



# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Toddler 3 Gets to Know One Another

To start off the month of December, Toddler 3 did a week theme on Games to get to know one another and make a smooth transition into the new building. The children were introduced to a variety of songs at circle time and were shown their name tags. The children were introduced to the calendar song, weather song and morning song. During this week the children also engaged in several activities such as puzzles, play dough and the water table.



For the second week of December, the toddlers enjoyed a week theme on Christmas. Children learned many songs at circle relating to Christmas and also participated in several games. Fine motor skills were enhanced through snow paintings

and a Christmas collage. The children engaged in a mixed media project and expressed their creativity when they made ornaments for a tree. Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they made reindeer footprints. Lastly, toddlers improved shape recognition when they put together a Christmas tree.

The children then began to work on their Christmas cards and Christmas ornaments and enhanced their fine motor through these various activities.

Next, the children learned all about Hanukkah. The children enjoyed a taste testing activity as they sampled Matzo crackers at circle time. Their cooking and math skills were improved when we made Latkes. Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience again when they created handprint Menorahs. And to finish out the week, children used their fine

motor skills by making a candelabra.

To end out the month of December, Toddler 3 learned about New Years. Fine motor skills and creativity were implemented when



the toddlers made New Years hats and firework pictures with chalk. Musical expression was achieved when the toddler room went on a musical parade with different instruments. Gross motor skills were worked on through a ball activity. And shape recognition was enhanced when we practiced using the shape sorter at circle time.

For the month of January we will explore the following themes: Winter, Traditional Songs and Transportation.

### Discovery Zone Learning Center

Volume 3, Issue

December 2009

### Important Dates:

- 1/13 Fun Day Sign ups due.
- 1/15 Early Dismissal for School Ageds
- 1/18 Fun Day. School Ageds will roller skate.

## Toddler 1 Is Crazy for Candy Canes

As the year comes to an end Toddler 1 remembers the events that have occurred throughout the year. We like to recall the children that have moved on to preschool. As we pass them in the halls, we love to see the growth with in them both physically and emotionally. We are so proud of all our students both past and present. As we all know our long waited move has finally come and we are excited to find out what adventures it will bring us. Like always we like to end the year like we started full of goals that we will meet through out

the next year.



December will be a month of celebration. We started the month with a week on family. The toddlers learned about different families and their traditions. We used our creative skills as we composed a family portrait that

illustrates the people in our families. The children learned about size seriation as we compared their parents hand print with that of their own. The children also discussed the different roles that every one has in their family and the importance of these roles.

Toddler 1 saw red and white with a week on candy canes. The children used all of their senses as they made smelly paint with crushed candy canes and white paint. Toddlers explored number recognition as they counted the stripes on

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## Toddler 1 Continued

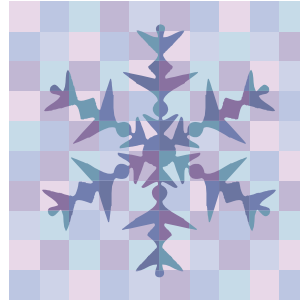
candy canes. The children also added their own stripes as we used tissue paper and glue to make pictures of candy canes. The children ended the week by making yummy peppermint cake.

Next, Toddler 1 focused on reindeer. The children enjoyed making reindeer ornaments. Reindeer plush toys were added to the class to promote sharing skills. We ended this week with creative art and painting with antlers (tree branches.)

Finally, Toddler 1 will put an end to the year by celebrating holidays around the world. Toddlers discussed the different holidays that they celebrate and the different activities that take place in these days.

The children got an opportunity to gain knowledge about holidays such as Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. We encouraged the children's curiosity as we allow them to ask questions about the different festivities.

Color recognition skills were enhanced as the children sorted the lights on a Christmas tree. To promote language and literacy the children enjoyed books such as "My first Kwanzaa, Hanukkah Oh Hanuk-



*kah, and Bear Stays up for Christmas.*

For the next year we hope to introduce a curriculum filled with new and fresh themes that will enhance children's cognitive emotional and physical growth.

We will like to welcome Gianna, G., Izabella G., Jakob R. and their families into our room. For the month of January we will concentrate on winter themes such as snow, snowmen, bears and winter literacy. It's been a pleasure to watch all of the children grow and develop through the year, and we hope to continue making learning a positive experience in their lives.

