

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for all your support with sending your preschoolers to school in warm winter gear for our snow play day, and also for the other days last week! The kids had so much fun playing outside with the class. This week we will have another special day in preschool: January Jammie Day! Please send your preschooler to school in their warmest coziest pajamas on Thursday, January 31st. We will read an extra story, make some hot cocoa, and each child can bring a stuffed animal for show and tell. Please, no action figures or other types of toys!



February Family Homework:

Create a Valentine Mailbox

Materials: 1 large box (cereal box or adult shoebox), paper, stickers, markers, paint, stamps, or other items to decorate the box.

Directions: Create a festive valentine mailbox to hold valentine cards from friends!

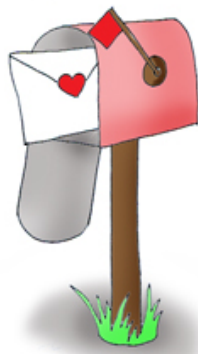
Please include your child's name in large print on the front of the box!

Valentine mailboxes are due Monday, February 11th but feel free to send them in earlier as you finish them. Have fun!

We will be exchanging valentines in school on Thursday, February 14th.

Please write ONLY YOUR CHILD'S NAME on each valentine card.

This will help greatly with delivering all the valentines.



Highlights from this Week

This week we will continue with our polar animals and winter theme. During our table time, the kids have been practicing literacy and math skills using the activities at each table. They also have been tracing their names every day and practicing writing letters or shapes during this time.

We will read and act out the story, The Mitten, by Jan Brett. This story is a classic winter book about animals who seek shelter from the cold in a mitten they found outside. The animals stretch the mitten out so much! We will use a fitted bed sheet and animal masks to act out this story.



March Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Our Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, March 20th and 21st. Please save the date.

CENTERS AND REMINDERS

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
Blocks	Large white blocks Blue glass gems Arctic animals and wooden blocks	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
Table Toys and Games	Winter lacing cards Padlocks and keys letter sounds matching game	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
Pretend	Restaurant -Tables and food -Cash register -Drinks	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
Writing	Scissors and cutting guides Paper and writing tools	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
Library	Class-made books Winter-themed vocabulary books Magnetic letters and flip books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
Sensory	Insta-snow and water beads with arctic animals Play dough, rolling pins letter stamps and cookie cutters	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts- sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
Snack	Full Group snack	Self-help; language development and social skills
Art	February coloring mural Paint at the easel	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Tech	iPads	Turn taking; developing hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills; practicing various cognitive skills (literacy, math, science concepts)
Science	Exploring magnets	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers

Important Dates:

- 2/18: President's Day (No School)
- 2/28: Field Trip to Kohl Children's Museum
- 3/20-3/21: Parent-teacher conferences (No School)
- 3/23-4/1: Spring Break (No School)
- 4/1: Preschool Screenings (No School)

