



December News 2016



Violet Room News

It's hard to believe it is already December! The Violet Room had a very busy and fun-filled November. We began the month by learning about and reading stories related to scarecrows. We then explored a variety of foods with our theme "food glorious food", and even had a grocery store in dramatic play. We ended the month with a Thanksgiving and turkey theme. Thank you for contributing to our "Friendship Soup". The kids enjoyed helping prepare the vegetable soup, cornbread, and butter. During circle we have been teaching the children a variety of signs that go with each theme. We also introduced the calendar during circle. The children love talking about the month and are having a blast with our "Days of the Week" song. Each day we count the "date" using the drum and incorporating a gross motor activity. For example, one child will play the drum 21 times while the rest of the class jumps up and down 21 times.

In December we will be focusing on the "Shapes of the Season". Shapes we will be studying include squares, rectangles, triangles and stars. At the end of the month, we will be inviting the parents into the classroom to help decorate gingerbread houses. We will be sending home more information and a sign-up sheet will be posted outside the classroom as it gets closer. Happy Birthday this month to Jack!

~Ms. Chris, Ms. Erica, Mr. Tyler, and Ms. Kathy



Blue Room News

The Holidays are in full swing and we are excited for our December themes. As we wrap up learning about Thanksgiving and family we will jump into talking about snow and winter.

We will spend a week learning about all different holidays. We are going to learn about dreidels for Hanukkah, Christmas trees and sing a fun Kwanza song. In addition to the holiday fun we are going to spend one of our weeks doing a number of fun projects with basic concepts; size, shape, color etc. We are going spend a day doing a sensory walk. We will provide the kids with spaghetti, grapes, shaving cream, gel, Jello and more to get their hands dirty in. We will encourage children to draw shapes and different pictures in mess. This is an activity that we do every year and it is always a big hit! Keep your eyes open for our lesson plan and observe what day we will be doing this activity and you can plan appropriate clothing. We will do our best to keep the mess strictly on their hands.

Please remember to label all items that you leave at school with your child (coats, mittens, hats, nap blankets, sheets, boots etc). We go outside every day that the temperature is above 32 degrees, please send your child to school with the appropriate clothing for the weather. Anything that you would like your child to wear when going outside, please take it out of the book bag and place it next to the blue bin in his/her cubby. If your child has a spare pair of winter outerwear, feel free the leave them in their cubby for the winter. You may also send them in on Monday and bring it home for the weekend or bring in the materials as needed. And lastly, Happy Birthday Aiden!

~Ms. Ang, Ms. Renee, Ms. Kathryn, & Ms. Karen



The Bizzy Beez Activity Center

Join us as the Bizzy Beez staff takes your child on a SENSORrational journey. Activities include; *The Xtreme Board, The Smart Trainer, The Serenity Room, and The Omi Vista Interactive Floor!*

Saturdays 9:00am - 10:30am

\$5 per child

IMPORTANT ZEBRA DATES

November 14~December 19- Toys for Tots Drive

December 17- Winterfest 9am - 10:30am

December 24~January 2- Center Closed





Green Room News

Where has the time gone? We hope everyone enjoyed our Thanksgiving Celebration as much as we enjoyed having you! Many thanks to you all for contributing to our Thanksgiving soup and luncheon! The children enjoyed chopping up the vegetables for our "Stone Soup" and decorating our room. The Food Drive was a huge success thanks to all of you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to December and teaching the children about the spirit of giving, holiday traditions, and the New Year. We will learn about all of the December holidays - Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa, as part of our diversity and social studies curricula. We will focus on embedding the following academic concepts into our holiday activities: syllabication (the number of parts in a word), quantity and telling how many, and comparing groups of objects using math words. This month our letters will be E, L, and K.

We are also excited to go on a field trip to a local retirement home to bring the residents handmade gifts and sing holiday songs to them. This is a Green Room tradition and it is such a beautiful way of bringing all that we teach about the spirit of giving and spreading joy, right to the children's fingertips. We have a "pannycake" breakfast with our families on the same morning, which makes it even more of a special day. We will send more information as it becomes available. We hope you can join us!

Have a wonderful holiday season!

~Ms. Carol, Ms. Carrie, Ms. Erica, and Ms. Liz



Orange Room News

This month we talked a lot about the Thanksgiving holiday and what it means to feel thankful. We learned about the first Thanksgiving and created a story telling bracelet to help us sequence events. In our Touch Math program we continued to work on learning our numbers 1-9, as well as grouping and comparing sets. We learned several new popcorn words, including "went," "in," "here," and "said." During our morning meeting, we focused on using upper and lowercase letters appropriately as well as ending punctuation. In our science curriculum we discussed the human body, focusing on the five senses. Finally, we enjoyed a special Thanksgiving "break-feast" together with families. Thank you to all who were able to attend and/or help out. We are very thankful for each and every one of you!

December will be a shorter month but we have a lot to get to! We will wrap up our look at the human body by reviewing the five senses and discussing the parts of the body. We will also begin to learn about winter animals and what they do to prepare for winter (hibernate, migrate or gather food). In our Touch Math program we will begin to compare sets using the greater than and less than symbol. We will also be introducing a new author of the month, Tomie DePaola as well. Tomie DePaola's books tie in nicely with the concept of traditions, which we will be covering as we compare our own family traditions and learn about each of the December holidays. Finally, we would like to wish Justin and Lucy a very happy birthday!

~Ms. Terry, Ms. Lamitie, Ms. Leah, & Ms. Burns



Speckled Zebra News

It is incredible how fast the time flew by this session in the Speckled Zebra program! Our kiddos have made some incredible progress, using new vocabulary, learning to share with friends and beginning to participate in group activities. The friendships they are forming are precious, as they are truly excited to greet each other in the morning and play together throughout the day. We are looking forward to making a holiday ornament, decorating gingerbread cookies, and singing and dancing to some winter songs before our time is up. Happy Holidays to everyone!

~Ms. Liz, Ms. Leah & Mr. Jason



WINTERFEST



Please join us on December 17, 2106 for our second annual Winterfest! From 9:00am to 10:30am The Spotted Zebra will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland.

Join us for some holiday fun, hot chocolate, donuts, and even a special appearance by Santa! Admission is free, but please help spread some holiday cheer by bringing a new unwrapped toy to donate to our Toys for Tots campaign!