

February  
2009

# Center News

February 13<sup>th</sup>, our staff will stay late so you can have a romantic evening for Valentine's Day. As promised, we will have evening childcare available for no additional cost. Dinner will be provided and we will stay open until 9:30 pm. If your child will be here, be sure to sign up at your child's classroom by February 6<sup>th</sup>.

February 10-20 I will be on medical leave. In my absence, Denise and Keoki Paikuli and Jackie Rellama will be handling all administrative responsibilities. Do not hesitate to see one of them if you need anything during that time. I will return to the office on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

By now you have all received the letter requesting donations for our silent auction. The funds we raise from the auction are used to purchase equipment for the classrooms and playground. Your support is greatly appreciated. Watch for more information on how you can participate in this great event!

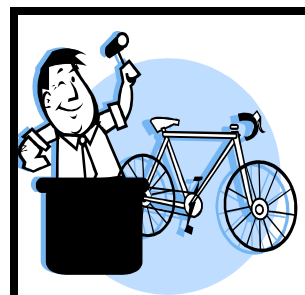


the Young Child. If you would like to attend this meeting, please let me know by February 27<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided. Thank you.

Kerri Jo

In December Amy Honeywell began teaching French to our Preschool and Kindergarten children. Every Monday she gives 20 minutes of instruction in Terri, Juanita, Jackie, and Mrs. Cann's classrooms. So far they have been learning in French how to introduce themselves, numbers, days of the week, and familiar preschool songs. Amy studied French in College and lived in France after she graduated, and she is really excited about teaching French here at Building Blocks.

Our annual Parent Meeting will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:15-1:15 in the Cougar Kids classroom. We will be talking about teacher appreciation day, our upcoming fundraising dinner auction, and Week of



## Auction News

Donations have already been making their way in! We are very excited about the early response. If you have an item you wish to donate, please take an auction donation form from outside the office. Our Auction chair, Jackie, will be glad to answer any questions you have.

CHILDREN CALL IT FUN,  
WE CALL IT LEARNING!

# Building Blocks

## February Events

February 13 Parents Date Night  
5:30-9:30pm

## Upcoming Events

March 16-20th WSU Spring Break  
March 30-April 3<sup>rd</sup> Pullman Spring Break  
April 11th BBCC Annual Auction  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Meeting 12:15-1:15pm

# Infants

What fun we had in January as we “played” in the snow, enjoyed our snowshoe art project, and welcomed some new friends in to the classroom.

Still no word from Brooke and Steve on the arrival of their little boy. As soon as we have word we will make sure to pass it along.



We are excited to welcome Thomas, Sumner, Kayden, and Ellie into the classroom. We have had so much fun getting to know these new little

ones and have enjoyed each individual personality. In addition to the children we are overjoyed to have two teacher return to our room. Ms. Fiona and Ms. Mandy have returned to the infant room and will be covering Brook’s maternity leave and some closing shifts.

February will bring us a great many opportunities to focus on sensory projects. Sensory experiences like pudding painting, smelling different flowers, making mosaic art with sticky contact paper and listening to all types of mu-



sic teaches our little ones a great many skills. They can learn cause and effect, problem solving, self-regulation, cooperation, and communication.

In effort to bridge school and home we are asking for each family to bring some pictures from home that we can display in the classroom. These photos can be friends, family, pets, or anyone that is important to your child. You are welcome to put a collage together yourself or you can just bring us the pictures and we can take care of it for you. Thanks for all your support.



-Denise, ToniJo, Fiona, Mandy

# Waddlers

January happened with a blast! Sadly we said good-bye to George, Keianna, and Aero who are now livin’ it up with the Toddlers. We welcomed our new friends Maddox, Logan, and Silas! It was very entertaining to have feet of snow one day and flooding in areas the next, but we kept warm by ex-

ploring the jungle! It was a lot of fun marble-painting tigers and dot-painting monkeys, although



I would have to say our favorite was acting like wild animals! For February, we are excited to learn about friendship, love, and colors. The

month will be spent learning about the colors red, white, and pink. Our activities will range from painting with pink pudding to exploring red & white marshmallows in the sensory table!

Please make sure to join us for our class party on the 13th!

Stephanie, Einat, Kayla, Heather, and Samantha

# Toddlers

February is going to be a fun month.

We are going to start our Alphabet unit. Every day will be devoted to a letter and that letter will have a theme.

We start with A and end with Z. In this time we will be learning our ABC's and also practicing letter identification. This unit is always so much fun! We end up doing a lot of fun art projects, and listening to the kids singing their ABC's is so cute!



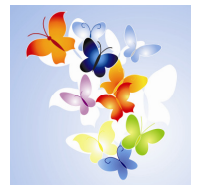
Not only will we be focusing on our

letters, but we will also learn about colors. We will be learning about blue, violet, orange, yellow, red, and green. It is always fun to talk about what color we are wearing and finding things in the classroom that match that color. At the end of the unit we will be sending home a book with our alphabet letters in it. This is a fun thing for the kids to take home!

We had to say goodbye to Payton, Codi, Orin, and Brandon in January. We will miss them but know they are about to start another fun adventure in Jr. Preschool. We get to welcome

George, Keianna, and Aero into our room! We love having them and getting to know them and their families!

With the new semester starting Heather Berry has joined our room again. She opens a couple of mornings every week. We are excited to have another great month!



Megan, Aubrey, Arianne, Jen, and Heather

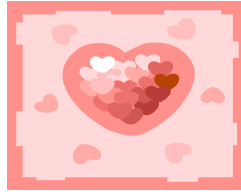
# Jr. Preschool

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February brings lots of excitement to the Junior Preschool room! This month we will learn about farm animals, love, keeping our teeth healthy, and the letters of the alphabet! We will have a



small class-only Valentine's Day party, and we will pass out class lists for valentine cards. This month we hope to make it to the library for a Time For Twos story time. Please watch the



whiteboard for details.

