



Discovery Zone Gazette

The Infant's Count Down the New Year!

The infant room would like to wish Elliott & his family luck at the Columbia center! We would also like to wish Lucas a happy first birthday on January 14th.

The month of December was exciting for the infants. They enjoyed finger and food painting of a variety of Holiday images. The children worked on Communication/ Language, Social, Emotion and cognitive skills all involving themes about the Holidays. They loved playing with stuffed reindeer, snowman & a



stuffed Santa Claus. They also were excited to clap along with favorite Christmas songs such as "Jingle Bells."

The children were busy enhancing each developmental stage from rolling over, crawling, pulling themselves up and furniture walking!

The infants will welcome the new year by painting musical instruments.. We will simulate the "dropping of the ball" and practice counting down the seconds like we do on New Year's Eve. We will read books

about snow, penguins and polar bears. The children will do more hand and feet print for the development of their sensory awareness. The infants will also develop their sense of cold with snow!

We would like to thank each family for their generosity to the staff in appreciation of our efforts with their children. We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!



Discovery Zone Learning Center

December 2009

Important Dates:

- January Fun Days are Monday 1/18 & Tuesday 1/19

Toddler's Light Up the Holidays!

We would like to start off by welcoming Emma, Audrey and their families to our classroom.

The first week of December the children learned about things we used in the kitchen such as, tongs to pick cotton balls and scooped with large spoons. They also made gingerbread houses and explored gingerbread play dough.

The second week, the children studied about Kwanza and Chanukah. They used hand eye coordination to toss latkes (cardboard cir-

cles) into a frying pan. For a group project they made Kwanza Candles. The children also experimented in spinning dreidels on the table.

The third week, the children jumped into the theme of "Holiday Fun!" They glitter painted a Christmas tree, kooshball painted red and green stockings. They made a Christmas wreath out of green handprints.

The fourth week, the children used hand eye coordination to make nosey reindeer. They painted candy

canes by rolling marble with red paint on them. They also made a Santa hat by gluing cotton balls on the rim of the hat and one on the tip.

The last week the children danced the week away with the theme, "Dancing & Musical Instruments". They made paper plate tambourines filled with macaroni and got to dance with tap shoes! They also will explore a guitar and make their own out of tissue boxes.

We would like to wish you a Happy New Year!

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Preschool A Hibernates!

December has come and gone by so quickly because Preschool A was so busy!



The first week of December we learned about Hibernation.

The children took a nature walk to explore nature, made dream catchers and told stories about what the children would dream about while hibernating! While working on our story, the children language and communication skills, as well as fine motor and imaginative skills.

The second week the children learned about Arctic Animals. They went "ice fishing" in the sensory table which working on gross motor and communication skills. The children made sugar cube igloos to help decorate the classroom, take a look!

This month we made a lot of different holiday crafts, such as: gingerbread house, which were delicious! The children worked on matching, shapes, colors and sharing when playing the wreath match game, which they really enjoyed.



Our next theme was 'Holidays Around the World'. The children learned about many different holidays that other children celebrate around the world. Kwanza was the first focus, where the children learned that Kwanza stands for, "first fruits". We made Kwanza mats where we focused on patterning and fine motor skills. Next we focused on Hanukkah where we painted a dreidel and learned about the menorah. Next we learned

about Christmas and its traditions. We made paper Santa's where we focused on sensory and creative art.

The last week of the month Preschool A learned about Winter and all of the wonderful things about it. We got to play with snow in the sensory table and focus on creativity and fine motor with holiday shaped cookie cutters in play dough and snowflakes to decorate the room.

2009 was lots of fun and we can't wait to start a new year! Here are some of the topics we will focus on next year: colors, five senses and science. Everyone have a safe and Happy New Year!

Preschool B has a Sweet Tooth from the Holidays!

Preschool B had a lot of fun during December.

Our first two weeks focused on Arctic Animals. We built Igloos out of sugar cubes and frosting. This activity helped work on the children's fine motor skills. The children also made penguins where they had to count out goldfish to feed their penguins, helping to work on their counting skills.

We had two weeks all about the different holidays that are this time of year. The children loved being able to

decorate our pink Christmas tree. This activity focused on getting the children to work together. They also worked very hard on their Christmas cards and gifts for their parents. Both activities focused on small muscle movements. The children and Ms. Kaitlynn hope that the families enjoyed the gifts! Stockings were made and hung in our reading center. That project focused on lacing and the children had lots of



fun creating them.

The PJ day was a big hit! We read the Polar Express and created their own bell necklaces. The children were able to work on their small muscle skills by stringing the bells.

Ms. Brittany and Ms. Kaitlynn and the class would like to wish Khanur and Amy a Happy Birthday.

We hope that everyone enjoys their holiday season!

Center News

Please remember to call the center as soon as possible if your child is going to be out for the day, so that we can staff accordingly.

School Age Parents: Keep an eye open for January and February Fun Day sign ups!

We have another group of staff members going for their CDA's!

Please keep all medical records updated. If you have questions please find Amanda.

