

Mrs. Leopold's Pre-Kindergarten Newsletter

Weeks of January 29- February 2

Circle: We anxiously awaited to see what Punxsutawney Phil, the fearless forecaster from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, said on groundhogs day this week. We wanted to know if we were going to have six more weeks of winter or an early spring. Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter but Chuckles the Connecticut groundhog said an early spring. Oh well over the next few weeks we will see which groundhog is correct with his/her prediction.

We discussed animals in winter this week. We learned a new vocabulary word *adaptation* and recalled old vocabulary words, including *hibernation* and *migration*. Ask your child to explain the meaning of these vocabulary words. We made connections to our field trip to the 4-H Education Center when we learned about animals in winter and looked for footprints in the snow. We looked through various books and discovered how and where different animals sleep for the long winter. Some of the animals sleep in silly ways. We role-played, as if we were animals in winter, filling up our bellies with plenty of food then finding a great cozy place to sleep. We hibernated until the winter passed. We played with winter animal puppets as we read books about their houses. We noticed the variety of prints made by different animals in the books we read. We played a guessing game of "Whose footprint is this?" We read books including Forest Tracks by Dee Dee Duffy, and National Geographic Society books Animals in Winter and Ways Animals Sleep.

We watched [www.Bear.org](http://www.Bear.org) and actually saw videos of a bear and her cub in their den. Check it out at home. There are live web feeds but since the bears are hibernating you won't see much movement. We loved watching Lily and her baby Hope from a couple of years ago.

We read the book The Mitten by Jan Brett then acted out the story. We used a sleeping bag as the mitten and each child pretended to be an animal in the story. The mitten (sleeping bag) burst open just like in the story. We retold the story ordering the sequence of animals that joined the mitten.

We went on many bear hunts. We searched high and low for paper bears and described where we found them using positional words.

Art:

Footprints: We printed with different animal footprints. We compared them to each other and tried to figure out what animal belonged to each footprint.

Bears: We glued a variety of brown objects on a bear cut out.

Groundhog art: We made groundhogs and role-played if the groundhog saw its shadow.

Small group: We worked on our matching skills by matching a footprint to the animal. We played a matching game using groundhog cut-outs and their shadows.

Science: We talked about shadows. We discovered that in order to get a shadow, you need light. We made shadows on the wall by using our smart board as a light source. We thought it was cool to see ourselves as we moved on the wall. We also pretended we were hibernating like groundhogs in their burrows.

FYI: Our hibernation pajama party was a huge success. We loved "hibernating" in the igloo.

Cooking: We made hot chocolate by stirring hot cocoa mix into water. We also made cinnamon toast by spreading melted butter on bread then sprinkling cinnamon sugar on top. We toasted it then ate it for snack on hibernation day. It was a delicious cozy treat.

Events: We were treated to the 4th graders instrumental concert earlier in the week. They are just learning to play their instruments of choice and they already sound very good. We learned that because they practice a great deal it is easier for them to learn to play an instrument.

Happy 5th Birthday Anna. Thanks for the bagels and cream cheese.

Happy 5th Birthday Henry. Thanks for the pizza lunch.

Reminders:

Monday, February 5, is our field trip to the Stew Leonard's. We will be learning about healthy foods and sampling some delicious foods. Don't forget to send in food coupon circulars or have your child cut out and sort healthy from not so healthy food pictures and send them in.

Keep working on the valentine's day cards with your child. We are encouraging each child to write each and every friend's name on a different card and "mail" it to him/her during our valentine's day celebration. Don't forget to have your child sign his/her name as well. Please send in the cards before valentine's day. Thanks.

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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What Do Animals Do in Winter tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb

What do animals do in winter, do in winter, do in winter?

What do animals do in winter, when it gets so cold?

Bears and chipmunks go to sleep, go to sleep, go to sleep.

Bears and chipmunks go to sleep, that is what they do. (rest head in hands)

Repeat: What do animals do in winter verse between animals and actions.

Squirrels and mice make a nest, make a nest, make a nest.

Squirrels and mice make a nest, that is what they do. (pretend to pile up leaves in a nest)

Birds and butterflies fly away, fly away, fly away.

Birds and butterflies fly away, that is what they do. (spread arms like wings and fly)

Snakes and reptiles hide in rocks, hide in rocks, hide in rocks.

Snakes and reptiles hide in rocks, that is what they do. (curl up on ground like hiding in an opening in the rocks)

## Winter/Bear Songs:

To the tune of Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Turn Around

Big, brown bear Big, brown bear

Go into your cave

Big, brown bear Big, brown bear

Because that's how you behave

Big, brown bear Big, brown bear

Go into Winter's sleep

Big, brown bear Big, brown bear

Hibernate, and slumber deep

Hibernation Song (to tune of wheels on the bus)

The weather's getting cold so bundle up, bundle up, bundle up

The weather's getting cold so bundle up, winter's coming soon.

The bears in the cave sleep all the time.....

The squirrels in the trees get lots of nuts.....

The frogs and toads go deep in mud.....

The ducks and the geese go flying south.....

The people in the town wear hats and gloves.....

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Bears are sleeping, bears are sleeping

In their caves, in their caves

Wonder when they'll wake up? Wonder when they'll wake up?

In the spring! In the spring!

Time to wake up, Time to wake up

Sleepy bears, sleepy bears

It is springtime, It is springtime

Wake up now! Wake up now!

Little Bear (To the tune of Frere Jacques)

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?

Little bear, little bear.

You will sleep all winter, Through the long, cold winter,

Little bear, little bear.

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?

Little bear, little bear.

You will wake in springtime, In the warm, warm springtime,

Little bear, little bear.