

Mrs. Leopold's Pre-Kindergarten Newsletter  
Week of January 2-6

Weekly Content Standards

CRE 2 Draws and paints to represent own ideas  
COG 14 Uses writing to convey meaning  
COG 7 Demonstrates spatial awareness

Circle Time: Happy New Year 2017!

We learned about Epiphany which is celebrated on January 6, just twelve days after Christmas. In many countries this is called Three King's Day; it commemorates the visit of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem bearing gifts for baby Jesus. Spanish-speaking people traditionally celebrate by having their children leave hay in either their shoes or a box under their bed for the King's camels and hope to find them filled with presents (P/S 9). We left a box filled with hay in our room overnight in hopes this would happen. To our excited surprise, and Mr. Wallowitz directing the camels to our room, the camels arrived, ate the hay and left each child a little present. The camels did make a mess leaving hay on the floor in the hallway as they left out the back door.

We compared and contrasted the American flag to the Puerto Rican flag. We found similarities including: both flags are red, white and blue, have stripes and have a blue area with at least one star. The differences were the number of stripes and stars on each flag, as well as the shape of the blue section holding the stars on each flag.

Art:

Crowns: We glued sequins, pom poms and jewels all around our crowns.

Earth: We painted a large sheet blue and green and then the next day when it was dry and cut into the shape of a circle to represent the earth we printed our hands in many different colors. "I've Got the Whole World in My Hands" will be displayed at town hall during a Martin Luther King Exhibit next week. Go check out the exhibit.

Manipulatives: We also are working on letter recognition and playing alphabet bingo. We have two new alphabet activities in addition to many other manipulatives that challenge our brains on a daily basis.

Science: This week we are asking ourselves, "What is magnetic and what is not?" We are playing with magnets around the room to discover what sticks to a magnet and what does not. We have found many items in our classroom that are magnetic; including bolts on the easel, the chair legs, the clips on the clipboard and the trashcans. We have various types of magnets including wands, bars, and horseshoes. We are also exploring with magnetic balls, discs and shapes. Magnets are metals that stick, other materials do not stick. We have noticed that magnets attract (stick together) and have a strong force that sometimes repel (pushes them apart). If you hear your child referring to N and S's on magnets, they are talking about the north and

south ends. We spoke about how opposites attract so S and N are friends but S and S or N and N repel. This seemed to make sense to pre-k children. We added non-magnetic items to the table to do comparisons with. We have various items around our classroom that are magnetic. Is anything in your house magnetic?

Dramatic Play: This center is now transformed into Sweet Creations Bakery. We have various ingredients and are measuring and mixing to make pies, cakes and cookies. We are great bakers. Please make sure to place your orders.

Listening Center: We are listening to Feast For 10, a counting book written by Cathryn Falwell.

Writing Center: We are working on letter recognition and writing starting with our names. Please reinforce these skills at home.

Thanks to Antonia's mom for coming to teach us about Germany. We loved hearing the book The Very Hungry Caterpillar in German.

Important Information:

We have a field trip on Monday, January 9 to the 4-H farm and will be outdoors. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. It will be chilly and we will be outside!

The snow is coming and we will be playing outside in it so please make sure your child has appropriate clothing. School policy states that a child must have snow pants, boots, gloves/mittens and a hat to play in the snow, otherwise the child needs to stay on the blacktop. If you don't have something please let me know and I can arrange to get the items.

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

Have a nice weekend,

Mrs. Leopold & Mrs. Burnett

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