

January
2009

Center News

Well, it looks like winter is here! The children love playing in the snow, while the parents are already tired of shoveling it. We love taking the children outside to enjoy the snow, and we will go out daily unless it is colder than 15°. Please send your child dressed to go outside. This means snow boots, warm coat, gloves, hat, and snow pants. Did you know going outside to get fresh air each



day will reduce illness? Getting outside into the fresh air

helps keep people healthy, so we will do our best to get outside anytime we can.

In an earlier newsletter, we stated that we would post important closure information at our website if an emergency closure were to occur. At this time, we are unable to do this, so we will be sending out email messages to notify you. If you want to add an additional email address or change the one you have on file, please stop by the office. Additionally, we will continue to record a message on our voicemail if there is a change to our regular schedule.

Our annual dinner and silent auction date has been set for

April 11th. As always, the evening will include dinner and free childcare. Watch for more information in the near future. We are hoping to make additional im-



provements to our outdoor environment with the money we raise this year. If you have something you would like to donate to the auction, pick up a donation form outside my office.

Kerri Jo

CHILDREN CALL IT FUN,
WE CALL IT LEARNING!

Building Blocks

January Events

- January 1st Center closed for New Year's Day
- January 19th Center Closed for Martin Luther King Day

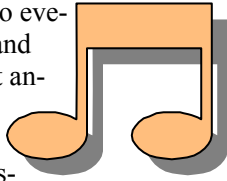
Upcoming Events

- February ? Parents Date Night (watch for details)
- March 16-20th WSU Spring Break
- March 30-April 3rd Pullman Spring Break
- April 11th Building Blocks Annual Auction

Infants

What a wonderful time December was. We had great fun making some hand-print art, dressing up in warm winter clothes, and listening to all kinds of holiday music.

A special thanks to everyone who came and participated in our annual holiday music program. We had such fun dressing up in our tree costumes, and appreciate all the support we received. Music is an important part of our curriculum at every age, and we were glad to be able to share that with so many peo-



ple. December also gave us exposure to the cold weather and the opportunity to play in the snow.

We had lots of fun bringing the outside in for this festive activity.

As we move into January we will continue to base our curriculum around winter literacy and sensory activities. We will be making some music, art projects, reading the gingerbread man story, playing dress up, and of course continuing with music class. For any-



one who can attend Music, class is held on Fridays at 10:00 in the morning. Miss Amye does a great job teaching both the children and the teachers some fun games and activities that we can do with our little ones.

Once again transitions will make their way into our room as we move Logan, Silas, and Maddox into the Waddler room. We will miss their spunk and individual personalities, but we know they are ready for the next challenge. Good luck to them! We welcome Sumner and Thomas into the room and look forward to working with their families.

Denise, Brooke, Toni Jo, and Mia

Waddlers

We had a fantastic December! Playing in this winter's first snow was very exciting, but the best part had to be learning about our class' family traditions. We made Rudolph and Santa projects for our friends whom Santa leaves presents for. In honor of Sarah Frances we hung stockings by the fire! We played with gingerbread dough to represent London's family, who have a tradition of making gingerbread houses. To represent Einat's family we made Menorahs, played with dreidels, and made latkes. Keianna and

Kayla's families take part in Advent, so we made Advent wreaths and candles! It is so much fun to learn about the traditions of all of our friends!

Thank you to everyone who donated food and coats for our Christmas drive. It is very much appreciated. Giving and sharing are great values to instill in your family and child.

We cannot forget to welcome our new friends from the infant room. Logan and Silas have been making smiles and friends

this past week. Remember to say hello if you see them scooting around! It is time again to say goodbye to George and Aero, who will be moving on to the exciting world of toddlers!

A final reminder that we do still go outside, so please make sure your child has everything needed to stay warm and dry outside.

From everyone in the Waddler room, we wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and safe travel!

Stephanie, Einat, Kayla, Heather, and Samantha

Toddlers

How cute was the Christmas program? Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. The children did such a great job and were just so cute!

December was another great month! We learned a little about Hanukkah and played with dreidels and tasted latkes. The children really liked them! A special thanks to Einat for bringing her menorahs and dreidels, and for making latkes for us. We also loved making santas, angels, and reindeer! We loved listening to

books on tape and learning about Christmas.

In January we will explore the North Pole. We will learn about ice and snow, polar bears and penguins, and reindeer. We will also learn about gingerbread men. We have many fun activities planned that will include making gingerbread cookies and decorating them, playing with gingerbread play-dough, and many more fun things!

With the cold weather, please make sure your child has appropriate

attire for the weather and a change of clothes. As long as the weather is not too cold we will be going out to play! The children love playing outside and the fresh air is important for healthy immune systems! Happy Holidays!



Megan, Aubrey, Jennifer, and Arianne

Jr. Preschool

With 2008 done and a new year just getting started, things are very exciting in the Junior Preschool room! We are sad to say goodbye to Blake, Akeakamai, Kendra, and Sam as they move up to the preschool room, but we know they will do great! We look forward to gaining



some new recruits from the toddler room, and the new smiles they will add to our already happy group!

