

More Director's Notes

It is my great honor to serve as director of Kids' Discovery Days. In our nearly 16 years, we have served hundreds of families in the community. We have grown from 12 students to 100 students. We have a solid reputation in the community as a nationally accredited program putting kids first. Our staff is second to none in professionalism and sincere caring for the needs of every child.

I have decided the time is coming for me to move on to other adventures and pass this wonderful program on to new leadership. I have set my departure for the end of the school year. The KDD Board has begun the search process for a new director and expects to make a selection in early May. This will give time for a period of transition and a smooth hand over.

In the months ahead, I look forward to continuing our work together to make this a great experience for all children and families.

Phyllis Bunting



KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

January, 2010



Director's Notes

Calendar

January

- 6, Wednesday Classes resume
- 18, Monday **No Classes-Martin Luther King Day**
- 19 - 29 **Priority Fall Pre-registration**
Sign up early! Watch for registration materials to go home beginning 1/11.
- 26, Tuesday Family Pizza Supper and Math Night - a social evening to visit with other families and share fun preschool math activities with your child.

February

- 1, Monday **Open Community Registration Begins** - Your friends and neighbors may enroll now.
- 8, 9 Valentine Exchange, Mon., Tues.
- 10, 11 **Parent Teach Conferences**
No Classes - Wed., Thurs.
- 12 **No Classes, Staff Training Day** - Friday
- 15 **No Classes, Presidents' Day**
Monday
- 27, Sat. **Date Night and Silent Auction** - it's a party!!
6:30 PM

I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break with your children.

Conferences will be coming up in February. Please write down any questions or concerns that you have regarding your child's Kindergarten readiness.

Our class will continue to work on letter and number recognition during the rest of the school year. There will also be many opportunities for the Pre-K children to practice writing their first names if they are interested.

Writing takes fine motor skills that we work on throughout the year. Lacing, cutting, tracing, painting, and coloring all help develop those muscles that are needed for writing.

Playing with play dough is also a great way to strengthen

Toddler News

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday with your families. Mine was nice and relaxing!

During December, we did a lot of Christmas activities and decorated our room with many fun crafts. In January, we will focus our theme around winter. Some of our activities will include decorating snowmen, glittery snowflakes, and winter hats and mittens.

We will also spend some time outside, playing in the snow, if the weather cooperates. Please remember to send cold weather gear and boots with your children each day. They love to play in the snow!

For the new year, I would love to put up some family photos in our room. If you have a snapshot of your family, we would love to have it. I have gotten a few and will start to put them up. Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. Happy New Year!

Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

those muscles.

Paper, scissors, crayons, and pencils are always available for the children to use in the classroom.

We will work listening for beginning sounds and matching upper and lower case letters in January. As always, we will count many objects in our classroom and on the playground.

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Preschool 4/5 Fridays

The holiday season was exciting and busy for us, beginning on December 4 with Jan Brett's delightful book, *The Gingerbread Baby*. The children enjoyed decorating their own gingerbread babies for our holiday bulletin board. They were fascinated by observing a lovely gingerbread family music box. Connecting number dot-to-dots to make a gingerbread boy and placing pictures in a sequence to tell a story were among the early math and early literacy skills that we practiced.

On December 11, we read *The Gingerbread Boy* and dramatized the story with simple props. We also created beautiful glitter pine cones for the KDD Christmas tree! We followed reading the pop up book, *Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer*, by making a Rudolph paper bag puppet for dramatic fun at home. Our *Weekly Reader* topic was hibernation, and we played a great game of "Awake, Asleep" to reinforce the new concept.

Dancing the "Jingle Bell Rock" with Santa, making play dough ornaments, as well as a festive Christmas card, and dancing the "Rudolph Pokey" made December 18 a fun Friday for us. We especially enjoyed the accordion music of our special guest, Linda Pott (Adam's mom), who shared many favorite holiday songs. Best wishes for a Happy 2010!

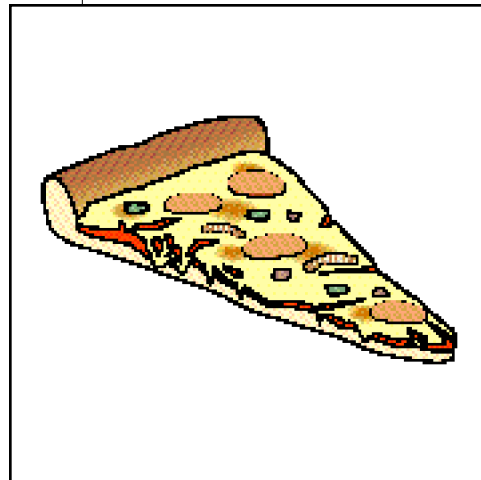
Mary Fanyo 303-425-6143

Family Pizza Supper and Math Night

Tuesday, January 26, will be an opportunity to share a low key supper with your and other KDD families.

