

Mrs. Leopold's Pre-Kindergarten Newsletter

Week of January 16-20

Weekly Content Standards

COG 1 Engages in Scientific inquiry

COG 9 Understands and participates in conversations

CRE 3 Represents experiences and fantasies in pretend play

Circle Time: We talked all about the season of winter. We are talking about the different clothing we are now wearing and the changes taking place outside. We talked about the temperature outside and how cold it needs to be for stuff to freeze outside. The magic number is 32 degrees. We read a variety of wonderful winter books including The Jacket I Wear in the Snow, The Wild Toboggan Ride, and Winter Rabbit. We sang songs about winter as well.

We have been singing the Alphabet Rap at school. This is a song to help us learn the sound of each letter. An alphabet card came home earlier in the week for your child to use as a reference when they sing you the song. The song/chant is simple... "A is for apple, apple, apple, A is for apple, a-a-a (short sound of the letter a)." The song continues saying each letter and its sound. We have been playing fun games with alphabet letters such as making our bodies into letters and using our fingers to draw letters in the sky. Try playing with letters at home.

Art:

Ice cube painting: We froze liquid watercolors in ice cube trays then painted with them as if they were popsicles. As the ice melted the color came onto our papers. They dry shiny as well.

Puffy paint: We painted with glue and shaving cream mixed together. When it dries, it is puffy.

Model magic: We used model magic quick drying clay to create unique designs.

Snowpeople: After constructing two group snow people we decided to design our own mini snow boy or girl. We traced and cut out three circles then added the details. Of course we gave our snow boy or girl a name.

Small group: We played mitten match and did our best to match various decorative mittens.

We also played Winter Bingo, trying to match the letters of winter words to our game boards. We used mini marshmallows as our place markers. We are getting better at letter naming and letter matching; Please try to practice at home.

We are playing the game dress the paper snowmen using hats, scarves, mittens and other accessories.

Science: We did an experiment by placing water in containers in different places, including our windowsill, the freezer, refrigerator and outside. We predicted that some of the water would freeze. We noticed that we predicted correctly on the containers outside and on the windowsill. The only water that froze completely was the container in the freezer. It went from a liquid to

a solid. We then tried different ways to melt the ice (COG 1). Some of us blew on it; others just watched it and others even put their warm fingers on it. It took all day, but by the end of the day the ice had disappeared. It was water again.

Important notes:

Send your child to school with mittens or gloves and a hat. It is chilly when we go outside.

We were treated to a group of talented musicians today from Bristow Middle School. It is their Select groups.

We also had a visit this morning from Beth Raegan from the Mohegan Tribe Counsel of Elders. Her Mohegan name is Morning Deer. She taught us a dance as well as told us a great story. All stories teach people a lesson. We learned an important lesson about a crow and his voice. Morning Deer came dressed in her regalia and showed us her walking stick. She left us with two presents for our classroom to keep us happy and healthy and to wish us goodness. Thank you to Grace's mom for setting this up.

Homework: We have been working on writing and copying letters. At home, you could write a few words out for your child to copy. Doing this allows your child the opportunity to practice letter formation as well as tracking letters in order. Try writing both upper and lower case letters. This practice will help your child feel more confident when it comes to writing. Thanks.

Important information:

Next Friday, January 27 we will be having a Hibernation Day. Your child will be asked to come to school wearing pajamas. Look for stuffed animal for him/her to bring in that hibernates. More information to follow.

On Tuesday, February 7 we will be taking a field trip to Stew Leonard's Market. A permission slip came home earlier last Friday for this trip. Please fill out and return as soon as possible with the \$2.00 cash. Thanks.

Parent Teacher conferences are coming up in early March (March 7-10). A sign-up sheet will be coming out in the next couple of weeks... keep your eye for it.

Reminder:

There will be no school due to President's Day vacation, February 20 and 21.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Have a nice weekend,

Mrs. Leopold and Mrs. Burnett

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