

Green Room News

January/February 2012

Annnnd.... January is pretty much over. Jeez, that went fast!

January:

This month we focused mostly on sensory/science experiments (which, by the way, the kids couldn't get enough of... they LOVED them!). We did baking soda and vinegar, cornstarch and water, puff painting (shaving cream and glue), and dancing raising (7-up and raisins). The book study this month was 5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. Last week we told the story by acting it out, and let me tell you, we've got quite the group of thespians! This week we'll read the story together in Small Group - each student following along with their own book, my favorite part of my monthly book studies.

February:

Conferences

This month I'll really be watching the kids closely for conference time (in March - watch for sign-up sheets!). I'll be providing activities that will allow me to see where everyone is standing in all areas of development (academic, fine and large motor, social-emotional, and language). Come conference time, we'll be able to discuss more in-depth of where your child is sitting in all these areas.

Pajama Day

Pajama Day is THIS Thursday! Your child can bring a pillow and blanket, dress in PJs, and **I'll be asking them to bring their favorite bedtime stuffed toy**. We've been reading all different types of bedtime stories to prep for our special day! It's a fairly low-key day, but we would LOVE to have a volunteer as we will be making pancakes during Discovery Time (the kids voted! I must comply! :). If you can make it let me know!

Valentines Day

Tuesday, February 14th is Valentines Day. The kids may bring Valentines to exchange on this day (but they don't HAVE to). Some families like to add candy to the valentines and that is fine with us. But we will have them wait to eat the candy until they are home and a parent ok's it.

Also, as far as addressing valentines go, if the kids WANT to write classmates names on the valentines, I am definitely NOT going to discourage that (but I would suggest starting soon... this is a process). If they do want to do that, I ask that you arrange your valentines in alphabetical order as this will be how our valentine bags will be arranged in the classroom upon arrival on Tuesday. It makes distribution MUCH easier. I would first suggest to see if they'd be willing just to write their name in the "from" area, and then check to see if they're up to the task of writing classmates names, too. Another way to do it is to just address them to "my friend".

If you can stay for a minute to help your child distribute Valentines, we would love that! If not, just let us know and one of us teachers or parent volunteers will be glad to step in and help them with it. Thanks to Mickey's mom and Ethan's mom for offering to help on this day!

Monkey Room

The Green PM has the tightest schedule of all six classes at Judson. We need to stick to it pretty strictly to make sure we don't lose/limit parts of our day (like outside time or large group at the end of the day) or run into other class's schedules. The lack of inflexibility can be a bit frustrating because if we have a bigger project planned for discovery time, or if there's an activity that the kids are really getting into, we don't have any room to honor those developments. At the last teacher meeting, I asked Kristie about possibly having a Monkey Room OPTION. We are the only class that has to both dress to go outside and undress. This, in itself, takes anywhere from an additional 15-30 minutes out of our 2.5 hour day. We want to stand by our priority of getting the kids outside as much as possible, however she's allowing me to have an option of going to the Monkey Room if we have an activity that is going to take more time (like cooking projects, for example), or if I need to do some extra classroom observing. We want to remind all families to continue to pack all winter gear every day and always assume we'll be outside. But this extra option, I feel, will only enhance the Judson experience for the Green PM kids. I feel like having the option will really free me up to get messy with the kids and allow them to have a more in-depth Discovery Time. At the max, we will only be indoors once a week. We still want to get outside as much as possible. It's quite the balancing act.

That's about all I have for you! Let me know if you can volunteer this Thursday for our Pajama Day!!!