We'll provide the pizza and dessert. You are welcome to make a donation for the pizza or bring a salad to share, as you choose.

Following the meal, we will all get involved in preschool math centers. Each center will have directions posted, and you can jump right in with your children and have fun together.



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This month, our class will begin a special version of show and tell called the "Treasure Box." We will draw names to determine who will take the box home each day. The child can bring a special item in the box to show and talk about with the other children. This helps to develop each child's confidence and self esteem. The children love this activity!

Our Friday Friends' visits are scheduled for January 8 and 22.

Don't forget to send coats, hats, mittens, and boots for those cold, snowy mornings!

Happy New Year!

Preschool Two/Three

Welcome back to Preschool Two/Three. It was nice to have the break, but I am sure we will all be glad to be back in our normal routine.

We had fun last month with all of the holiday activities, especially making presents for our families, and our holiday feast. I am sure you are still hearing “Jingle Bells” around your house. Our Friday class had fun on PJ day.

This month, we will focus on winter, snowflakes, and penguins. Please join us at Math Night, 1/26. It is great fun for the whole family.

January Songs

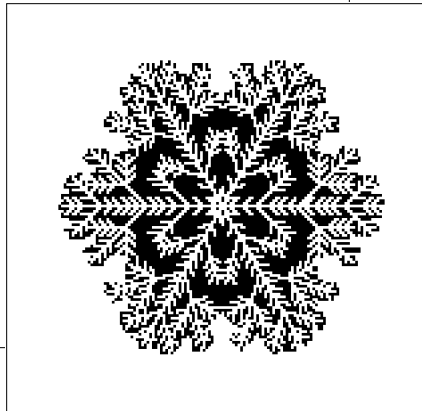
I'm a little snowman, short and fat.
Here is my broomstick, here is my hat.
When the sun comes out I melt away.
Down, down, down, down. Oops, I'm a puddle.

(Tune: “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”)
Boots, mittens, scarf and hat, scarf and hat. (2X)
I'm not cold when I put on all of that,
Boots, mittens, scarf, and hat.

Please continue to send warm coats, gloves, and boots. We go outside on all days unless the temperature is below 20 degrees. The kids love to play outside and don't notice the cold as much as the adults. It is so important to their gross motor development to get outside to run, jump, climb, scoop, and pedal.

Also, keep encouraging your children to attempt putting on their own coats, boots, hats, and mittens. This is a skill they are ready to conquer with a little patience. At school, we start their zippers and let them pull them all the way up. Please feel free to call us with concerns or questions.

Cindy 303-469-1160 Suzanne 303-424-5806



Preschool 4/5

Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

Thank you to all parents who provided the great food for our classroom feasts. It was all delicious, and the children were very appreciative!

Our first *Let's Find Out* issue will reinforce our earlier study of hibernation. We will also discuss seasonal migration and read books that feature both animals that migrate and those that experience seasonal color changes for camouflage.

We'll read several books about animals and people in the arctic regions. Our bulletin board will feature endangered arctic animals.

Dinosaurs will also begin to appear in our songs, counting and sorting figures, artwork, and books. We'll continue to work on fine motor skills tracing stencils of various dinosaurs. We'll also have a number of dinosaur puzzles for children to put together.

They will help us study physiology, animal diets, and geography, as well.

A winter activity that is both artistic and good fine motor practice is cutting out snowflakes. We'll use tissue paper for ease of cutting, and children will create their own designs and mount them.

If any parents have dress up items such as scarves, small purses, or clip on neckties to donate to the classroom, our students would love to wear them for “work” and play!

Preschool Three

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely winter break with your families. January finds us immersed in winter themes. We will explore polar wildlife, winter weather, and all things cold and snowy! Our art opportunities will reflect these themes; we'll make polar bears, penguins, and lacing mittens. Lacing can appear to be such a simple task, but children must coordinate fine motor skills along with sequential thinking in order to lace holes all in a row.

You'll notice that we are beginning to recognize last names and will be using them on our coat hooks and at our snack table. We read, count, spell, sing, create, and imagine every day as the children play.

You can extend these experiences by visiting the library, counting objects in your home, singing silly songs, reading stories, and drawing together. Your precious children are so very new in the world! We appreciate each moment with them as they learn from us and each other.
Marsha Schultze 303-423-8638 Katie Meeks 303-419-5574