

Montessori Beginnings Newsletter



January 2016

Welcome back! We hope your family had an enjoyable and happy holiday season.

With the weather turning colder please remember to dress your child warmly. Please send in a hat, gloves or mittens and boots. If you have a set of hat and mittens you could leave at school we would appreciate it. We do go out every day unless it is below 32 degrees. It is so important to LABEL-LABEL-LABEL. We encourage the children to keep mittens in their pockets if they are not using them. It is challenging to keep all 20 sets of hats and mittens straight, so labeling really helps. Thank you so much for your help.

Dates to remember: **January 18th** - CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day
January 20th, Pre-Primary Science and Pot luck Dinner Night - More information to follow.

January Birthday

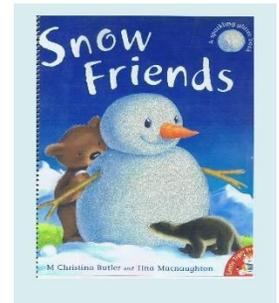


**Pre-primary room:
Grace will be four**

Nature Explore Classroom and Extended Day Activities with Kathleen

Children will learn about the "Big Five" for outdoor winter exploration. This means, once we see snow, we make sure children have snow pants, hats, mittens, coats and boots. We will go outside at three o'clock for a short while. The children will explore signs of winter as the weather changes. If we have more snow this month (and I'm not saying we should) we will use it to explore, both outside and in. Indoor activities include: snow and tools in the tactile table - making "snow" with flour, water, and ivory snow-flakes - baking "snowballs" using Rice Crispies and maple syrup - painting 'snowballs' with white paint and glitter. Our feature story; *Snow Friends*, is a tale about a rabbit, bear and otter who become friends and make a snowman together.

We will rotate in many of our building materials and other materials we do not normally have in the classroom to keep the children engaged and stimulated during our extended day hours.



TODDLER ONE ROOM NEWS

This month finds us exploring snow inside and outside and learning the color blue. Penguins, pom-poms, tongs, cotton balls and polar bears await in our tactile table. We will rock away in our boat, balance on our walking beam, dance with scarves and play instruments. Many books await in our reading corner and Kathy will play her guitar. We welcome Everly and her family to the school!

Practical Life:

Scooping blue and silver jingle bells - Squeezing water into a snowman form – Pouring - Transferring sparkly blue, silver & white pom-poms using fingers and tongs into a blue ice cube tray. Self-help skill practice continues as we work on putting on 'snow gear' including hats, snow pants, boots, mittens & coats. As in the other toddler classroom, we have been working on putting on our own coats by "flipping" them. The children lie the open coat-back down on the floor, collar facing their feet, then place each arm into each sleeve and flip the coat up over their head. Being able to put on their own coat (and shoes) instills a sense of independence and pride, not to mention making your responsibilities a bit lighter if your child can get ready themselves.

Language/Math:

This month finds us exploring various shades of blue color matching - We investigate various winter animals including penguins and polar bears in our tactile table - There is a 1 to 3 snowflake counting work - Winter animal and picture matching cards - Everyday object language cards - Shape and color puzzles - Countless opportunity for language happens as we read and explore concepts in our many books. One way to bring countless language opportunity to your child is through 'Verbal Mapping'. This fancy term simply means talking to your child as you do an activity together – describing as you go. As you read a story, stop and ask your child to point out something blue on the page or show you a certain animal. As you drive, point out any snowplows or people shoveling you might see.

One of the songs we will sing is "Getting Dressed" (sung to Darling Clementine): "1st the snow pants then the boots, then the jacket and the hat, then the mittens go on last – now we can go out to play!"

Sensorial:

The children have been working on mastering Montessori manipulatives such as the toddler knobbed cylinders so a new one will be introduced. There will be discovery baskets of nature items and building materials. We will collect some snow(or ice if needed) and see what happens when left inside, just like in *The Snowy Day*.

Art:

Snowflakes and snowmen are about as sticker work or there's brush and finger painting with sparkle blue paint. The art shelf holds glitter pom-pom collage materials and blue play-doh too.

Cooking:

We will be making yummy Mash Up Egg Free Banana Muffins!

Music:

I'm a Little Snowman

Tune: I'm a Little Teapot

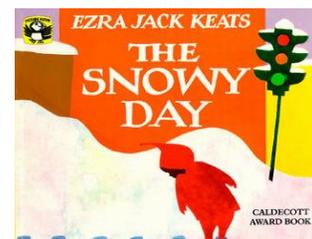
I'm a little snowman short and fat.
Here are my buttons, here is my hat.
When the sun comes out, I can't play.
I just slowly melt away!



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Books:

Welcome Winter, by Jill Ackerman
and
The Snowy Day, by Ezra J. Keats



TODDLER TWO ROOM NEWS

We would like to welcome Alex, Grace, Amelia and their families to the school!

