



Discovery Zone Gazette

Gun Hay Fat Choy from Preschool 11

The New Year has brought Preschool 11 lots of new fun and learning. The class began January with a one week theme on I is for Ice and Snow. During this week the children learned about Ice and snow and the Letter I. They enjoyed ice cube painting, where the children took ice cubes that were filled with food coloring and slide them all over a white piece of paper creating a watercolor type painting. Preschoolers also practiced their fine motor skills while cutting out snowflakes to decorate the bulletin board. The children learned science skills as they experimented with ice and salt. The class also enjoyed a sensory experience of playing with ice and snow.

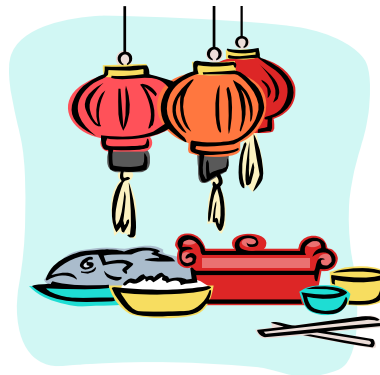
Next, Preschool 11 had a theme that the children chose! When the children were asked what are some things that they would like to learn about, they all decided they want to learn to tie their shoes. So the class spent a week working on fine motor skills. During this week, the children practiced developing and strengthening their fine motor skills. They worked on cutting, tying, pouring and writing. Some projects that Preschool 11

worked on were, rolling play dough into small balls using just the tips of their fingers, stringing beads onto yarn, cutting out shapes, and zipping jackets. It was very interesting seeing the children participate in a theme that they created.

Next, Preschool 11 learned about Martin Luther King Jr. The children learned about what he stood for and the things that his dream helped change in the world today. During this week the children discussed what dreams they have for their future they dictated these thoughts to the teacher and illustrated a picture to go along with it. During this week the children had a special "Birds on the Run" we were introduced to several endangered birds. The children got to pet them and learn lots of fun facts about all of them. Finally, the children created a large bulletin sized rainbow as a group. They used their hand prints to create each row of the rainbow. The children learned that a rainbow stands for diversity and this is something that MLK believed very strongly in.

Finally, Preschool 11 wrapped up January with a one week theme on the Chi-

nese New Year. The children learned about the traditions of the Chinese culture. They used their fine motor skills to make marble painting "Fireworks" pictures with tons of beautiful colors. They also used their fine motor skills to paint Chinese words and practiced using scissors while cutting and making Chinese lanterns. We had a fun and snow filled January! Just a reminder we



have Show and Share every Thursday. During this time the children can bring in something that is related to the theme or the letter of the week that can we found on the top the daily report.

Discovery Zone Learning Center

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Important Dates

- © 2/14 Valentine's Day
- © 2/18-25 Fun Days for School Agers
- © 2/24 Special: Taylor Pup-pets

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Toddler 1 Has a Hoot With Hats

January started off with a flurry of activity and the fun just snowballed! The first week, Toddler 1 enjoyed a unit on Snowfolk. The Toddlers painted snowmen on wax paper and then hung them on the windows for the sun to shine through. The children played with snowmen and snow in the sensory table and tried scooping up snow with a shovel into some buckets. As always the story glove was a hit with "Five Little Snowmen." The children had fun making snowmen to eat by spreading cream cheese on crackers and decorating them.

The following week found Toddler 1 busy with Winter Activities. The children discovered that there are many activities you can do in the snow. They had fun rolling up socks into balls and pretend-

ing they were snowballs. The snowballs were flying everywhere! One story the class enjoyed was Ezra Jack Keats' The Snowy Day. The Toddlers built math skills as they matched mittens by shape and pattern. Hats, mittens and scarves were put into the sensory table so they could try out their self-help skills with dressing. The children learned about animals and camouflage as they painted snow on a polar bear and noticed they were both white.

The next week was a unit on hats. The children got creative by decorating their own hats. One song that was enjoyed by all was "There's a Hat on my Head." After reading The Wind Blew the children used a blowdryer to be the wind and see what they were able to blow

around.. The children sorted hats by color and discovered which hat belonged to which person.

