



Discovery Zone Gazette

February 2011

Love Is In The Air In Preschool 10

Preschool 10 started off the month of February with a Groundhogs Day theme. The class made their predictions about whether the groundhog would see his shadow or not and then made a picture. The children then watched a video of a groundhog coming out of his burrow. They were so excited that he didn't see his shadow and to hear that spring is just around the corner! Preschool 10 learned about shadows and experimented with a flashlight. They made hand shadows on the wall. The class used their imaginations to make burrows in a house and pretend they were groundhogs!



The next week was one of their favorite weeks, Mail Week. The class was very eager to make a mail box together and check it all day! Preschoolers learned the various parts of a letter and how to write them. The children learned how we send mail out, how the post office receives and sorts it and then

how the post office sends it out to the correct person. The class got to write their own notes and send them out too! We worked on sorting post cards by color and counting the different stamps we had on our papers. The class really enjoyed receiving mail! Thank you to everyone who contributed and made mail week so successful!



The next week was a week about love. Our class celebrated Valentine's Day together. They had a wonderful party where the children got to pass out their own valentines to their friends, while working on name and letter recognition. Thank you to everyone who brought in food to make our party complete! The children worked on their gross motor skills when they went fishing for hearts. Preschool 10 again worked on sorting when they sorted different colored hearts. The preschoolers also worked on their fine motor skills by sewing a piece of string through

holes on a heart.

The last theme our class worked on in the month of February was President's Day. The class had a discussion on who George Washington and Abraham Lincoln was. They looked at all different coins and the pictures of the presidents that were on them. The children sorted the different coins by size, pictures and color. Preschool 10 used their fine motor skills to build log cabins out of Lincoln logs. To end out the week we had a wonderful puppet show!

For the month of March Preschool 10 will be learning about Dental Health, Dr. Seuss, Opposites and many more exciting themes!

Happy Birthday to Shaila Castro, Anna Reagan and Brooke Lemire!



Discovery Zone Learning Center

Important Dates:

- 3/22 Special: RJ: Musician

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Toddler 3 Goes Crazy With Colors!

Toddler 3 began the month of February with a theme on, "Transportation." During this week the children participated in several songs pertaining to different modes of transportation. The children enjoyed a game of, "Musical Chairs" in which they pretended the chairs were seats aboard a train. Vocabulary was enhanced when the children viewed a book on transportation. Shape recognition was improved up when the toddlers created their own traffic lights. Fine motor was enhanced when the children decorated a cardboard box car and made tire track paintings. The toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they played with boats in the water table. Lastly, toddlers worked together when they colored a car drawing.



Next, Toddler 3 explored the world of, "Colors." Color recognition was increased when the children played a matching game and had to locate various colors around the room. Science was examined when the class experimented with different color water tablets. Fine motor was improved upon through lemon prints.

Toddlers enjoyed several sensory experiences this week when they finger painted with pudding and made a handprint rainbow. The children also worked on their color recognition through an ice cream activity and a fruit loop sort.



For the third week of February, Toddler 3 learned all about, "Mail." At circle time each day the children were able to view our class mailbox and see the different letters we received in the mail. We read them aloud each day and explained to the children how we send and receive mail in everyday life. Vocabulary was enhanced when the toddlers sang a song in which they identified which town they lived in. Fine motor was enhanced through a variety of activities: tissue paper hearts, mailboxes and stamps. Toddlers also had the opportunity to work together as a group when they put together our classroom mail truck.

To end out the month, Toddler 3 jumped into a theme on, "Bears." Gross motor was enhanced when the children pretended to be bears and participated in a, "Bear Crawl." The children also en-

gaged in some of their favorite songs, "Five in the Bed" and, "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear." The children worked on their sorting skills with gummy bears in the sensory table. Fine motor was increased through cinnamon teddy bears where the children sprinkled cinnamon onto a teddy bear cut out. Cognitive thinking and vocabulary were improved upon when the toddlers created their own take on the classic book, "Brown Bear, Brown Bear." To end out the week, shape recognition and spatial awareness was enhanced through circle polar bears that the children each created.

For the month of March Toddler 3 will be learning about weather, nutrition and many other fun topics! Toddler 3 would like to wish Arianna and Bailey the best of luck as they head off to preschool. We will miss them and their family very much! We would also like to welcome Jayden, Nicolo and Lluvia and their families to our classroom. We are excited to have them in our class and are looking forward to a great year!

Toddler 2 Is Clowning Around!