Practical Life:

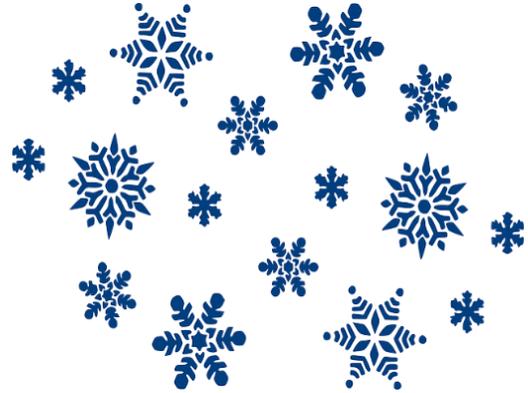
In the practical life area the children will be working with scooping with bells which they can sort and maneuver. The children will also have the opportunity to work with pouring and transferring with tongs. Since practical life is essentially everyday living, we will be working with the children to help prepare themselves for going outside-such as putting on their own boots, mittens, hats, and snow pants. The children have been working on putting on their own jackets since the colder weather arrived by "flipping" them. This technique gives the children a sense of ownership of their own needs, and builds independence. If you would like to see how we present "flipping" please don't hesitate to ask us for a lesson! Just think how much easier your day can be if your child is able to get prepared for the day without any help! Please label everything!

Language/Math:

January normally brings snow, and so we capitalize on this amazing opportunity to share snow themed words with the children. We also incorporate snowflake matching and other snow language cards to match and count with. When you are driving with your child, take the opportunity to point out new snow themed things, such as snow plows on trucks, snow blowers, snow shovels, and of course sleds. One of the songs that we will be singing is "The Hat on my Head Keeps me Warm". This is sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus" and goes like this: "The hat on my head keeps me warm, keeps me warm, keeps me warm. The hat on my head keeps me warm, all winter long." This continues to sing about mittens, jacket, and boots!

Sensorial:

The children have been working on mastering Montessori manipulatives such as the toddler knobbed cylinders, and we will be adding a newer, more complex cylinder set to the shelves. The shelves will also contain several dimensional materials. In addition to this material, the children will have the chance to experience making sensory bottles, and other sensorial, scientific experiments.



Art and Cooking:

Snowflakes and other winter inspired art creations will be presented not only on the shelves for independent experiences, but will be offered in small groups. We will be experiencing different types of art to create shimmery and other fun sparkly things. It is always fun to cook when the weather is colder, and we are excited to get into the kitchen and make some winter foods. We will be making some delicious apple bread, and perhaps a soup or stew!



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PRE PRIMARY ROOM NEWS

Practical Life = The shelves will be filled with scooping, pouring, and tweezing works having a 'winter' concept. They will have the opportunity to sift glittery snowflakes from white salt or match mittens. We will also have a work where children can practice putting on winter clothes, including snow pants, mittens, coat and boots.

Science = Exploring the concept of hard and soft along with sink and float/ Children will try experiments individually and as a group/Matching artic animals with cards/a work that helps children learn what and where different animals eat and live/a four seasons work.

Geography/Culture = We 'fly off' to the Czech Republic this month, where one of our students is currently visiting. Our travel box will have pictures to match from the country and a flag coloring work. A multicultural doll puzzle will also be added. We will work with peace cards during Morning Meeting. These cards have scenarios on them the children will discuss and resolve together.

Language= All letter boxes are out now. Children will spell out their names using a snowman form - each circle of the snowman will represent a letter of their name. During morning meeting we will continue learning some sign language. Our author this month is Jan Brett. The felt board will focus on her book, *The Mitten* and *Looks like Spilt Milk*, by George Shaw. Here are several works that will be presented in the language area:

- Matching objects with letters
- Winter pictures using beginning letters
- What doesn't belong cards
- Four part sequencing cards
- New winter concept worksheets
- Matching words with pictures

Math/Sensorial= The sensorial shelves will have sound cylinders, two new dimensional works, knobless cylinders, and combining the Pink Tower and Brown Stairs. Here are some math works we will be presenting:

- ❖ 1 to 9 counting using blue objects
- ❖ 1 to 5 counting with snowmen
- ❖ 1 to 9 puzzle matching
- ❖ A new geometry work using cards showing different shapes (2 and 3 dimensional) and rods and spheres to create them.

Art= Displayed on the art cart will be blue play dough with a snowflake cookie cutter, winter stickers on blue paper, and assembling snow people. Our artist this month will be Georges Seurat. The children will explore Seurat's pointillism technique. Pointillism is a type of painting in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image. Children will also have opportunity to paint with watercolors on blocks of ice.

Cooking= A healthy snowman snack made of fruit and making homemade soup.

JANUARY PREPRIMARY MENU

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Mac and Cheese Peas and pineapple |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Snowflake Pancakes/fruit sausage |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| No School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. | Bring their own | Snowman snack | Snowman snack | Chicken Nuggets/veggie Fruit/biscuits |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Bring their own | Homemade Soup/crackers And fruit. |