## There's No Business Like Snow Business for the Infants

For the month of December, the infant room celebrated and discussed a handful of holidays and explored through their senses. We built little snowmen with snow from outside and discussed how it felt on their hands. Until it melted away into water puddles creating a whole new sensory experience to enjoy. We also painted snowmen in a winter wonderland with sponges for



the bodies, and their fingertips for the falling snow. The babies also made wonderful holiday cards for their parents with their feet and hand prints to make reindeer. They also posed for pictures and sponge painted ornaments for their trees at home.

The infant room would like to give a warm welcome to Evan L. and his family, along with Elliott B. and his

family to our classroom. We would like to wish a very happy 1st birthday to Ryan A. as well!!!!

# WELCOME

## Preschool 10 Spins into the New Year

We hope you all enjoyed the holidays, your new years and all of this snow. The children sure love playing outside in all of the snow, we just hope it warms up a bit. December was a busy month preparing for and celebrating all of the holidays. We started with a week of adjusting to our new center and ended with welcoming the new year.

Adjusting to the new center was our theme for the first week of December. We started off with a tour around the center and the playgrounds. We practiced writing our names to use as labels for art folders. The children loved popping the bubble wrap that was in the sensory table as well as playing with the empty boxes in blocks. The transition to the new center went very smoothly, thanks to every ones help.

Our second week theme was about writing and the alphabet. We practiced writing the word bear after listening to Speedy the bears weekend. We reviewed upper and lower case letters and practiced them by paring all the letters using cut outs. The



children enjoyed painting a picture of a animal that began with the letter they chose.

Hanukkah and Kwanzaa were the themes for the third week. Everyone enjoyed our Menorah craft that we made out of toilet paper rolls, paint and tissue paper. At circle one day we learned about the symbols that decorate the dreidle and how to spin it. The dreidles remained in the math center the rest of the week since they were such a big hit among all of the children. We talked about the colors and the history of Kwanzaa as well as colored coloring pages of the Kinarra.

Christmas was our next theme. In art we cut out pictures and glued them to paper to create a wish list. The children used the shape of a star to create Santa Clause and our hand prints for Christmas trees. They also practiced tracing their own hands and cutting them out to create a class holiday wreath that decorated our math shelf. To end the short week we celebrated the holiday by having a fun day that included everyone playing in the snow and

watching a movie, "Rudolph".

The final week of December consisted of welcoming the new year. We made party hats and played with confetti in the sensory table. We talked about clocks and how when both hands point to the number 12 on new year's eve night it will be midnight and 2010. To practice using the clocks to tell time we made our own clocks using paper plates. Show and Share for the letter "I" proved to be a difficult one so as a class we created ice cream cones using paper cut outs.

Now that the new year is here, as a class we have agreed to make very good choices and prepare our older friends for kindergarten. January plans include a week of discussing the 5 senses and putting them to the test. Other themes include winter in which we will bring the snow into our class room to explore, as well as winter animals. As always please feel free to contact Miss Heather or Miss Jessica with any comments or concerns. Hope you all enjoy the snow and the new year!

## Preschool 12 Gets Ready for Rudolf

Preschool 12 was all about the Holidays in December. We started learning the traditions and symbols of Hanukkah. The children practiced listening skills while they listened to a story called, Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights by Leslie Kimmelman. Then Preschoolers learned how to spin a fun toy called a dreidel. The children also demonstrated fine motor skills and practiced ordinal numbers while they made colorful, marvelous menorahs.



Next, Preschool 10 started to learn about Christmas. The children sang Christmas songs and read books. A class favorite book in our Literacy center was, Little Rabbit's Christmas by Brian Bartle because it was made out of cloth that looked like a suitcase with a handle and a zipper attached. Inside this book were several hands-on manipulative story pieces. Fine-motor skills were truly put to good use while reading this fun interactive book.

Preschoolers took delight in the creative

art center as they manipulated art supplies to create glittery pinecones and beautiful picture ornaments. The children also made decorations such as candy canes, a wreath with a candle, and a Styrofoam decorated Christmas tree, all handmade with love for our families. In the math center, the children practiced counting, sorting, sequencing, threading and patterning with some fun Christmas pattern manipulatives.

