

Blue Room News

January 2010

Hello Families

I'm happy to see everyone has not only made it through the holiday season in one piece, but through our arctic temperatures as well! Cross your fingers we don't have another cold spell like the one we had early January. Remember, if it's 10 degrees or warmer, it's a playground day.

Snowpants

Speaking of playground days in the dead of winter, you guys have been doing very well remembering the boots and snowpants! Also, we have another missing item and I would appreciate if you look around your house for it. One of my students is missing black bib-style snowpants and I believe they have his name on the inside. Black snowpants are common and I know how easy it is to get them mixed up. If you could double check the snowpants you have to make sure they didn't get mixed up, I'd appreciate it!

When Sick

Just a reminder that if your child is sick, e-mailing me is a great way to make sure I know they'll be gone that day. However, it is also important to call Kristie with the news as well. As Director, she needs to keep tabs on who is sick with what. Thanks!

This Month:

Our Blue Room started our new year off with a **resolution to try new things**. We talked about what a resolution was and why people make them. Then I put out clip boards at each area and asked the kids to check off their name when they visited each area. Then, when two weeks is almost up, we see which areas still needed to be visited. I am so pleased with the results of this resolution! Kids who have never painted at the easel all year have been helping themselves to a brush and paint and doing it all on their own! Kids who spend each and every class on the floor with building toys are reading books in the book corner and drawing pictures of their designs at the self-help art center!

Last week was the first week of our **Science Center** (in the dramatic play area). The kids LOVE it!!! This week we have another five science activities for the kids to try! We've also been doing science experiments during both Large and Small Group. Ask the kids why the pepper moves away from the soap and why the "dancing raisins" rise up from the bottom of the cup of 7-up.

This month we've been reading the story **Snowballs by Lois Ehlert** (along with several other snowman stories). This week we're sending home a bag for the kids to collect "junk" in to use on their paper "snowballs". In the story, they use all different types of things to make their snowmen, like bottle caps, coffee beans, leaves, plastic forks, etc. You're child can find what they want to bring to use on their snowman and if they want to pack stuff to share, that would be great, too! We will finish our **Snowballs** study with group reading time in Small Group the last week of January. During this time, six or seven kids and I read the book out loud together. It's a great opportunity to display the top to bottom, left to

right reading pattern and also recognize words that they're so used to hearing. We all really enjoy the week we get to read as a group.

January 28th is **Pajama Day!** It's a day to wear your PJs to school, bring a blanket and pillow (if the kids want to) and relax! We'll be making pancakes or waffles for snack (haven't decided yet), stringing cereal necklaces, and reading our favorite bedtime books. Please have your child bring their favorite sleeping toy (like a teddy bear) and bedtime story to class with them on this day. This is also a great day for parents to help out, so if let me know if you'd like to join us on Pajama Day!

Take-home items

We have several items we send home on a daily basis... we have our Chicka Chicka Boom Boom book, I Am Special book, Blue Room Bingo, and Number Mystery Box. Please be sure to send these back to school promptly and keep them for only one night (two nights max). Thanks!

Classroom Needs:

4-5 child-sized lab coats (if you're a willing and able seamstress).

Old/used Crayola Crayons (as many as we can get 😊)

Vinegar

Valentine/Heart Stickers

Pajama Day Volunteer

Wood bases for making wood sculptures

Wood pieces for hammering

Parent Volunteers to help in classroom while we have the Wood Working Center in February.

Wooden beads

I know I just gave you a lot of information! Please let me know if you have questions on anything!