

# Montessori Beginnings Newsletter

## January 2014



### School News

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, when appropriate. We do go out everyday unless it is below 32 degrees. It is so important to **LABEL, LABEL, and LABEL**. It is hard to keep all those hats and mittens straight and labeling really helps. We encourage the children to keep their mittens in their pockets if they are not using them.

All classrooms will be implementing a Peace curriculum over the next couple of months. Each classroom will come up with work, lessons and art projects that incorporate a peace theme.

We will begin our Dessert of the Month fundraiser this month. More information will go out on a separate flyer later this month. The money we raise will go to provide the special mulch needed under the swing set.

### Dates to remember:

January 20<sup>th</sup>: No school for the observance of Martin Luther King Day

### January Birthdays

#### Preschool

Owen will be five years old  
Ella A will be three years old

#### Toddler Two

Julia will be two years old  
Grace L. will be two years old



### Quote of the Month

“Montessori is an education for independence, preparing not just for school, but for life.”

# T o d d l e r o n e R o o m N e w s

**A Winter Wonderland...** The toddlers will be learning and exploring the meaning of winter. We will be learning about winter animals and their names. We will explore the sense of touch by learning about what is cold and what is hot.

## The Works

**Practical Life:** The children will have the opportunity to bake snowflake cookies. Scooping, pouring, and mixing are always included in this activity. We will use snow in our sensorial table and warm our hands in mittens after.

**Self Help skills:** The children will focus on what clothes we wear in the winter: hat, coat, mittens, snow pants, and boots. We will give the children opportunities to dress themselves.

**Art:** The children will be painting with white paint that has been infused with glitter to make shiny snowflakes, just like the ones from our book.

**Gross motor:** If it is not too cold, the young toddlers will use the deck to explore winter. While inside, the toddlers will use the hard and soft climber, and dance with scarves.

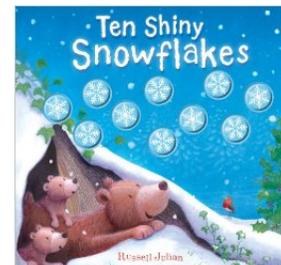
**Fine Motor:** We will be reaching for objects, turning pages in a book, stacking blocks, using our nesting blocks, puzzles, and posting work. These are all examples of fine motor skills which will help control and coordinate the small muscles in the hand and wrist.

## Books

*Welcome winter, by Jill Ackerman*



*Ten little shiny snowflakes, by Russell Julian*



## Song of the Month

Five little snowmen, dancing all around.  
Dancing all around, dancing all around.  
Five little snowmen, dancing all around.  
The sun comes out and one melts  
to the ground.  
Keep singing till you get to no more snowmen.



# T o d d l e r T w o R o o m N e w s

This month the Toddlers will explore winter and different types of bears.

## The Works

**Practical Life:** The shelves will feature scooping white beans with blue and white pom-poms. Scrubbing a polar bear, two pouring works, and a twisting work will round off the practical life area.

**Language:** A matching bear work, a puzzle that shows us what we wear, a winter matching work with objects and pictures and two more letters will be introduced this month. Toddler will explore letters by fishing for them using a magnet.

**Math/Sensorial:** These shelves will house two cylinder works, a stacking snowman, and two color sorting work; one that features primary colors the other featuring secondary colors.

**Building shelf:** A stacking and nesting tower, pipe building, a lock puzzle and blocks will allow the children to use their imagination and creativity.

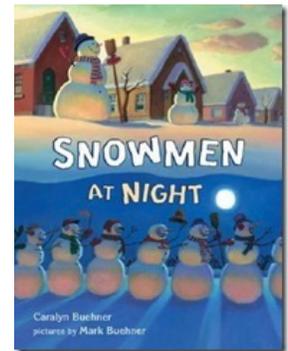
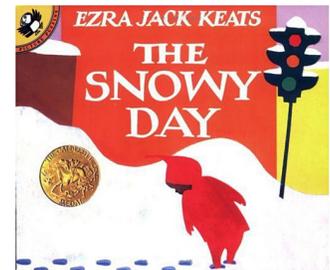
**Cooking:** We will be making snow slime (not to eat but to explore). We will make sugar cookies in the shape of snowflakes and dust them with crystals.