If you get a chance, please welcome Bailey and Heather to our room. They will be working some morning and afternoon shifts with your child!

Terri, Christina, Andrea, Heather, and Bailey

# A.M. Preschool

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Happy February A.M. Preschool families! This month we will celebrate friendship, learn some history, and focus on dental awareness.

We will start the month learning about our teeth and how to take care of them. The children will make smiling teeth collages featuring dazzling smiles and food and drinks that make them strong. The art projects will also include painting with toothbrushes and dental floss!

Next, the class will discuss friendship while we celebrate Valentine's Day! We will talk about different types of friendships we have with different people. We will create a list of things we can do to let our friends know we care.

Finally, we will end the month learning about important people in history. We will combine black history and President's Day. The class will learn about Martin Luther King, Jr, Harriet Tubman, George Washington, and Barack Obama. We will also read a fantastic book

with silly facts about all our presidents.

Mark your calendars! We will not have class 2/16 and 2/23-2/27. Happy sixth birthday to Alexis on 2/3! Our annual silent auction is on 4/11, which I am chair for. Please join us for this special event. It is the center's biggest fundraiser of the year and all proceeds benefit your children. Our class has an awesome idea for an auction item. Please keep your eyes open for it!

Love, Jackie and Brigitta

# Preschool

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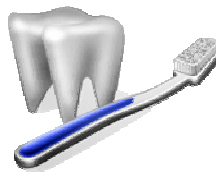
February is here, and as always it is a month of fun and learning!

This month has a lot to celebrate. We will begin by learning about shadows on Groundhog Day, then we will celebrate Presidents Day and Valentines Day.



We will talk about special

people in our lives such as family and friends. We will talk about who they are and why they are special to us. During this month we will create wonderful art projects, read books, and learn some new poems and finger plays.



We will continue the month with "Dental Awareness". The preschoolers will learn about the importance of tooth brushing, what a dentist is, and what foods are good for our teeth. We will also have a special visit from the "Tooth Tutor"!

Have a wonderful month and thank you for allowing us to be part of your preschooler's early learning experience!

Juanita, Jessie, Kaylynn, Kim, and Susan

# Kindergarten

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Can you believe that it's February already?! Last month we had a lot of fun learning all about the theme of winter. We talked about "Snow and Animals in the Winter," "Keeping Healthy - Germs and Teeth," and "Martin Luther King, Jr." The students' favorite weekly concept was learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. The innocence that each of them shared was remarkable; I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with your children during this historical time because, in reality, they have taught me so much more!

Our literacy theme in January was all about airports. The students had a lot of fun learning about all that goes on in an airport while practicing their language art skills! We will culminate this unit by going on a field trip to the Interstate Aviation Airport! More details to come!

Next month our literacy theme will focus on Construction Sites. During the first week of February I will send home more information about the activities and field trips we have planned to coordinate with our theme!

Throughout the month of February each week will also focus on the following themes: "Groundhog's Day," "Friendship and Valentine's Day," "Important People-Black History Month and President's Day," and the final week will be all about the "Post Office." We have several fun activities planned for each theme! Be sure to look at your weekly newsletters every Monday for more details!

## Pip Pops

Sincerely, Mrs. Cann, Miss Jackie, Ms. Brigitta

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We welcome Ashlee into our classroom! Ashlee is currently a sophomore at Washington State University. Not only is she a great person to be around, but she works extremely well with children and is always enthusiastic about everything that we do! We are very lucky to have her in our classroom in the afternoons! If you haven't had the opportunity to talk with Ashlee, be sure and do so!

Throughout the months of December and January our Author Study was all about Jan Brett! The students not only enjoyed her beautifully written stories, but they loved her illustrations! Be sure to ask your child which of the Jan Brett stories was their favorite!

Next month our Author Study will be all about Marc Brown, the author of the Arthur series! You may want to go to the library and find books written by Marc Brown and read them together at home! We will have lots of fun with this author!

Thank you! Mrs. Cann, Mr. Dusty, Miss Ashlee

## Cougar Kids

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We hope the Cougar Kids were able to bring home new and exciting skills about etiquette, compass work, and art skills (and probably sore thumbs from making their Chinese Tassels). Preparing for and learning about the Chinese New Year was fun for us teachers as well as for the Cougar Kids.

February brings thrilling events as the children have the opportunity to be "President for the Day". They will have the privilege of being in charge of the class for the day. Along with this theme the second half of the month we will focus on the different branches of our government. We will have many occasions to role play. February is also the month for Valentines, and we will do several projects involving this holiday. We will have our Valentine party on Friday, February 13th. Class lists and the sign-up for the party will be out soon. As a class, we will spend a few days talking about Ground Hogs Day and we will make a project about this peculiar and fun tradition. We will continue with lessons on etiquette this month, which will include "Etiquette by Course". We really hope the children have been able to show the etiquette skills they are learning at home.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, President's Day, the children have no public school. As of right now we are planning to go to the movies to watch Kung Fu Panda. Along with the field trip there is a deal for the children to purchase a special children's combination of popcorn and a drink for \$2.00. We are asking for the parents to please send their children with this money so they may purchase these treats at the movies. Also Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> is parent-teacher conference week at the public school. The children will only have half days throughout the week. Look for a note about the activities and events we will do throughout this week.

Thank you again for all the fun of teaching your children. They are a treasure among the Palouse and we are thankful for being a part of their lives. Keoki, Torey, Jessica, and Ginger

