



# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Toddler 3 Plays Like Penguins

Toddler 3 began the month of December busily working on Christmas presents for parents. The children worked hard at these and we hope everyone enjoyed the finished result! During this week Toddlers also worked on the classroom Christmas tree. Shape recognition was increased when the children assembled the tree with several triangle pieces. Fine motor was enhanced when the Toddlers decorated their ornaments, then placed them onto the tree along with puzzle pieces. Lastly, Toddler 3 worked as a group to put together the star that would go on top of the tree.

For the second week of December, the children learned all about the world of Penguins. Color recognition was improved upon when the children played an egg matching game. Gross motor skills were worked on when the children pretended they



were penguins and walked with an egg on their feet. Science and vocabulary was explored when the children observed several different pictures of different types of penguins and practiced saying their names. The children also learned a new song that they enjoyed called, "I Know a Little Penguin." Fine motor skills were enhanced when Toddler 3 painted with feathers and made potato penguins. Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they played with eggs inside of the water table.

Next, the classroom had a week theme on Christmas and Hanukkah. During this week the children learned a variety of songs. They learned the "Dreidel Song" and "Reindeer Pokie." Toddlers also sang "Jingle Bells" and they had their own bells to use while singing this song. Fine motor was enhanced through a Christmas collage, candelabras and snow pictures. The children participated in a sensory experience when they created hand-

print menorahs.

The Toddlers ended the month of December with a short theme on New Years. The children used their cognitive thinking to discuss what they would like to learn about within the classroom in the following year. They also learned a new song which increased their fine motor skills called "Toot Your Horn." Toddlers were able to engage in a sensory experience in which they could creatively express themselves through fingerpainting. Lastly, the children enhanced their fine motor skills by decorating their own New Year's hats.

Toddler 3 would like to say goodbye to Mackenzie B. and Colby D. as they head off to Preschool! We wish them the best of luck in their new room but will miss them and their families very much. Toddler 3 would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

## Infant 5 Explore The Season

During the month of December, the Infant Room started off by making a Christmas ornament for their families. They also made snowmen with their footprints in shaving cream. They finished up the holiday season by making a reindeer using their footprints for the head and hand prints for the antlers.

For language and com-

munication development the babies used gestures to show what they want, looked at books, and made animal noises. As for cognitive development, the babies shook the rattle, found which toys were the same, did a scavenger hunt, and clapped the lids of containers. Social and emotional development was increased as the children focused on relationship with a familiar adult,

made music, played ring around the rosie, and jazzing it up with different types of music. Lastly, for physical development the babies practiced the stepping reflex and lifting objects to strengthen upper body muscles.

The infant room would also like to give a warm welcome to our new teacher Mallory and our new friends Alyssa, Sophie and families.

## Discovery Zone Learning Center

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### Important Dates:

- ☺ 1/17 Fun Day for School Ageds.
- ☺ 1/18 Birds on the Run will come to entertain and education the children about wild birds
- ☺ 1/21 Updated physicals and immunizations due.

### Inside this issue:

Preschool 11 News	2
Toddler 2 News	2
Preschool 10 News	3
Toddler 2 Continued	3
Preschool 12 News	3
Toddler 1 News	4
Preschool 12 Continued	4
Infant 6 News	5
Center News	5

## Preschool 11 Goes Wild for Winter Animals

As the year comes to an end, take a minute to reflect on the growth of your child and how far they have come over the course of 2010. I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Preschool 11 began the month of December with a one week theme of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The children learned about how other cultures and religions have celebrations like some celebrate Christmas. During this time Preschoolers worked on fine motor skills while driedel painting. The children dipped the driedels into paint and then spun them around on white paper leaving very neat spiral markings on the paper. For Kwanzaa the children worked on their math skills with patterning by making a traditional Mkeka or mat. They took red and green squares of paper and glued them onto the black paper making an AB pattern. The children also painted with ears of Indian corn which is a sacred vegetable for the African people.

Next, Preschool 11 learned about winter animals. The children began by listing all different animals that you see in the win-

ter months. They worked on identifying the different foot prints and using fine motor skills to trace stencils of animal tracks. We took a class "trip" outside to hunt around for any animal tracks. The class enjoyed several stories and sang many songs about penguins, bears and other winter animals. The week was finished with a project called "Polar Bears in the Snow." The children had an opportunity for sensory exploration as they finger-painted around a polar bear picture. When the children were finished, the picture was removed leaving the outline of the bear in the snow.

This activity was a classroom favorite!

The third week in December Preschool 11 focused on Christmas. The class focused on the love, kindness and generosity of the season and not only Santa. During this week the children worked very hard on creating special gifts and cards for their parents or loved ones. During this week we



listened and danced to Christmas music and read several favorite holiday stories. On December 23rd the children enjoyed a special holiday party with delicious healthy snacks and a visit from Santa. I would like to take a moment to thank the parents of Preschool 11 without your dedication and donations this year would not have been so fun and treat filled!

