fine motor skills for every cooking project. In preschool, we plan at least one cooking activity for each unit. Some are more elaborate than others. Children learn to observe, classify, and predict. They discuss changes and identify similarities and differences. The children are involved in counting, measuring, and comparing quantities. They are encouraged to comment on the appearance, smell, feel, and taste of the food to help them develop descriptive vocabulary and expressive language skills. The entire project involves sequencing steps from first to last. At the end of the activity, the class reviews the process and enjoys the different foods. They seem more willing to try foods that they have helped to prepare. When possible plan a cooking activity with your child at home. Be sure you have plenty of time and patience. If this is something you are not used to doing, start very simply like making a sandwich, pudding, or jello. There are some very good children's cookbooks in our local bookstores.

Valentine Party

Our Valentine Party is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, at 2:00p.m. The children should bring 16 valentines to school on Feb. 6 or Feb. 8. Please have your child sign his/her name on each valentine. **Do not address the cards to specific children, please.** It takes too long to distribute individual cards. Our celebration will include a snack and a small treat bag. We appreciate your continued support in not sending additional treats at holidays and birthdays.

Important Dates

Field trip- Bass Pro Shop, January 11 9:40-11:30a.m.

Book Orders are due on Wednesday, January 11.

No School on Monday, January 16 -Martin Luther King Day

Field Trip/Fiesta Day- January 25 - El Tequila at 49th and Harvard
11:00 a.m.

Valentine Party - February 8 - 2:00p.m.

Please do not forget to dress your child warmly for the cold weather.
Please include a hat, mittens or gloves.

Thanks,
Judy and Lara