

THE SPOTTED ZEBRA Learning Center

February 2025

Reminder:

- Center is closed 2/17
- Non Program week: 2/18-2/21;
no SpEd services



Admin News

Happy February!

We hope everyone is holding on for six more weeks of chilly weather!

We are thrilled to announce that we are officially finished with the construction projects that brought us the Yellow and Teal Rooms! Thank you to everyone for your patience and grace while we give ourselves the best foundation we can to help everyone grow the best they can. Looking ahead, we will be having Picture Day on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28 with iSmile. There will be more information forthcoming.

Please note that the whole center is closed on 2/17, and the remainder of that week our Special Education services as well as our Yellow Room will be on February break. There will still be preschool in our Violet, Blue, Green, and Orange classrooms though!

Stay warm!

Ms. Sheri, Mr. Matt, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachael, and Mr. Derek

What is Happening in the Classrooms...



Teal Room News

It has been a pleasure getting to know your children these past four weeks! We have been focusing heavily on developing play skills, learning the classroom routine, and implementing strategies that promote success. We are proud of the progress your children have made throughout our first month together!

This month, we will gradually begin introducing pre-academic concepts and skills that will serve as a foundation for future success. We will prioritize positive behavior, active participation, and relationship-building. We will also incorporate learning activities that support alphabetic knowledge and number sense.

Please join us in welcoming Lauren Kasper to the Teal Room, who will serve in the role of Special Education Teaching Assistant! Ms. Lauren brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her many years of supporting children with diverse needs. We are privileged to have her as a member of our team!

A few friendly reminders:

- Please be sure to check your child's backpack daily for important notices as well as your child's Daily Check-In sheet. The Daily Check-In serves as a way of communicating information about your child's day.

- When communicating via email, please direct all messages to TealRoom@SpottedZebra.org, regardless of whether or not you are contacting a specific staff member. This ensures that all team members are kept up-to-date on information pertaining to your child.

- The Teal Room will be closed the week of February 17-21 for Winter Break. The Teal Room will reopen on Monday, February 24.

Please stay tuned for information about our classroom's Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, February 14.

We look forward to another exciting month with your children!

Warmly,

Mr. David, Ms. Sara, Ms. Lauren, Ms. Olivia, Ms. Rachael, Ms. Marlis, and Ms. Alli



Violet Room News

Winter is in full swing here in the violet room! It was so much fun celebrating the new year and other holidays in January. A special thank you to Kaleb & family for helping us to explore and celebrate Lunar New Year! This past month seemed to fly by as we learned about polar animals, winter clothing, and hibernation. We have studied the stories of Jan Brett, and enjoyed delving more into focuses that surround early winter, especially animals and weather. We have also enjoyed the added responsibility of classroom roles, pushed for independence, and continued to explore social themes of self-help and emotional well-being of ourselves and others.

During the month of February, we will continue to explore seasonal themes including dental health, Valentine's Day, and friendship (we will be sending home information about Valentine's Day festivities separately). We look forward to further developing independence and strengthening peer-to-peer relations through social-interaction and emotional health focused storytime and activities. We will also move forward in literacy and strengthen connections surrounding letter concepts as we begin to focus on a new letter each week, and incorporate more responsibility through daily tasks.

We are hopeful for more tolerable weather during the month of February, and will be venturing outdoors if this is the case. Please ensure that your child has labeled weather appropriate clothing, accessories, and footwear for both indoor and outdoor activities each day. Please take note that the center is closed on February 17th for President's Day, and directly following this is non-program week (February 18th-21st).

Lastly, we'd like to wish a very happy birthday to Ms. Allison (15th)!

Ms. Brittany, Ms. Laura, Ms. Terry, and Ms. Allison



Blue Room News

Hello families! It's hard to believe we're already in February!

Last month, we explored fascinating winter facts and learned about the habitats of winter animals, including penguins, walruses, and cardinals. We also discussed hibernating animals like bears, frogs, and bumblebees. The kids practiced the letters U, V, W, and X through engaging letter-related crafts, such as creating unicorns, walruses, and vases. It has been a wonderful way to keep kids engaged and excited about learning! As we move into February, we are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day, which will help make our friendships even more special and strong. We will hold a fun party to mark this occasion! This month, the children will also learn about Groundhog Day, which we've already started, as well as Presidents' Day. This is a fantastic opportunity to dive into American history, and we have many more fun-filled learning activities planned for the kids. Please note that the school will be closed on February 17th for Presidents' Day.

We are excited to celebrate two upcoming birthdays in February.

Greyson Fontaine – 02/27

Liam Fontaine – 02/27

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a month full of learning and celebration! For any important information please check weekly lesson plans (N.B. part) and Class Dojo. Thanks again for your all support and help.