To finish off the month of December, Preschoolers had a two day theme on New Years. During these days the children learned about the months of the year and worked on their fine motor skills by coloring, tracing and free writing the number 2011. They also had some fun by using creative art skills and creating Happy New Year hats to wear when we counted down to lunch time. The month of January will consist of I is for Ice and Snow, I have a Dream (Martin Luther King Jr. day) and a two weeks of a child choice. This is something new I am going to try to have the children vote on the themes they would like to learn about this month. I am looking forward to their responses!

## Toddler 2 Loves Literature

To start off the month of December, Toddler 2 did a theme on literature. Each day of the week consisted of a different story pertaining to children's literature, with an activity that related to the story. The first book the children heard was The Three Billy Goats Gruff. After the story, the children all got to act out the story together with the help of their teachers. Mouse Paint was another story the class read. For the activity, the children worked on their language, math and color recognition skills as they blended colors. In the middle of the week, the children listened to Ten in the Bed (a song that they all enjoy and are familiar with). The children enjoyed being silly and acting out the song together. Towards the end of the week, the children



enjoyed listening to one of their favorite big books: From Head to Toe. This story teaches the children different animal names as well as different ways that we can move our bodies. They all had fun acting out the movements of the story. The week ended with The Little Mouse, the Big Hungry Bear, and the Red Ripe

Strawberry. That book is one of Toddler 2's favorites. With the help of the teachers, the children each got to cut a strawberry in two, and share half with a friend.

The Toddler 2 class did a theme on the Sky and Stars in the second week of December. The children sang different songs and learned new nursery rhymes that focused on the sky and stars. Throughout the week, they learned about different things that you can find and see in the sky. The children also learned about different types of transportation you would need in order to make it to the moon. To enhance their sorting skills, the children located stars around the room and then sorted them according to size and color. They worked on self expression as they made their own star creations and cloud pictures. Towards the end of the week, they worked as a group to make a blue sky snack (jello), and then got to enjoy it for snack! They all loved it. The children also worked very hard this week to complete their Christmas presents for their parents. They engaged in a couple extra art projects while they painted a menorah for Hanukkah and puzzle pieces for a Christmas tree. Both projects were displayed on Toddler 2's bulletin board.

As we came closer to the end of December, Toddler 2 did a theme on Christmas and Hanukkah. To start off the week, the teachers in the classroom explained what happens during each of the holidays. The children learned about different activities you might do during the Christmas and/or Hanukkah holiday. The class built language skills as they learned many new songs that pertained to both holidays. They each had an opportunity to paint their own candle for the menorah. They enjoyed several books throughout the week that included things about both of the holidays. They also learned new games that can be played during the holiday season. The children of Toddler 2 are all very excited about the holidays.

During the week of Christmas, the children in Toddler 2 learned all about colors. They sang different songs and played games to help them learn about the many different colors there are. The children learned all the colors in the rainbow as they made their own fruit loop rainbows. They also made their own colorful coffee filters which came out very nice. They all practiced following directions while playing a game of musical chairs. All the children participated and loved playing the game! The children also did a lot of

## Gingerbread Men take over Preschool 10

The month of December was sure a chilly one but that didn't slow Preschool 10 from preparing and learning about the different holidays in December. The class talked about gingerbread men, winter animals, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and ended the month talking about Christmas and New Years.

Preschool 10 had a lot of fun learning and talking about the gingerbread man. The class used their fine motor skills in sensory with play dough and cookie cutters to pretend they were making gingerbread cookies. The children got to make gingerbread

houses with graham crackers, cereal, raisins and other fun healthy treats. Lastly the whole class got to help measure out ingredients and make gingerbread which we all enjoyed eating for snack. The children also made gingerbread men with oats, cinnamon and glue. They really enjoyed making them and having their gingerbread men hanging up for everyone to see to.



The next week, the class got to pretend they were winter animals. Each child chose a winter animal they wanted to be demonstrated their knowledge of the animals through dramatic play, creative writing and illustration. Preschool 10 made bird feeders out of pine cones, peanut butter and bird seed and hung them by the pond for the birds to enjoy in this cold winter season. The children got to see some winter animals foot prints and make footprint rubbings with them. The children had an opportunity to sponge paint a polar bear cutout with shaving cream.

The class then got into the holiday spirit and learned about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The children enjoyed stories about these holidays and creative expression as they decorated dreidels with paint and glitter. Fine motor skills were built as the children spun dreidels with paint on them. The children had so much fun experimenting with the dreidels. While learning about Kwanzaa the children made kinaras and built direction following and color recognition skills.

The next week was all about Christmas and the children couldn't wait!