Penguins was the next unit Toddler 1 enjoyed. Penelope Penguin and friends came to visit the class and many happy hours were spent with them. The children made penguin prints using potatoes and another time using their own handprints. They glued penguins on icebergs and counted how many penguins they had. The Toddlers built gross motor skills as they tried waddling like penguins and tossing fish to the penguins.

Toddler 1 would like to welcome Madison and her family to our class. Themes for February include Groundhogs, Hearts and Valentines, The Mail, and Teeth.



Infant 6 Has "Snow" Much Fun

Happy New Year everyone!

Infant 6 started the year with the "Bringing in the New Year" theme, and finished with the "snow" theme. The theme for Snow started right on time for the snow storm we had in January. The children in Infant 6 enjoyed coloring in penguins with markers, and hand-painted mittens for their cold hands.

To build their language and communication development, the children practiced



producing babbling sounds by "reading" and independently turning the pages.

They also associated words with actions and practiced using gestures to achieve an outcome. They worked on their cognitive development by developing object permanence to engage in intentional behaviors solve a problem. They also began practicing how to classify similar objects.

The children developed their social and emotional development by engaging in social interactions with an adult, learned to cope with separation anxiety and acted deliberately to maintain contact with an adult, and contin-

ued developing a sense of trust. Physical development, was met by developing eye-hand coordination skills by using the ulnar grasp, refined motor skills by practicing how to stand by a piece of furniture using one hand for support, and strengthened lower back muscles by sitting in an upright position with assistance.

It has been a great adventure for all in Infant 6 as Ms. Lisandra joined the classroom. As a reminder for the parents, don't forget to label all of your child's containers and bottles.

Preschool 10 Has a Dream

January was a month filled with lots of snow! Preschool 10 jumped into the new year learning about snow and snowmen, fairy tales, MLK and I have a dream and last letter recognition.

The class began January focused on snow and snowmen and their favorite things about them. The children got to use their fine motor skills and problem solving skills by doing a snowman maze which they had a lot of fun working on together. They got to size five different snowmen and each child got a turn putting them in order from smallest to biggest or biggest to smallest.

The class enjoyed a book about snowmen and the children got to use their imaginations and draw their own picture from a scene in the book. Language skills were built through a variety of new songs.. The class made snow globes out of baby food jars, water and glitter and were amazed to see their own finished products. Preschool did a science project with borax and water to make snowflakes. Each child was so proud of the snowflake they produced.

The next week, Preschool 10 focused on fairy tales and nursery rhymes. The class sang and acted out the song "Five Little

Ducks" and then got to dance around the class pretending they were ducks in free play. Then, Preschoolers focused on the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears and did a sizing project by putting the chairs, the beds and the porridge in order like the book. Next, was the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" which the children loved! The children practiced spatial awareness as they put "Humpty" back together again using all his body parts. Nursery Rhymes and fairy tales was a hit in Preschool 10!

Next, the class celebrated Martin Luther King all week. The children learned about his

Preschool 10 Continued

importance and what he did. They listened to his speech and then decorated a cloud and wrote what their dreams are. All Preschoolers worked together to make a handprint rainbow symbolizing diversity. The children worked on patterning with the letters M L K. Discovery Zone was excited



to see a special about different birds as well.

Ending the month of January, Preschool 10 worked on letter recognition. Each child learned what letter their name starts with and used their counting skills to see how many letters are in their names. The class went over the alphabet and what sound each letter makes. Everyone practiced writing the alphabet and singing

the song many times. Preschool 10 played a fun game of name bingo where everyone was a winner.

As you can see the month of January was full of fun, learning and a lot of snow. The new year has started off great and is already flying by. Don't forget every Friday is Show and Share! Send your child with something that has to do with our theme of the week and the letter of the week.