**Art:** The children will be using tissue boxes to paint with. We will also be making snow people using different shapes and gluing them onto paper.

**Self Help skills:** The toddlers will learn about how to dress warming for the winter. They will practice putting on winter boots, hats, mittens, and snow pants.



## Books



## Song of the Month

Five little snowmen  
riding on a sled,  
One fell off and  
bumped his head...  
I called Frosty and Frosty  
said,  
No more snowmen  
riding on a sled!  
*Keep going til you get to no  
more snowmen.*





# Pr e s c h o o l R o o m N e w s



This month we will be learning about the winter season. Our country this month is Spain, our author is H.A. Rey and our artist is Picasso. We will also be starting our peace curriculum this month. We will be implementing our helping hands chart and a new sharing bag. The preschool will be "adopting" a class mascot. A stuffed bear along with a bag and journal will start arriving home with your child this month. In the bag will be instructions on what to do with the bear while he is visiting with your family. This will help promote responsibility, caring, and also help with writing. Your child can write, dictate to you or draw pictures about the bear's visit with your family. More information will follow as we put this plan into effect.



## The Works

**Lessons given during morning meeting:** Hot and cold, lesson on the new sharing bear, helping hands, and having a quiet and peaceful classroom.

**Practical Life:** The shelves this month feature pouring, scooping, and squeezing works with a winter theme. We are scooping tapioca pearls, coloring salt, grating soap to make bubbles and pouring into a funnel. Some of our other works will include lacing winter theme cards, hammering wood, mitten matching and hanging them on a clothes line. We will also be breaking ice cubes that have frozen surprises in them. The children will also be able to create a snowman snack using step by step directions and then enjoying them.

**Science:** The children will classify hot and cold objects, learn about healthy habits, winter animal matching, and using a magnifying glass to examine and match snowflake pictures. The children will explore the sense of touch with our thematic bottles. Our sensory table features white packing peanuts, white beads and winter theme items that the children will scoop, pour and examine with magnifying glasses.

**Geography/Culture:** This month will be studying Spain. Our suitcase will contain items from Spain and a picture matching work. The children will explore the tastes of Spain and color the Spanish flag. We are hoping to have a visitor come in and talk to us about Spain and perhaps read us a book in Spanish.

**Language:** Letters will be explored this month as we introduce another letter box. The children will practice writing these letters in sand. There are several new works that will help children connect letters together to make words. An object letter matching work will be introduced along with the children creating their names to make a snowman. Each circle of the snowman will represent another letter of their name.

**Math/Sensorial:** The children will explore one to one correspondence by counting snowballs "cotton balls" and snowflakes. We will be sorting snowflakes by size. The rectangle construction box will be coming out, as well as, the sound cylinders. The number rods will be mixed with tile numbers and the short bead stair.

**Art:** We will be making Picasso like portraits with tissues paper and water. We will also be doing several winter theme projects: a painting with evergreen branches, making snowmen with shapes and snow slime. To explore hot and cold through art, we will be painting with tea bags and using watercolors to paint a block of ice.

# Pr e s c h o o l J a n u a r y m e n u

6 Chicken nuggets/ veggie/apples	7 Chicken nuggets/ veggie/apples	8 Bring their own	9 Bring their own	10 Bring their own
13 Meatballs/Spanish Rice/Veggie/fruit	14 Meatballs/Spanish Rice/Veggie/fruit	15 Bring their own	16 Bring their own	17 Bring their own
20 No School	21 Pizza /veggies/fruit	22 Snowmen snack Bring their own	23 Snowmen snack Bring their own	24 Snowmen snack Bring their own
27 Homemade Soup Crackers/fruit	28 Homemade soup Crackers/fruit	29 Bring their own	30 Bring their own	31 Bring their own



**“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”**

Maria Montessori