The class read and sang a lot of Christmas books and songs. The children also spent the week making presents and cards for their parents. They had a lot of fun making hand print wreaths. To finish the week off, the children got to decorate their own stockings and hang them over "the fireplace."

The very last week in December was a short two day week where the children celebrated the New Year. They made party hats with different materials and practiced writing and tracing 2011. They had a blast in the sensory table with balloons, packing peanuts, streamers and all sorts of fun things. Preschool 10 ended the year with a celebration!

Preschool 10 would like to thank all the parents for everything you do for us it is greatly appreciated. 2010 has been a wonderful year and we know 2011 will be an even better one and we are looking forward to it! We wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

## Toddler 2 Continued

work on their motor skills as they practiced throwing a ball and using plastic clothes pins that clipped onto their clothes. The children had some free time to go outside during the middle of the week, so they really got a chance to work on their gross motor skills while riding a tricycle and running around with their friends.

The month of December ended with a very short week at DZ. The children of Toddler 2 did a theme on fine motor during this week. They practiced sign language and sang the "Where is Thumbkin?" song during circle times. The children enjoyed art projects on both days which included finger painting with bubble wrap and cutting with scissors on

different kinds of paper. The children practiced taking turns this week as they played a bowling game. To work on their gross motor, they sang and did the movements to the Jumping Song and Ring Around the Rosey. We hope you all had a great Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Learning Never Hibernates in Preschool 12

Happy Holidays from Preschool 12! The children started the month with a theme on December Holidays. Language and literacy skills were enhanced as the Preschoolers learned all about Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Preschoolers practiced their social relations and sharing experiences while they were engaged in manipulating toy Dreidels during a center choice activity. The children enhanced their knowledge of science and vocabulary by comparing and contrasting the Menorah and the Kinara. Math skills were also challenged as the Preschoolers counted all the candles on each candelabra.

Gross motor skills were exercised, and the sense of touch was stimulated, as Preschoolers played a game by tossing cardboard latkes into a frying pan. Next, fine motor skills were practiced while the children were engaged in creating delightful dreidel sun catchers and colorful Kinaras. The Christmas holiday was next. The Preschoolers exercised their critical thinking skills as they talked about why Christmas was special to them. Then they enhanced their fine motor skills and creativity as they illustrated it. The children then demonstrated their number recognition skills while they were en-

gaged in playing a Christmas Tree Lotto game.

For the second week of December, Preschoolers enjoyed a theme on Animals in the Winter. During circle time, language and vocabulary skills were enhanced as the children learned the concept of the word hibernation...a deep sleep. The children pretended to be sleepy bears in a cave as they curled up on the floor during circle time. Then they woke up when prompted to identify which colored laminated bear they were holding. Fine motor and creativity skills, as well as the identification of winter animals

# Toddler 1 is a Royal Class

December was a very busy month for Toddler 1. The children were growing bigger and getting a lot more words! Reading books was still a favorite activity for them.

Week one focused on Gingerbread and the Gingerbread man. The children enjoyed using the story glove while singing Five Little Gingerbread Men. The children painted a gingerbread house and made their own gingerbread men. Another time they painted and added gingerbread spices. They also made gingerbread man ornaments as gifts for their loved ones. The children built math skills as they to matched shapes on the gingerbread men and also colors of the gingerbread men to their houses.

During week two, the Toddlers felt like royalty as they focused on Kings and Queens. The children listened to The Paper-bag Princess and painted t-shirts to go along with the story. The children really enjoyed the dragon! They glued jewels onto a crown and then counted how many they had put on. They also decorated their own castles and glued their pictures inside to be the King or

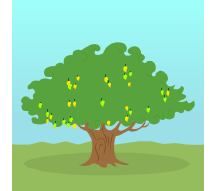


Queen of the castle.

Week three was taken up with Reindeer. Two fun songs were the "Reindeer Pokey" and "There's a Reindeer on my Nose." At circle time the children used felt to make reindeer body parts and then took turns putting the reindeer together. The children also used branches to paint with and pretended they were antlers. They had fun playing with stuffed reindeer toys and little reindeer in the sensory table.

Week four was a week focusing on Christmas and Hanukkah. The class sang "Rudolph" and "Jingle Bells" while shaking bells or playing other instruments. The children made their own menorahs and finger-painted dreidels. They also matched different color bulbs and ornaments on a tree. The story glove came out again "for Five Little Dreidels."

Week five was a short week that dealt with trees. The children were able to feel the prickly pine needles on a branch and took turns raking leaves. They glued shapes together to make trees and also painted snow on a tree.



January promises to be another busy month. We welcome Miss Heather into our room as Miss Sheyla moves over to Preschool. The topics for January are: Snow-folk, Winter Activities, Hats and Penguins.