You Can "Count" on Learning in Toddler 2

To start off the month of January, the children of Toddler 2 learned all about winter animals. To enhance their knowledge, the class sang songs at circle involving the many animals, such as birds and bears. To get the children up and moving, they went on a bear hunt in the classroom. The teachers hid stuffed animal bears around the room and the children were asked to go find them. They also worked on their math skills this week as they sorted colored bears by size, used a shape sorter, and did several puzzles. The children got to show off their jumping skills by jumping over stuffed animal bears. The children of Toddler 2 love to use their self expression, so they each got to create a home for their "winter animal" using a box. They all really enjoyed playing with each other and looking at the different homes. To finish off the week, they heard a story called The Mitten. They took part in crawling races and silly dancing to enhance their gross motor skills, and every one had a blast!

During the second week of January, the children of Toddler 2 did a theme on music. At circle time throughout the week, they were introduced to a variety of instruments and got to experience the sounds that each one makes. They also did some singing and dancing to music. In the middle of the week, the children made their own

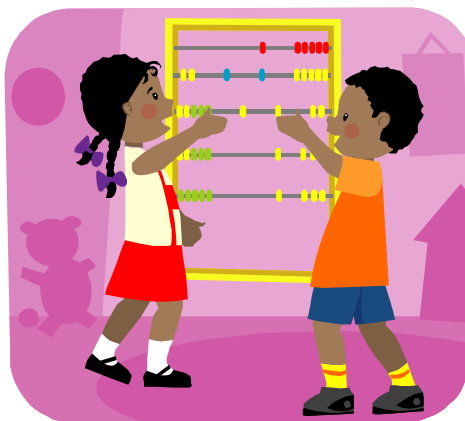
shaker instruments and then got a chance to make music with them. The children really used a lot of movement as they did scarf dancing, skating to music, drawing to music and creating their own marching band. Throughout the week, the children enjoyed playing with the kitchen set brought into the room and using the dress up clothes in the sensory table. The children of Toddler 2 loved being able to experiment with all the different types of instruments.

As we neared the end of January, the children of Toddler 2 worked on numbers. They sang a new song each day that involved counting with basic numbers. They frequently worked on number recognition as they painted numbers, jumped over numbers, matched numbers, and played musical numbers. The children also read several books involving numbers and counting this week. Five Little Ducks is always a classroom favorite as the children join in counting down the ducks. The children also got to listen to a story on tape this week. The children had plenty

of playtime in the gym to play with the big foam blocks. The children also used colored chalk on black paper and made some very nice pictures that were sent home to the parents.

Toddler 2 ended the extremely snowy month of January with a theme on snow and winter. For some sensory fun, the Toddler 2 teachers put snow into the sensory table for the children to explore. They played many games throughout the week involving matching and locating a hidden winter object, such as a snowman. The children also learned some new songs this week in which they had to dance like snowflakes and pretend to be little snowmen. After they danced like snowflakes, they had

the opportunity to make their own. Towards the middle of the week, the sensory table was filled with ice. To work on their self expression, the children ended the week with painting a snow picture. They also did a lot of work on their fine motor skills as they colored pictures with markers



and played with clothespins. As always, the children enjoyed hearing and sharing stories about the winter time and snowy days.

There's No Business Like "Snow" Business for Preschool 13

It has been an exciting month full of many adventures and fun events. It has been a pleasure to see how the children have grown in such a short time. Preschool 13 is slowly getting use to the new routine and curriculum. In order to challenge the children, a literacy week has been incorporated in January. New books will be presented to the class to enhance language and literacy skills. I know the Preschoolers will welcome the challenge.

"Me, Myself and I" was the topic for the first week of January as the children settled into their new class. This week was meant to allow the children and teacher to interact with one another in order to get to know each other. One of the most exiting projects was the children's self portraits. They truly took their time to evaluate where their facial features were and to distinguish the color of their hair and eyes. This project demonstrated the children's understanding spatial awareness. The children were encouraged to explore the classroom and the Dramatic Play center is quickly becoming a classroom favorite. To end the week, DZLC celebrated Three Kings Day with a PJ Party. Fun was had by all!

Winter weather was all around as Preschool 13 learned about the win-

ter season during the second week of January. The children enjoyed a sensory experience while exploring snow and food coloring. They also enjoyed making a winter storm scene by using shaving cream and paint to create a 3-D picture. The children built self help skills as they attempted dressing in snow clothes to enjoy some pretend sledding.

