

January
2010



Building Blocks

Center News



Welcome 2010! What fun all the children had as their classrooms celebrated the New Year with classroom parties on the 31st of December. I can still remember the celebration of the New Year as a child, it was the only time I was allowed to stay up so late, and I rarely made it all the way to midnight...

Mark your calendars for our upcoming music program. We are so excited to share with you the wonderful skills the children have been learning from our teacher, Mrs. Kelly Hanks. Each week, the children can hardly wait for their music lesson, and now they will be able to share their progress with all of you! The performance will be in the social room at Bishop Place at 6:00 pm on the 25th of February.

I want to thank all of our families for their generosity this holiday season. Our participation with the sharing tree was a huge success. As a center, we sponsored three families who needed practical items like clothing, coats and shoes. Additionally, we collected food for the food bank, toiletry items and toys. It feels so good to be able to help families in need.

You should have received a letter about our spring dinner auction we hold every April. This event helps us raise money to purchase new equipment for the classrooms. We are now taking donations for the silent auction so reserve April 17th for a fun evening! More information and details will follow over the next few months.

Happy New Year!
Kerri Jo

January Events

January 18th

Closed



Martin Luther
King Day

Auction Update

Save the Date

April 17th

6pm-9pm

This is our biggest fundraising event of the year, allowing us to raise money to improve our classroom environment.

It is also an opportunity for parents & teachers to mingle and have a fun-filled night. It includes dinner, dessert, drinks and great items to bid on!

Upcoming Events

February 25

Children's Music program 6:00 pm

April 17

Building Blocks Annual Dinner and Silent Auction



Infants

With December coming to an end, we look back at all the fun activities that we participated in with fond remembrance. This last month we created mosaic ornaments, discovered what things stick to contact paper, played in the tunnel and enjoyed music class with Mrs. Kelly. As a whole, our class also became more mobile as some of us learned to crawl or scoot and others learned to walk. We are having a great deal of fun embracing our new freedom and exploring all the different aspects of the classroom.



January will bring, with it, an emphasis on snow and ice as we learn about the texture, temperature and the science behind this phenomenon. When looking at snowflakes we are reminded that each one is unique and different as are all of our students. Therefore, in addition to learning about snow and ice, we would like to celebrate the

diversity within our classroom. Each child and family brings their own special contribution that helps make our classroom complete. Honoring that diversity and bringing it into the classroom has multiple positive effects on a child's development.

First and foremost, diversity allows the individual child to create a connection between school and home. It can provide a sense of security that fosters exploration and independence. Since infants learn through their experiences, knowing they are safe to explore and engage in the classroom activities is the key to their cognitive development.

Honoring diversity in our class also helps build a child's self esteem. They learn that they are an important individual whose needs and interests are a priority. When each child is given the opportunity to shine in their own way, it



allows them to see themselves as worthwhile and important. In addition it broadens the experiences of all of those around them.



We learn through others different languages, customs, and traditions. In the infant room, making these connections can be as easy as sharing family pictures, bringing in special music or stories, or relaying traditions or routines that you incorporate at home.

As the month progresses we will have special days planned out for this type of sharing. Please watch for these opportunities to share and help us celebrate our diversity.

-Denise, Fiona, Tonijo, Kaylynn & Susan

Waddlers

Firstly, we hope that everyone's Christmas was filled with love, family, and friends! December was a fantastic month filled with caroling at Bishop Place with a visit from Santa and playing outside in the snow!



Thank you to all our families who participated in BBCCC's Sharing Tree. It is an amazing opportunity to instill the value of empathy, caring, and giving within your family's values. Also thank you to all our families that joined us for cookies and cocoa during our

class Christmas party! It is such a fun time for the children to show off their room and their parents which strengthens the home to school connection.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year; which will be kicked off with a month filled with winter activities, book studies, and celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.! We will definitely have a great time painting New Year fireworks, "going sledding," playing with snow in the sensory table, and reading *Snowy Day!*

A thank you to everyone for making sure that your child has appropriate outdoor winter wear! They have been having a blast (and staying warm) playing in the snow! Please take a moment to go through your child's cubby and make sure they have ample warm extra clothes. And as a reminder, if any days off are coming up, please let any of us know so we can plan appropriately for the children we have! Here's to a wonderful and exciting new year!

-Stephanie, Kayla and Megan B.



Toddlers

We hope everyone had a great Christmas break! December was such an amazing month full of fun activities. We were able to go caroling down at Bishop Place and even got to see Santa!



In January, we are going to continue learning about the North pole. We will talk about different animals that live there and explore ice. We will also experience gingerbread. We will be will smell, taste and even decorate different

forms of it. The last couple of weeks we will focus on books. We will read and talk about **The Mitten** by Jan Brett and **The Kissing Hand** by Audrey Penn.