Next Preschool 11 learned all about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. The children practiced gross-motor skills by "flying" like Rudolph, with our red "sticker" noses, into Ms. Robin's office serenaded her with the song "Rudolf." Preschoolers continued to practice gross-motor skills and learn about body parts by participating in an activity called Colorful Reindeer Noses. Then the children lined up and tossed colorful gift bows into a box. I think there may be a few baseball pitchers in our classroom!



We ended the holiday fun by

watching a favorite holiday movie, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Our last week of the month was a short one and Preschool 12 started to prepare for the New Year. We sang New Year's songs such as, "Give a Cheer for the New Year!" The children also created fun party hats, made cool pool bracelets, and danced with our maracas as we practiced counting to TEN!

Lastly, my heartfelt wishes are sent to you for a New Year blessed with peace, love and joy.

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## Toddler 2 Can Taste Success

Toddler 2 started out the month of December learning and exploring our beautiful new building. The children took part in setting up our room and picking new and exciting toys to add to the room. Besides exploring our room we walked through the whole building and saw other classes, bathrooms, and the new gym. Most of all the children really enjoyed going on nature walks around the new building. The children learned about new animals that live around the area and also what is swimming in our pond.



The second week of December was all about winter animals. We started out the week by talking about winter animals, what they ate, where they live and hibernation. The children worked on their language skills and attempts to locate, when the teacher hid bears through out the classroom and the children each had a turn to find the bears. Two favorite stories that were read this week were "Sleep Bear Sleep" and "Animals in the Winter". The children each were given a cardboard

box and made homes for their bears to hibernate in. The children got to decorate the Bear's house with stickers and by coloring with makers and crayons, by doing this the children were using their fine motor skills.

The next week was all about Christmas! During circle the children and teachers sang songs about Christmas and winter, props were provided such as bells, snowmen and reindeer. Through out this week we have been teaching the children about giving, while we were making Christmas gifts for their families and troops over seas. The children also used creative expression and social skills by dancing around the room to all types of music.

The last two weeks we focused on our five senses and numbers. While teaching about our senses, for project we introduced taste testing. The children enjoyed candy canes and Christmas cookies. The vocabulary was great, some examples were "It's crunchy, Janie" "more please?" "I don't



like it." While learning numbers one through five, the children worked on gross motor skills by jumping over numbers. The also learned numerical order and size by counting different marshmallows. Some of the stories that were read were, "Five Little Ducklings" "Let's Count" and "Ask me about animals"

For the month of January Toddler 2 Units will be on snow, winter, socks, clouds and transportation.



## Preschool 11 Celebrates the Season

Preschool 11 started December by touring and exploring our new building. The children actively participated in setting up our classroom as well as getting familiar with their new surroundings. We are so happy to be in our new space and the children have adjusted nicely.

Next, Preschool 11 focused on Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The children enjoyed the story Hanukkah Journey that introduced them to the history of the holiday. The children built fine motor skills as they played and painted with dreidles. Preschoolers learned about Kwanzaa while enjoying a sensory experience of painting with corn. Finally, the children increased their vocabularies as they were introduced



to new words based on these holidays. Finally, the children focused on Christmas. They learned the importance of giving and not just receiving as they worked hard on surprises for Moms and Dads. Preschoolers built fine motor skills as they cut, glued, and wrote out special cards. The children were encouraged to increase language skills through dictation. Science skills and sense awareness were focused on as the children made peppermint bark. Preschool 11 really enjoyed the books Frosty and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. By the end of the week the children were able to recite both books from memory!

Finally, we ended the month with our Preschool 10 friends by celebrating the New Year. The children built numerical and time awareness as they created clocks. Creative expression



was the focus as they created party hats. Themes for the New Year include

extending New Year celebrations, Winter Animals, and I Have a Dream. Preschool 11 is happy to welcome Brianna B. and family to our class. Finally I would like to remind parents to please send snow clothes *every* day. We will go outside daily as long as the weather is 32 degrees or above.

## Center News

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 they may be cold, wet and uncomfortable during outside play. PLEASE do not let this happen!

Thank-you to all the parents who were so patient and understanding during our transition to the new building. We are all SO excited to be in our new space and the children are adjusting nicely.

Please take note that Stacey has joined the administrative team. Stacey will be here to address any administrative needs that you may have such as scheduling questions, receipts, and any needed paperwork etc.