Toddler 2 started the month off with a theme on "Circus." At circle time the children heard a story about Clifford At the Circus. The children learned what silly things a clown does to make people laugh. To enhance their knowledge about the circus the teachers did face painting with the children. Afterwards everyone got to see themselves in the mirror. To enhance gross motor the class then got to act out being silly clowns while dancing to music and playing with balloons. To improve spatial awareness, toddlers played a game of, "Pin the Nose on the Clown." Toddler 2 prac-



ticed their balancing skills when they participated in tightrope walking. Lastly, for a science activity the children got to see how the power of wind could blow cotton

balls off the shelf.

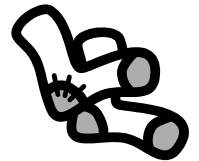
For the second week in February, Toddler 2 did a theme on "Transportation". At circle time the children learned that there are many kinds of transportation through the books we read and the songs that were sung, such as "Row Row Your Boat" and "Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red

Wagon." To enhance the children's thinking skills they played a game called, "What's Missing." The teacher set out different types of transportation such as: "car, boat, train, plane, and motorcycle's." The children then covered their eyes and the teacher would take one away and then ask the children which one was missing. Afterwards the teacher showed the children what a map was and how people use it to go from one place to another. All the children participated in helping to find out where they live with the help of the teacher. To finish the week on transportation the teachers introduced traffic lights to the children. They used their math skills are were able to tell what the colors were and what shapes they were using.

The third week in February, Toddler 2 did a theme on "Mail". The children were able to create their own mailboxes and stamps. They also got to put their fine motor skills to work by drawing a beautiful picture for their dads and moms to receive in the mail. Hope you all enjoyed them. Throughout the week the sensory table was filled with various types of envelopes and cards for the children to explore. The children learned our mail song "We just got

a letter" and we all sang this song every time someone would get the mail. Thank you to all the parents and families who wrote to us!

We ended the month of February with a theme on "Socks". At circle time the children worked on color recognition and math skills by sorting and matching different kinds of socks. One of the activities the toddlers did was stuffing a sock. The children used their thinking skills to walk around the room and see what they could find to put in their sock. Afterwards they brought their socks back to the circle area to compare with one another what they found. Each child had an opportunity to create their own sock puppet to use at circle time. This was great for their imagination and language skills. We ended the week with working on our self help skills by taking off our socks and putting them back on.



For the Month of March the Toddlers will be learning about the Zoo, Literature and many other great themes!

Preschool 12 Explores Shadows!

To finish off the month of January, and begin February, the children of preschool 12 learned all about Groundhogs and Shadows. The week consisted of talking about Groundhog Day, listening to stories and singing songs about groundhogs. The children did some scientific exploring earlier in the week that involved different ways to make a shadow using the sun, or flashlights. They made shadow images and prints to work on their fine motor skills. They also had a chance to hear a groundhog story and then were given the option to act it out. The children loved being able to use the flashlights throughout the week and make different shadows on the walls.



During the second week of February, Preschool 12 prepared for the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday. They started off the week with talking about their favorite Valentine's Day sweets and making their own "Hershey Kisses". The preschoolers really worked on their fine motor skills while making Valentine shaker's, marble heart paintings, Valentine collages and creating their own Valentine's. The preschoolers enhanced their math skills with several matching games and candy heart sorting. Each child got to have a taste of the candy hearts they had matched. To-

wards the end of the week, the children received a special Valentine during circle time from a friend. The whole week was spent preparing for the Valentine's Day party the following week!

Towards the end of February, Preschool 12 learned about Dental Health. The children had a special Valentine's Day party to begin the week. Thanks to all the parents who brought in the great snacks for our party, the children loved them! The children had different Valentine's Day activities to do during the day, including a "Valentine hunt" where they all had to locate Valentines around the room. The preschoolers then learned all about what kinds of foods help to keep your teeth healthy and which foods are not so good for your teeth. They learned a new song about brushing your teeth that they absolutely loved! In the middle of the week, the children did a taste testing experiment with apples and Oreo cookies. They were asked to determine which one of the foods would help to keep your teeth clean and they all knew that the apples



was the best choice! They all learned a lot about practicing good dental health.

To finish off the month of February, the children of Preschool 12

learned about President's Day. We talked about an important President each day of the week. The children heard different tales about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The activities that followed the stories involved making hats that looked like Lincoln's and a cherry tree like Washington's.



During the Month of March, Preschool 12 will be learning about Space, Dr. Suess, and many more fun themes to come!

DZLC had a special on the 24th called "Taylor Puppets". The children got some outdoor play time this week as well. They can't wait for the warm weather to be able to play out on the playgrounds!



Infant 5 Gets In Shape!

During the month of February the infant room said goodbye to Jayden and Nico as they moved over to the Toddler Room. We wish them the best of luck and we will miss them greatly!



The infant room started off the month with a shapes theme. The infants used different shape sponges such as circles, squares, and hearts to sponge paint on paper. To kick off Valentine's Day the infants used sponges to paint hearts with. The infants worked on an Arctic theme that involved the babies finger

painting penguins and putting cotton on their bellies with the teachers assistance. Next the children used a mixture of glue and shaving cream to paint polar bears. When it dried it gave them a different texture to play with.