This month we will learn about movement, polar animals, musical instruments, careers, and pizza! Your Junior Preschooler will have a blast banging on drums and playing with rhythm sticks, working on the many art projects we have in

store, and getting to know new friends! Happy January!



Miss Terri, Miss Christina,
Miss Andrea

A.M. Preschool

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!

This month our themes will center on winter. We will begin with a week on chocolate fever. We will then move on to learning about penguins! In our third week we will learn all about bears, and in our fourth week we will learn about snowmen.



Happy Birthday to Emma, who turns four on the 23rd, and to Jack who turns four on the 31st!



Have a great January!
Love,
Jackie and
Brigitta

Preschool

Happy New Year preschool Families! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. First we would like to welcome Akeakamai, Blake, Kendra and Sam to our classroom. We are so excited to have all of you join us. We would also like to welcome our new assistant teacher Ms. Jessie. We are glad to have her join us and she is excited to be here with all of you!

We will ring in the New Year with some fresh learning adventures.

We will begin by exploring the season of winter. We will make our own snow cones, add some winter clothes to our dramatic play area, walk like penguins, and play some hibernation games.



Then we will learn about the different homes animals live in. We will conclude with some discus-

sion about our own homes.

We would like to thank all of you for contributing to our canned food drive. We collected over 80 items! Way to go preschoolers! Also, thank you for all the wonderful gifts given to the teachers. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Love,

Ms. Juanita, Ms. Jessie, Miss Kim,
and Miss Susan

Kindergarten

We have had another exciting month full of fun activities! Throughout the month we had the opportunity to learn all about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, as well as Christmas. Each week we focused on one of the holidays above by reading books and creating traditional pieces of artwork. The students were very interested in learning how others celebrate this time of year!

Throughout the month of January our theme will be all about winter. We will talk about “Snow and Animals in the Winter,” “Keeping Healthy - Germs and Teeth,” and “Martin Luther King, Jr.” Also, since the students are out of school the first week, we will enjoy the snow that has fallen by going sledding, building snowmen, and just having fun outside!

Thanks to all of you who joined us in our Holiday Feast! We all feel so blessed to have such a supportive group of parents! The feast not only tasted wonderful, but the company was great as well! Thanks again! I hope you all had a safe and Happy Holiday!

Sincerely, Mrs. Cann, Miss Jackie, Mr. Dusty

Pip Pops

Our author study last month was all about Jan Brett. We will continue to learn about her this month! The students have learned a lot of fun facts about her and really enjoy the illustrations in her books. So far, our favorite book written by her is “The Mitten”!

We learned a lot about the different December holidays celebrated around the world, including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas! The students took a lot of pride in creating artwork and discussing what they learned about each holiday! This was a very fun unit for the students and teachers!

As WSU transitions into a new semester, so do Mr. Dusty and Miss Kelsey. Both have a rigorous schedule that will not allow them the flexibility to work in our classroom in the afternoon. They will still be a part of our Building Blocks family as they will work in other classrooms earlier in the day. They are both hoping to join us again next semester and possibly this summer! We will miss them both a lot, but wish them luck!!!

Joining us will be Miss Ashley. We are all very excited to get to know her! Look for more information on her in next month’s newsletter!

Once again, as the weather continues to get colder, please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing to wear. We do not want anyone getting cold outside! Also, if you have extra clothing or coats that you would like to donate to the center, we would much appreciate them!

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

Cougar Kids

What an incredible month of giving December was. As teachers we were touched by all the support the families and children gave in helping provide a Christmas dinner to five local families in need. As a classroom we were able to raise \$230. When I delivered the food I was able to hear the story of one of the families we were able to help: Grandparents are raising the grandchildren and granddad was hurt. Now they are doing whatever they can to make it. The grandparents love their grandchildren so much they are sacrificing everything to take care of them. Thank you all for sharing a piece of yourselves to give to others. We hope everybody had a great holiday that filled your lives with joy and peace.

January is filled with excitement, as most of our learning and focus will be centered on China. The Chinese New Year is on the 26th of January. We will learn a little about this culture. In Science this month we will focus on a Chinese invention: the compass. The children will create their own compasses and do activities that will enhance their knowledge of this device. In Arts & Crafts we will design our own lanterns, fans, dragons, and good luck tassels. We will also make our own fortune cookies and eat fried rice that we make with chopsticks. We will also play games that the children in China play. The Cougar Kids are likely to be surprised at the similarities in the games they play and the Chinese games. Although we will be focusing on China, this will not stop our etiquette classes, and we will now move on to the proper use and setting of dinnerware.

We would like to stress again how thankful we are for having your children in our classroom and the amazing children they are. The Cougar Kids are incredible. Thank you again. Keoki, Torey, Jessica, and Bailey

