



Dear Daisy Families,

2015 is off to a great start! Please see our announcements, class news and important dates below.

Thanks,  
Daisy Staff, Teachers and Room Parents

#### **Announcements:**

##### **Valentine's Day**

Our classrooms will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 12 at 10:00am. If you'd like, your child can bring valentines for each child in their classroom for an exchange. Simple, easy valentines are the best! If your child does not attend on Thursdays, you may leave Valentines in the cubbies if you choose, or join us for the morning exchange if you are able. **And if you would like to volunteer to bring a Valentine's themed snack (healthy, and nut-free of course!) for the class, please let your teachers know.**

##### **Transitional Kindergarten - Openings for Fall 2015**

Daisy's new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program has openings for Fall 2015 for children who turn 5 between September 2 and December 31, 2015. It is a full time (5 days a week, from 9:00-2:30) program, with before and after care available. Ms Vickie, our AMAZING Kinderboost teacher, will be our TK teacher in the fall. For more information about the program and fees, please see Fey.

##### **Field Trip to the Little Farm**

The Spring Field Trips are coming up at the end of March! We are heading to the Little Farm in Tilden Park to feed and visit with the cows, rabbits, goats, horses, pigs, ducks, chickens and more! Kids can bring celery and lettuce (only) for the animals, a bag lunch for our picnic, and comfortable shoes for the playground. We need drivers and chaperones to join us - sign up sheets and more info will be available soon.

##### **Love Daisy? Talk About Us!**

We had a great time at the East Bay Preschool Fair this year! Fey, Ms Vickie and several parents talked with prospective families about the programs offered at our school and how much we love Daisy. There are lots of great opportunities to attract new families to our Daisy community, and we need your help! We have a new transitional kindergarten program starting in the fall, Kinderboost continues to be a valuable and really fun program, and our play-based classrooms are amazing places for kids to grow. If you feel moved to do so, please write a review on [Berkeley Parents' Network](#) about Daisy - word of mouth goes a long way!

#### **Classroom News**

## Galaxy Room

"Welcome to Winter!" reads the Galaxy Room bulletin board. And we've been making the most of the new season with celebrations, songs, artwork, and new friends.

December was a special month in the Galaxy Room. We created lots of new artwork, including Stars of David, angels, and Christmas ornaments. We had both a Menorah and a Christmas tree in the classroom, and we had a lot of fun learning about different holiday traditions.

The highlight of the month was our holiday party. Many of our families showed up. Together with Nikki, we serenaded them with "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer." We all sang loudly and clearly, and many of us picked up bells and drums and played along. After the performance, we exchanged gifts with our Galaxy Room friends. We had each drawn a name and got to pick out a special gift for our friend.

We enjoyed Winter Break with our families, but we were excited to return to the Galaxy Room in early January. We missed our friends and our teachers!

In January, we've had a lot of fun, too. Three new friends joined the Rangers this month. Welcome to Galaxy Room, Ellis, Lulu, and Ruby! And welcome new Galaxy Families!

In January, many of our parents have visited Galaxy Room, reading and helping us with snacktime. We've also been busy with puzzles and games and the ever-popular story tapes. A favorite January activity was making bright orange gak with our friends and then forming the gak into things like snakes, snowballs, and snowmen.

In February, we're looking forward to spending more time outside and, of course, celebrating Valentine's Day. Happy Winter, Galaxy Families!





#### **The Galaxy Room's Invasion of the Redworms!**

Once again we are starting a 'cold box' - redworms (rather than earthworms which require a hot box are more complicated to maintain) - this time inside the classroom in the old python cage. There are already about 150 redworms in potting soil installed. They eat leftover food - slowly - and then turn it into prime compost.

#### **Classroom Foodies**

We're cooking more and more. Aside from the usual banana bread and blueberry muffins, we will be making scrambled eggs, omelets, french fries, pizzas and anything else we can dream up in our mad laboratories.