To continue with the snow theme the third week, Preschool 13 was able to explore science through snowmen. The children demonstrated a cognitive understanding of science matters as they learned the effect heat has on snow. The children created melting snowman to visually illustrate what would happen to poor Mr. Snowman if the sun came out. One hit song was "Five Little Snowmen" in which the children got to act out the song through finger-play and dramatic voices.

To end the month, the class celebrated a week on winter literacy. The children were captivated by The Snowy Day. This week is the beginning of a six month long project in which the

children will read and illustrate a picture from a famous book. The children were able to work on developing their own sequence of events by creating their own snowy day. It was remarkable to see how the children were able to retain the story line from beginning till end. Preschool 13 took this experience one step further as they illustrated the page of the book where Peter uses a stick to knock the snow down from the tree.

It has been my pleasure to work with each and every child in Preschool 13. I know that they will continue to grow in all aspects of learning. It is truly an honor to be part of their daily learning

experience I hope to contribute on planting a seed of love of learning. For the month of February Preschool 13 will explore Shadows and Groundhogs, Valentine Day, Emotions and Love Literacy.



Infant 5 Celebrates the New Year

The beginning of 2011 brought new changes to Infant 5. We welcomed two new families into our classroom; adding two new girls to our brood of boys! We happily welcome Sophie G. and her family, and Alyssa L. and her family!. Also, we welcomed Mallory Smith as the new teacher. Best wishes to



Lisandra as she moved next door to her own classroom.

The first half of January was spent "Ringing in the New Year." The second half was spent focusing on shapes. The project for this was sponge painting with different shapes of sponges. For language and communication the babies practiced babbling sounds and imitated another person's behavior or actions. As for cognitive development they reached for toys, sorted shapes, and chose which hand was holding

a hidden toy. Social and emotional development was increased as the children played with other babies, showed them emotions such as frustration, and found a new toy. Lastly, for physical development the infants filled a bucket and dumped it, pulled up to sit, and practiced walking.

For the month on February the infant room is going to explore Arctic Animals and do a sensory project with snow.

Learning Was Hot and the Children Were Cool in Preschool 12

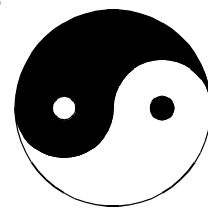
Preschool 12 started off a snowy month with a snowy theme. The children built gross motor skills as they tossed "snowballs" into a basket and acted out motions to "Snowman, Snowman, Turn Around." Math skills were the focus as the children organized circles and snowman pictures by size. The children enjoyed expressing themselves creatively as they painted mittens. Preschoolers also built language and literacy skills with the activities "Snow Rhyme" and "Smitten Mitten."

Next, Preschool 12 focused on language and literacy with a week on Nursery Rhymes. The children were introduced to a variety of Nursery Rhymes such as "Little Miss Muffet," "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears," and "Sing a Song of Sixpence." The children built pre-reading skills as they listened to the stories as well as playing "Rhyming Bingo" and sequencing Nursery Rhyme pictures. Motor skills were also enhanced as the children jumped distances like "Jack be Nimble" and manipulating materials while marble painting.

Towards the end of January, the children of Preschool 12 learned all about getting along with others, which went along with Martin Luther King Day. To start the week, the children were educated on the important ideas that Martin Luther King believed in and then introduced to the concept of getting along with others. The children sang new songs about friendship and being kind to others during circle time. During the middle of the week, Discovery Zone had a special called Birds on the Run where the children were introduced to a variety of birds. Throughout the week, the children in Preschool 12 shared ideas of how to be a kind friend. One project involved coloring a heart containing their own ways that they show kindness. To finish off the week, the children heard the story, Three Billy Goats Gruff and then did special activities surrounding the idea of the story. They "stomped" over and "tiptoed" under a bridge to recreate the story.