Ms. Sunita, Ms. Katina, Ms. Jackie



Green Room News

The Green Room has settled into the new year, and our classroom is buzzing with learning and play! As we wrapped up January, we explored the wonderful world of Jan Brett through her beautifully illustrated books. This led us into our final theme of the month—hibernation! The kids loved discovering which animals take a long winter's nap. We made predictions about which creatures hibernate, and which ones stay active, then had a fun discussion about whether we'd prefer to sleep all winter or stay awake and play!

February will be filled with exciting themes, including dinosaurs, Valentine's Day, and a week focused on community helpers. Valentine's Day will be extra special with an ice cream social followed by fun-themed games. More details will be shared soon, and a list of student names will be sent home to help with Valentine's cards.

Fingers crossed for some warmer days ahead so we can enjoy fresh air and outdoor fun!

We would also like to wish a very happy birthday to Harrison, Liam, George, James, and Alexis.

Wishing everyone a fantastic February!

Ms. Michelle, Ms. Elle, Ms. Jennifer



Orange Room News

January Flew By!

We can hardly believe January is already behind us! As we step into February, we start dreaming of warmer days ahead. Will the groundhog see his shadow? Only time will tell—fingers crossed for an early spring!

This month, our little learners will dive into **Dental Health Week**, where they'll discover the importance of caring for their teeth. A special visit from a local dentist will help bring these lessons to life!

Love is in the air as we gear up for a week-long Valentine's celebration. Don't forget to work on your Valentine's mailbox with your family—we'll be exchanging valentines on **February 14th!**

We'll take a long weekend on the 17th followed by a non-program week from the 18th to the 21st and return ready to finish up dental month!

Looking forward to another fun-filled month!

Ms. Jenna, Ms. Tami, Ms. Christiana, Ms. Marlis, Ms. Cindy, Ms. Rachel



Yellow Room News

Can you believe that it is almost the 100th day of school?! We have loved counting the days of school, which has helped us practice how to count to 100 by 1s, 10s, and 5s. We are now counting the last group of 10 with our crayon boxes! We will celebrate with a 100th Day Fashion Show, as well as making a snack of 100, doing 100 exercises in sets of 10, and other fun activities. A note about the 100th Day of School shirt has already been sent home; please reach out with any questions. In addition, a request for Valentine's boxes and a class list has gone home. We have copies if you need!

February brings the following topics to embed into our academic curricula – Groundhog's Day (seasons, weather, shadows), Black History Month (culture, leadership, innovation), Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day (leadership, coins, monuments, goals), and Dental Health. The children really enjoyed a visit from Miss. Danielle and Clyde (the horse puppet) from Where Smiles Grow. It gave us a nice foundation for learning about dental hygiene as we move into Children's Dental Health Month.

In math, we will be working on addition; first within 5, and then within 10. Identifying, showing and writing teen numbers will follow after establishing a good understanding of addition. Letters Ee, Vv, and Uu come next in the Learning Without Tears curriculum. With each new letter, the children enjoy meeting new characters and exploring their feelings, learning about letter sounds and letter formation, thinking about problems and their solutions, and telling the story in order using the setting and other key details.

This month, we would like to wish Grant a Happy Birthday on February 6th! Have a great February everyone!

Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, Ms. Chris, and Ms. Sara

Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psych
Ms. Marlis	OT (O, V)
Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B)
Ms. Rachel J	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, B, G)
Ms. Allison T	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Laura	Speech
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)

Offsite Therapists

Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech

Floating Teachers

Ms. Chantal
Ms. Alaina
Ms. Tristyn
Ms. Nakisha
Ms. Nicole Gr
Ms. Karen
Ms. Emily
Ms. Khrista
Ms. Allison K

Admin Team

Ms. Sheri
Mr. Matt
Ms. Shannon
Ms. Amy
Ms. Victoria
Ms. Rachael
Mr. Derek



**THE
SPOTTED
ZEBRA**
Learning Center

Newsletter Features

Some of our Teachers and Other Staff!



Megan Seiter

Yellow Room

What is your hometown?

Ocean City, NJ

Who is your favorite musical artist?

The Beatles, Zack Brown Band, Linkin Park, Imagine Dragons

What is your favorite season?

Fall

What is a fun fact about you?

I have run 3 marathons (my goal is to run all 6 Major World Marathons and so far, I have 1 under my belt with the Chicago Marathon)

Laura Clary

Violet Room

What is your hometown?

Menands, NY

Who are your favorite musical artists?

The Grateful Dead, Allison Krauss, the Allman Brothers Band, and Luke Bryan

Do you have any pets?

I live with three cats, nine chickens, and many guppies

What is a fun fact about you?

The Outer Banks is my favorite place to be



Derek Wolfe

Admin Assistant

What is your hometown?

Niskayuna, NY

Who is your favorite musical artist?

Ren, The Cat Empire, Coheed and Cambria, Baroness

What is your favorite season?

Winter

What is a fun fact about you?

I am lead trumpet in a brass band called the Trojan Horns (check out our album Ode to Troy) and play in party bands and orchestras from here to the Midwest