

February Newsletter—Yellow Afternoon Class

Dates for your Calendar

Jan.28 (Thurs.)-Pajama Day. Kids can wear PJs to school, if they wish. Bring a stuffed animal. We'll make pancakes and read nighttime stories.

Feb.4 (Thurs.)-Musical Petting Zoo. We'll learn about how various instruments make sound, and get to try them out, too.

Feb. 11-(Thurs.) Celebrate Valentine's Day (see below)

Valentine's Day at Judson-Kids may bring Valentines to school ready to pass out to friends. Your child might want to write the beginning letter of his/her name on the back. (No pressure to do this.) You may leave the front of the envelopes empty if you wish, or write a name on the front, either way. We will help your child to "deliver" the valentines to friends. Two volunteers needed this day.

January Favorites

Playing outside in the snow—there have been many games of chase, and lots of jumping off of the new platforms. Great exercise!

Pet shop with vet office

Painting at the easel

The Mitten-story by Jan Brett about multiple animals who squeeze into a mitten when it is dropped outside by a boy. Try reading it at home—there is more to enjoy close up.

January Learning

Snowpants!-Kids are really growing in being able to put on snow gear. Thank you, thank you for your help and support with this.

First letter of name-many children are interested in trying to copy, trace, or write this.

We are also using first letter of name on the daily check in sticks.

Opposites-try playing an opposite game in the car (hot/cold; big/little; open/shut, etc.)

Continuing with fine motor strengthening—cutting and lacing practice

Shape practice—we are focusing on 4 basic shapes. Help your child to find them in other places—home, on errands, outside.

What's Coming Up in February

Valentine's Day

Dinosaurs-last two weeks of the month

Post Office Dramatic Play

Please Read to your Child Every Day

Please take time to read with your child every day. So many pre-reading skills are learned through daily reading: how a book "works" (start at the front; letters make words); pictures reflect the text; increasing vocabulary and attention span; emotional closeness; relaxation and regulation (ability to slow down and control body); predicting what comes next; learning about emotions. At one workshop I went to they told us that before children learn to read, they need to have more than 1,000 books read to them.

Read everywhere—not just before bed. Read signs in the environment (Stop signs, One Way; Ladies; labels on food). Read recipes. Send emails to relatives and read their responses to kids. Read in lines while you wait. Keep board books in the car.

Help kids be active readers: “What do you think will happen next?; Oooo! How does that character feel? ; I see a _____. Can you find it? ; Why did that happen?; What do you think this book will be about (while looking at the cover)?

Have fun reading together! -Barb