To finish off the month of January, Preschool 12 enjoyed a theme on opposites. The week began with an in-

roduction of opposites. The children reviewed some basic opposites and learned a new one each day. Each project related to an opposite that the children learned that day. They made drawings using big and little paper, drew pictures from underneath the table, instead of on top of the table, and also made pictures on the front and back of a piece of paper. They had a lot of practice learning all of their opposites with the many books, pictures, and cards containing opposites. To enhance their gross motor skills they did a different activity each day such as running/walking, stopping/going, walking forwards/backwards, going fast/slow, and standing/sitting.



Preschool 12 is happy to have Ms. Mallory substitute for Ms. Erin as she recovers from a back injury. We all wish Ms. Erin a speedy recovery and look forward to her return.

Toddler 3 Es Muy Inteligente

Toddler 3 began the month of January with a theme on "Winter." The children learned several new songs pertaining to winter during this week. Science was explored when the Toddlers passed around an ice cube and discussed what makes water freeze and what makes water melt. Color recognition was enhanced through a mitten matching game. Fine motor was improved upon when the children made marble mittens. Toddler 3 also enjoyed several different sensory experiences when they played with "snow" in the sensory table and made ice paintings. Shape recognition and spatial awareness were increased through snowman pictures.

For the second week in January, Toddler 3 was exposed to a theme on

"Traditional Songs and Stories." The children sang some old favorites such as "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Through this week the Toddlers fine motor was increased upon through pig paintings and a spider web. Toddler 3 had another sensory experience when they played with playdough and used the various cutters to create different animals. Lastly, cooking and math skills were enhanced when the class baked their own bread for snack.

Toddler 3 has shown an immense interest in the world of Spanish, so for the third week of January the Toddlers had a theme on just that. The children



learned several different songs in Spanish. One of which has become a classroom favorite called



"Pollito Chicken." The children worked on their recognition of the colors in Spanish. They were also able to taste test different Spanish foods. Toddlers participated in a parade around the classroom with various Spanish instruments to increase gross motor skills. Fine motor was enhanced when they colored Spanish words and practiced their enunciation of them. To end the week, Spanish rice was placed into the sensory table for the children to engage in a sensory experience.

Toddler 3 Continued

In closing out the month of January, Toddler 3 explored the world of "Opposites." Science was enhanced when the children discussed the outside of an apple and the inside of the apple and the differences and similarities they had. Toddlers had to use their cognitive thinking when they did an animal sort in which they organized the animals from smallest to largest. The children learned a new song, "Sing a Song of Opposites" in which they sang about all the different types of oppo-

sites we see everyday. Up and Down was explored when the children sang another favorite "Little Red Wagon." Inside and outside was explained through a sensory experience of rice and containers where the children placed the rice inside and poured it back out. Big and little were discussed when the Toddlers chose to either paint a picture on a little piece of paper or big piece of paper on an easel. Tall and short was discussed when the children created big towers and little towers from the

blocks and compared them with one another. Long and short was examined when Toddler 3 designed tall snakes and short snakes out of playdough. The concept of in and out was explored when the children participated in a truck maze in which they could push the trucks into the tunnel and out of the tunnel.

Toddler 3 would like to welcome Kaylyn and her family to the class! We look forward to a great year!



Center News

Remember that the State requires annual physicals for every child enrolled in child care. The state of Connecticut has also created new requirements for children to have Hep A and Influenza vaccinations. There are Medical forms located on the bulletin board near the tuition box. It is a good idea to take a form with you to each visit to the pediatrician. Then you know your child's records will always be up to date. We would also like to thank everyone on their prompt response to our request for the newest immunizations.

CT has been hit with an especially hard winter this year. After 10 years of operation, Discovery Zone had it's first (and second) closing in just a month.

We want to sincerely thank all parents for being so supportive of our difficult decision to close.

Please remember to call or e-mail if your child will be absent for the day. Particularly on a day of inclement weather, we can often allow staff to stay home and off the roads. Also, please call if your child will arrive after 10am so we do not mistakenly assume that s/he will be absent.

Also, please call ahead to claim space for your School Ager to attend on Snow Days. Our school age enrollment has grown considerably in the past year and we need to ensure that space will be available for your child(ren) to attend.

Finally, as many of you may know, Christine will be on maternity leave beginning early February and returning May 9th. Please direct all questions, concerns and e-mails to Robin or Stacey in her absence.

