



### **Announcements:**

Please note the Daisy school will be **closed this Friday January 29th** for a teacher work day.

Also, February 5th we have a visit from the Native American Health Center for Presentation and Dental Screening. We will be sending out the permission slips home this week.

### **Classroom News**

#### **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

##### **Science-**

We are looking at rainbows, prisms and light refraction. Many of our science studies, including this one, are student-prompted, based on what they have observed or asked about. Did you see our Facebook photos of our friend the newt? This prompted lots of discussion about amphibians.

##### **Math-**

We are talking about math concepts in all the play, reading and work we do. Fractions come up a lot in books we are reading, and we have used magnetic pie shapes to visually show what a fraction is. When you eat pizza next time, ask your kids how many pieces there are in the pie and how many of the total they have eaten - and you have talked about fractions!

The kids still love working on their big floor puzzles together. We have also been sorting things according to attributes. We have been graphing too! We took a survey about shoe colors and how our shoes close and graphed them as a group.

##### **Pre-Reading**

We have been working on learning new sight words! In addition to AND and THE, which we learned last year, we are adding PIZZA, A, BE, OH, ON and I. We are also creating sentences using these words. Work with your kids at home to identify them when reading together, or to raise a hand when they hear the word during story time.



## GALAXY ROOM NEWS

Happy New Year from the Galaxy Rangers!

The past month was filled with festive art projects that included polar bears, reindeer, Christmas trees, menorahs, Santa masks, holiday ornaments and snow people! We learned much about various seasonal celebrations from Hanukkah and Christmas to Kwanzaa. In cooking and science projects, we explored measuring cups and spoons of all sizes while creating playdough and fake snow with baby oil and cornstarch.

Our everyday routine continues with circle time in Spanish and English, counting as well as learning the days of the week and the alphabet. We've learned songs and rhymes such as "Jack be Nimble", where the rangers take turns jumping over the candlestick, and "What Am I Wearing Today?" - a fun dance to their favorite piece of clothing.

We have also been having much fun with physical activities ranging from Yoga and tunnel races, to challenging obstacle courses and hoop activities.

The Galaxy Room Rangers all look forward to the coming year!



#### RAINBOW ROOM NEWS

Even though our January weather here in the Bay area has been rain, rain and more rain, the Rainbow room has been focusing on more traditional themes of winter, with projects ranging from snowflakes and icicles to penguins. The kids had fun with glitter and glue to make icicles that now adorn the archway from one room to the other in Rainbow. And friendly penguins made of cotton balls smile down on the kids' cubbies. Another project brings color to the room, with bright scraps of paper adorning a variety of geometric shapes over the hearth.

With the cold wet weather, there is no better time for some cooking projects and Rainbow will be making some delicious cornbread together. Ron would also love to make some nice hot soup, perhaps on Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup>, so if you would like to volunteer to bring in ingredients (beans, turkey dogs, veggies, broth, etc) please speak with him.

Some non-edible projects will be making colored ice, as well as a new batch of play-doh. The kids love how messy and sticky the project is, with the end result of having fun dough to play with. In fact, there is a need for a lot more play-doh in Rainbow room, so if anyone wants to make some at home to bring in, or even buy some, it would be appreciated.

Ron also says that they can always use more gallons of white glue, and he is in need of a couple of standard size staplers as well. Please check the sign-in notebook for the latest classroom needs. It is a great way to fulfill your monthly involvement task. Or if you ever just want to come in and share something with the group, please do. Kaisan and his mom had some garlic that had sprouted and helped to plant it so Rainbow kids can

watch it grow. If anyone wants to bring in some avocados or potatoes, the class can plant those as well.

When it is not too rainy, Rainbow kids still enjoy their neighborhood walks on Thursday mornings. They try to avoid the puddles, but if you do have rainboots for your kids, that is a good day to send them along.

On a final note, the problem with pushing and hitting seems to have gotten a lot better, so thanks for your help in speaking with your children about it. The entire Daisy community appreciates it!



#### CLOUD ROOM NEWS

In Cloud Room, the month of January was brought by the letter “D”—for donuts, dogs, and, of course, Daisy (both the girl and the school).

The children have continued to enjoy the sensory experience of making fake snow. What is it like? According to Nora, “squishy, like butter”; Makhai: “like pancakes [or] white pudding”; Milo: “a doughnut.” Ask your child what snow is like!

Books we read to continue the winter theme included: The Snow Day; The Mitten; Snowmen at Night; and The Hut.



### KINDERBOOST NEWS

The original Kinderboost group has been working on a Winter curriculum as well, including making fake snow, snowmen, snowflakes and ice rainbows. They even made a snowman snack out of bananas, raisins and pretzels, which was really fun to eat and delicious!

Making snow and snowflakes led to a discussion about how snow forms and the water cycle. Kinderboost kids wondered what will freeze, whether ice can grow, and why salt melts ice....ask your kids to see if they know!

The second, younger, Kinderboost group has just gotten started, and is working on their letter recognition and other literacy skills, as well as lots of other fun projects. More to come on this!