#### **Parent Volunteer Hours**

A substitute for doing actual volunteer work in the classroom can be to buy program supplies. We could especially use a lot of stickers, sequins, beads, glitter, colored ink pads for our stamps, colored tissue paper (the ones you put in the gift bags!), and healthy snacks (within Daisy nutritional guidelines). Here in the Rainbow Room, the children love to paint their faces! So face paint is always needed! You can also come in and do activities with the kids - for example reading a book, doing an art or cooking project, or a science experiment.

#### **Is it Spring already? Garden Time!**

Speaking of chores and program supplies, fresh supplies of potting soil for both the cold compost box and the various gardens are always welcome. So are seeds and sprouts. Would you like to supply some more redworms? They usually come fifty in a box and are inexpensive at garden supply stores and bait shops. Soon, it will be time to get ladybugs and praying mantis egg sacs also! Let's get dirty!





### **Cloud Room**

This month, we welcomed Evan, Maya and our three new fish into Cloud room! Ask your kids if the new fish have names yet.

In January, we made lemonade, pumpkin and banana bread. If you have a family or cultural recipe you'd like to share with our classroom, please let our teachers know. We'd love to have you cook or bake with us!

Come check out the art exhibit in our classroom! The children did some watercolor paintings. We also made collages with various hearts in many shapes and sizes. Lilly decorated a Valentine's Day themed backdrop and the children took new cubby pictures.

We took several walks to the grassy area by the church where the children love to run! Join us on a walk some sunny day this month and fulfill your volunteer hours. There is a sign up sheet on the door for work duties or supply purchases for your monthly volunteer hours.



### Star Room

During the month of January, Star room welcomed Daphne Grigsby and Arthur Mohan-Barnes. The theme for this month was shapes, our main focus being the circle. During our neighborhood walks, we have been looking for objects shaped like a circle. Speaking of circles, Circle Time is being conducted in Spanish twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays. Our song of the month is "La Lechuza" - The Owl.

The Children made snowmen using cotton balls and clothes pins as a brush. This activity helps promote the fine motor skills needed for writing. Caterpillars were made using squeeze food pouch tops, which is a great way to recycle! If you have anything from your kitchen or household that we can use for art projects, please talk with our teachers and let them know.



### **Kinderboost**

The Kinderboost classroom welcomed some new students with the start of 2015! Hello to Chaz, Gabriel, Jack, Jonas, Mikhai, Quentin, Ruby & Sophia!

The newest crew had fun discovering their new classroom! They investigated snails and fed them; they practiced identifying the letters in their names; they worked on developing their fine motor skills by following ant trails with a marker; they made designs with magnetic pattern blocks; and we worked on beautiful self-portraits. There were many smiling faces resulting from a feeling of accomplishment!

The kids studied birds and learned about their major body parts. They made drawings of them and also did an experiment to learn how feathers help birds - particularly those in icy environments!

Bird topics you can talk about with your Kinderboost student:

Feathers: how do they help birds.. keep them warm, fly, keep their babies warm. They are the only animal living today that has feathers.

Bird Anatomy: head, eyes, ear holes, beak, feathers, wings, legs, feet, tails, chest, back.

Beaks and Bills: different sizes, shapes, and purposes.

Feet: for hopping, gripping, landing from flight.

Nests: why do birds build them, what do they gather to build them, how long does that take?

Camouflage: protection from predators, defenses, keeping their babies safe.

A big thank you to Jacoby and his family for the fun skeleton puzzle and for the table/floor loom! And Jon Hallin, Sophia's dad, painted our bookshelf, which looks great! Thanks for all the love and care!

Finally, if any Kinderboost families still want to contribute towards the purchase of this beautiful little treehouse, please feel free to submit your contribution to Sue Chiang (Elena's mom, Cloud Room) or directly to Vickie or Fey.







## FEBRUARY

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 12 Valentine's Day celebration - see announcements
- 16 DAISY CLOSED - President's Day