For language and communication the infants developed receptive language skills by associating words with actions when singing the song "Bumping Up and Down." The children also looked at books, and babbled. As for cognitive development they sorted shapes (with help), had a scavenger hunt and searched for a specific toy. Social and emotional develop-

ment this month consisted of finding something new, face to face, acting and reacting and rolling a ball back. For physical development the infants walked together, practiced washing hands, practiced rolling over and coming to get a toy.

For the month of March the babies will work on a few St. Patrick's Day projects along with other developmental skills!



Preschool 11 Digs Dental Health!

The months are just flying by and hopefully the snow will melt just as fast! Preschool 11 is looking forward to going back outside and playing. Preschool 11 was excited to hear that the groundhog predicted an early spring! The children learned about shadows by using flashlights and making shadow puppets. They also took some time to go outside on the pavement and play shadow tag with all of their friends. This allowed the children to get some energy out and work on strengthening



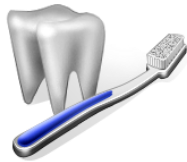
their gross motor skills. Preschool 11 worked on their sequencing skills by taking a five picture story about a groundhog and putting it in the correct order.

Preschool 11 then took a week to learn about Mail. Parents, Grandparents, family and friends wrote class letters all week long, from all of the state and country! They used their creative art skills to design a stamp and their ordering skills to put a six picture mail sequence in order. The children also collected the mail for DZLC and delivered it to the appropriate

addressed person!

Love was in the air during the third week of February when Preschool 11 learned about Valentine's Day. During this week the children worked on their name recognition skills by handing out Valentines to their friends. They had a healthy pink and red party where they shared healthy snacks with each other on the 14th. The children got the chance to work on their fine motor skills by cutting out three different sized hearts out of pink paper. Once they were finished, they sized the hearts from smallest to largest or largest to smallest and glued them onto purple paper. It was a heart filled week of fun!

Finally, the children learned about Dental Health. During this week, Preschool 11 learned about ways to keep your teeth healthy. They used toothbrushes to paint with white paint onto a piece of yellow construction paper that was shaped as a tooth.



They had fully brushed the yellow tooth and it was now white! They painted with dental floss making very unique patterns with a rainbow of colors on white pa-

per. Finally, the children worked on their sorting skills by grouping sugar foods and healthy foods into two groups in a project called "Happy Tooth, Sad Tooth!"

During the month of February DZLC had one special on Thursday Feb, 24th called Taylor Puppets! For the month of March, Preschool 11 will be discussing themes such as Dr. Seuss, Opposites, St. Patrick's Day and much more! Enjoy the end of winter!



Toddler 1- We've Got Mail!

Can you believe all this snow?! Toddler 1 has been coming up with some fun and exciting gross motor activities this past month. To celebrate Groundhog's Day the children were able to build a den and pretend "as groundhogs" to pop up from the den and live in. The children had so much fun. Another exciting project was matching shadows. The children did this by having five colored animals and then matching them to each of their own shadows. The kids did an amazing job! Toddler 1 ended Groundhogs week by sponge painting; it was messy so you know they had a good time.

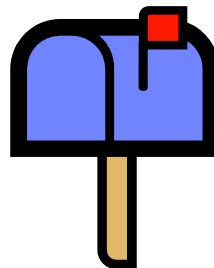


art skills and made beautiful heart sun catchers that are on the windows. During circle time we read stories about caring, friends and Valentines. In the sensory table the children got to mix and match

The second week in February the children were learning about gift giving as they worked on their special Valentine's gift to their parents. They used their fine motor and creative

heart shaped boxes, or as they called them, candy boxes. The most enjoyed activity this week was counting and stacking marshmallows. The children used heart shaped marshmallows to improve their math skills by stacking them as high as they would go and then counting them when they fell down. When they were done, the children enjoyed a nice marshmallow treat! On Valentine's Day, Toddler 1 celebrated by having a party. The children ate red healthy fruit and yogurt during the party then showed off the best dance moves to each other. It was a wonderful party.

Toddler 1 was excited for their mail week. Together as a class the children painted their very own mailbox, that we left outside the classroom. Each day at circle the children checked the mail and were excited to find a letter every time. Also during circle the children were taught about their address and started learning about what town they



live in. Don't forget to check your mail at home for a letter from your special someone.

Over the past week Toddler 1 has been exploring teeth and loving every minute of it. Together we have learned about brushing teeth, healthy food, how to use a tooth brush and painting with toothbrushes. During circle time the class listened to stories about going to the dentist and teeth.