We have had a few changes to the staff and students in our room. We said goodbye to Sara- Frances, Luke, and Miss Arianne. Sara-Frances and Luke moved up to Jr. Preschool and Arianne is doing her student teaching in Spokane this semester. We will miss all of them!! We had Aditya, Lilianna, and Ellie

join us. They have been a wonderful addition to the room. We also have Jordan, Tiffany, and Donna joining us. They will be working the morning and afternoon shifts. If you have any questions please let me or Aubrey know! Here's to another fabulous year!!!



-Megan, Aubrey, Jordan, Tiffany & Donna

Jr. Preschool

With 2009 done and a new year just getting started, things are very exciting in the Junior Preschool room right now! We are sad to say goodbye to Payton, Codi, and Sam as they move up to the preschool room to engage in many fun adventures! We have gained some new recruits Marin, Sara-

Frances, Luke and Lauren and are very happy to see the new smiles they add to our already happy group!



This month's themes will be: Sadie and the Snowman, Is Your Mama a Llama, and Polar Animals. Your Junior Preschooler will have a blast learn-

ing about size, sequencing and counting. We will also be working on many fun art projects, and getting to know new friends! Happy January!

-Miss Christina, Miss Mandy, and Miss Kelsey

A.M. Preschool

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your holiday; but boy are we excited to have you back! The class will be experience some wonderful themes this month!

Our first unit will be "Jan Brett." She has a lot of wonderful winter stories that will help us explore the changes in the season. Also, learning about an author will help us review the components of a book: author,

illustrator, title, story, etc.



Next, we will learn about "Bears!" The class will discuss different types of bears and their habitats and what hibernation means.

The winter season brings "snow & ice," so this will be the theme to follow! This is a great science and sensory unit. We will paint with ice cubes; discuss what happens to water when it is freezing and much more!

We will conclude the month with a "Penguins" theme. We learn about the penguin's life cycle and habitat.

Happy birthday to Emma on the 23rd and Jack on the 31st. They both will be turning five!

We hop you have a wonderful year ahead!

Jackie & Brigitta



Preschool

DEAR PARENTS,

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

The preschoolers will ring in the New Year with some fresh learning adventures. We will continue our winter fun by learning about winter animals and hibernation. We will also improve our fine motor skills by zipping, snapping and buttoning up our winter clothes. We will

have opportunities to walk like penguins, build a bear cave and play some hibernation games.

We will create bird feeders for the birds that do not migrate and we will conclude with a discussion on animal homes and touch on our own special homes.

The last part of January we will learn about Gingerbread People. Mostly focusing on the book "Gingerbread Friends" by

Jan Brett.

We want to thank you for your kind and generous gifts given to us this holiday season. We appreciate all you do. Have a healthy, happy and safe New Year.

Love: Ms. Juanita, Ms. Martie, Ms. Jessica and Ms. Bailey

Kindergarten

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

Throughout the month of January our themes will be all about winter. We will explore Bears, Martin Luther King, Jr., Snow and Ice, and Penguins! We are teaming up with Ms. Jackie and the AM Preschool class on these themes so that all of the students can explore and discover similar facts together as a cooperative learning opportunity! Be sure to check out all of the bulletin boards throughout the month to see the diversity in age and skills in students' artwork!

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cann, Ms. Jackie & Ms. Brigitta

Pip Pops

Our author study last month was all about Jan Brett. We will continue to learn about her this month as well! The students have learned a lot of fun facts about her and really enjoy her illustrations in her books. So far, our favorite book written by her is "The Mitten" which was read to them by Jessie, one of the many excellent volunteers we've had in our room over the past several months! We look forward to meeting some more volunteer students from WSU in the next few weeks!

Along with the Kindergarteners, we learned a lot about the different December Holidays that are celebrated around the world including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, and Christmas! Students took a lot of pride in creating their artwork and discussing what they had learned about each holiday! This turned out to be a very fun unit for both the students and teachers!

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

Thank you,

Mrs. Cann, Mr. Dusty and Miss Ashley

Cougar Kids

We hope everybody had a wonderful holiday and was able to spend it with family. There is nothing like the holidays to bring joy and happiness. We hope the parents enjoyed the gifts from their students; they really put a lot of thought and effort into their presents. As teachers, we had the joy of watching the students arrange their letters and choose the colors they thought would be a good family choice.

Our Christmas party was a success! Thank you to all the families for helping with the food for our Christmas party. Our classroom would not exist without your support.

As we enter the month of January, we will focus on the snow and ice and bring these elements into the classroom through projects and activities that will be pretty and nice: from the exploration of freezing a bubble and creating ice spikes to the crafts of snowflakes and ice candles. The class will continue our life skills in etiquette and tying knots. We will also continue our story creation with the students beginning to type their stories. In addition, we will begin creating and putting together our classroom auction item. The auction helps our classroom and center out tremendously, it will be held on April 17th. Please mark your calendars now, and come help support this very fun and important event.

Thank you and we treasure our wonderful families,

Keoki, Torey and Dustin