# Preschool 12 Continued

and critters, were enhanced as the Preschoolers glued an ani-



mal/critter to a sheet of construction paper, and manipulated spray bottles with white paint to create a snow shower art project. Language rhyming and math counting skills were practiced as the preschoolers were engaged in a flannel board activity/song called Ten Bears in a Bed. Preschoolers also exercised more fine motor skills as they created animal trails by dipping plastic animal feet into paint and pressing them onto paper. Next, the children took delight in enhancing more gross motor skills as they crawled into their homemade burrows designed with a blanket draped over a row of chairs. Lastly, after listening to the story The Hat, the Preschoolers enhanced their fine motor and patterning skills as they created their own prickly pal that was made of dried cut up spaghetti, and a sock cutout as a silly hat.

During the third week of December, Preschoolers enjoyed a theme on Holiday Fun. During circle time, great listening skills were noted as the children listened to their favorite story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Next, critical thinking skills were enhanced as the Preschoolers talked about why it was important to be nice and not naughty if they wanted presents from Santa. Math skills were enhanced as the children rolled a die cube, identified the number, and counted that many laminated pine cones on the felt Christmas tree on our classroom flannel board. Beautiful singing voices were heard as the class sang several Christmas songs. Jingle Bells and Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer were their favorites. During project time, the Preschoolers enhanced their fine motor skills as they made gorgeous garlands by threading Fruit Loop cereal through a string of yarn. Afterwards, the children exercised their spatial awareness skills by decorating the classroom Christmas tree with their colorful garlands. More fine motor skills, along with creative expression, was enhanced as Preschool 12 created pretend "delicious" Christmas cookies by manipulating a variety of cookie cutters. The children continued to enhance their fine motor skills as they made beautiful shining

star ornaments. At the math center, the Preschoolers ordering skills were challenged as they put stars into order of small, medium and large. Lastly, this week the children were entertained by a very funny Ventriloquist. Their listening skills were impressive. I was very proud of all of them.

To end the month, Preschool 12 was excited to have a Merry Christmas theme. All week during project time, the children enhanced their fine motor skills as they made beautiful Christmas presents for their parents. Preschool 12 continued to sing Christmas songs using their "inside" singing voices. The song the children enjoyed singing was, We Wish You A Merry Christmas. Classroom management went very smoothly this week especially when Santa's crystal ball was mentioned. To end the short week, the children enjoyed celebrating the holiday season during our classroom Christmas party. Great table manners were observed, and gentle and kind social relations were expressed.

Lastly, Happy Birthday wishes go out to Riley D. on 12/16.

My heartfelt wishes are sent to you for a New Year blessed with Peace, Love and Joy.

# Infant 6 Goes Crazy for Cotton Balls

A warm winter hello to all the families in Infant 6. Can you believe that we are already starting a new year? Together as a class (and even a family) the children in Infant 6 have grown up so fast and really have started to show their own personalities. Over the past some hands on, sensory projects.

The Infants got to finger paint a Christmas tree, make hand print reindeer and explore cotton balls. The children en-

joyed this activity. Each infant would sit at the table and touch the cotton ball then would began to squeeze it, but most of them ended up on the floor...

For physical development, the Infants and teacher would do activities that involved movement, such as follow me, letting go and more. All these activities involved using their arms and leg muscles

Celebrating the



Holidays was so much fun! All the children were dressed in their Christmas outfits and got to make a special gift to bring home to mom and dad. As a reminder, please remember to have extra clothing in your child's cubbie and check if they are getting low on wipes or diapers.

As most of you know Ms. Heather will leave Infant 6 to join the Toddlers. She is sad to leave but hopefully will see some of you again in the Toddler room!

## Center News

DZLC is growing! We are thrilled to open the 4th Preschool classroom. Ms. Sheyla has graduated along with several toddler friends to our newest class, Preschool 13. Ms. Heather has moved from Infant 6 to join the Toddler Team and Ms. Lisandra has moved from Infant 5 to 6. We are also happy to welcome Ms. Mallory Sm. to our staff full time as the assistant teacher in Infant 5. As always your support during staff changes is always appreciated.

Please remember that tuition is due each week by 8am on Wednesday to avoid a \$20 late fee.

Discovery Zone is happy to announce that we have officially entered our 10th year in business. Our success is due to the wonderful children, parents and staff we have had the good fortune to work with over the years. We know there are many options for child care and are thankful that you choose DZLC.

Please remember to send snow clothes (snow pants, hats, mittens/gloves, boots and coats) with your child *every* day. We like to bring the children outside daily as long as the weather is 32 degrees or above. Although we do have a limited number

of spare items those are reserved for the rare times that snow clothes are forgotten. Remember that if your child is unprepared s/he may be cold, wet and uncomfortable during outside play. PLEASE do not let this happen!