During the month of March the children in Toddler 1 will be learning about Literature, Dr. Seuss, St Patrick's Day and Kites. Just a reminder to parents, please make sure your child's cubby is stocked with extra clothing for the weather.

Preschool 13 Loves Learning Literacy!

As we all know Punxsutawney Phil, the Ground Hog, predicted that spring will arrive early this year. To celebrate this news, Preschool 13 started the month of February with a week on Groundhogs. The children were exposed to language and literacy as they read stories like "Huff and Puff" and "Go to Sleep Groundhog." The children enjoyed the illustration as well as the story behind them. As part of our lesson plan Preschool 13 had a class discussion and then participated in an activity where the children were encouraged to ask questions about what shadows are. This allowed the children to get a better visual picture on what shadows look like. The children then used flashlights on each

other to create shadows on the wall. This activity was enjoyed by all the children. To enhance scientific exploration the children each made their own silhouette of their bodies and painted them black. This uncovered many questions about why some shadows are larger than other.

Preschool 13 loves spending time with their friends. The second week was all about Valentine's Day. The children explored their creative side as we experimented with colors to make Valentine's Day cards and hearts. They enjoyed a day of sensory as preschool 13 played with colored ice cubes. At cir-

cle time the children had a great discussion on who we love and why. It was amazing to hear how much they truly love their families and friends. The children practiced their fine motor and cognitive skills by writing and spelling their names. The children did a great job recognizing the letter in their own name. To complete the week the children had their yearly Valentine's Day party! The children enjoyed giving away their special Valentines amongst each other. They all had a great time dancing and eating their special snacks.

To enhance the topic of love our theme for the third week was emotions. The children started by working on different techniques on how to get along in a more positive way. Using kind words was one of the skills that preschool 13 wanted to focus on. The children were able to communicate how they felt by using their words instead of their actions and this promoted a sense of community as they learned from each other how to accomplish this goal. As the week progressed, the teacher noticed a change in how the children were able to interact with each other. Miss Sheyla also introduced a Spanish friendship song that expanded their language when allowing the children to hear different words as they sang it. The children had a blast expressing their feelings through creative art as they made happy and sad faces. It was fun to hear what things provoked these feelings in the children. Preschool 13

really enjoyed naming all the fruits and especially eating them.



At the end of the month we will work on our language and literacy

skills as we introduce a week on love literacy. Miss Sheyla introduced the book "Is Your Mama a Llama?", to the children several times so that they can enhance their memorization skills. The children learned to recall the characters and the order of the story. Preschool 13 will soon be creating another page for our literature book. The children especially enjoyed pretending to be different animals from the story such as a bat, seal and llamas. The children ended the week by practicing their writing skills as they drew what their favorite thing to do with mom is.

The month March will be an exciting month that will enhance all the children's learning skills. We will work on our 4 domains social and emotional, physical, creative expression and cognitive as we concentrate on topics such as Dr Seuss, mail, spring, spring literacy. Happy birthday to Mackenzie, Camden and Caitlin!



Infant 6 Goes Fishing!



In the month of February, Infant 6 celebrated Groundhog's Day by coloring in a picture of a groundhog with markers. This helped the infants to work on their fine motor skills. After, the teacher helped them glue the groundhog on blue construction paper. Next, the children focused on Valentine's Day by making valentine cards and holders for their friends and families. Infant 6 finished the month with the theme "Nursery Rhymes." Infant 6 wished their friend Brady a "Happy Birthday" as he turned 1!

The class built their language and communication development by making sounds and talking to toys to practice pro-

ducing babbling sounds. The children also learned animal sounds and looked at picture books to continue developing language. To continue their development explored a "Going Fishing" game to experience the principle of cause and effect. They also played a game to find out what toy was in a tissue box and another game of scavenger hunting to understand the meaning of object permanence.



To build their social and emotional development the infants solved problems, explored new toys, assisted in dressing self, and interacted with Ms. Lisandra to

develop a sense of trust. Lastly, for physical development the infants focused on strengthening their lower back muscles, filling and dumping objects, standing up by themselves, and walking around the room.

For the month of March, the class will have fun making art projects in honor of St. Patrick's day.



Center News



Spring is approaching and so is the warmer weather! Just a reminder to please make sure your child has EXTRA clothes stored in their cubby and all belongings are labeled properly!

As required by the state, in order for your child to stay in childcare, they must be up to date with all immunizations and physicals. When taking your child to the doctors, please make sure that the FRONT and BACK of the State of CT Early Childhood Health Assessment Record is COMPLETELY filled out by you and your doctor.



Camp Discovery Forms are out! Please check in your child's room for an enrollment form. If you wish to enroll your school age child for camp, please fill out the forms required and return to Robin or Stacey as soon as possible in order to reserve your spot! Spaces are limited!

