

WOW... We Can't Wait to Explore!

Math: The winter months are here and we will be playing mitten matching games, practice getting dressed for the "winter" season, comparing different sizes and more. We also will be creating dinosaur patterns, making dinosaur parts fit into a puzzle, sorting blocks and working on adding and subtracting objects.

Science: Our science activities will consist of color blending, working on opposites, exploring leaves, digging for fossils, working on the concept of "cold vs. hot", looking inside a plastic egg, how water turns into ice, rolling cars over hills and bumps and getting messy in the sensory table too!

Literacy: Letters in print and letters on our papers...we can't get enough of exploring letters! We will be looking at uppercase and lowercase letters, hiding magnetic letters in the sensory table or around the classroom and making letters out of Q-tips, writing our own stories on pieces of large paper for us to see, becoming familiar with common signs we see on the road and making lists using our thinking caps.

Art: The art area is one of our most favorite places in our classroom! We can't wait to explore activities from all of Jan Brett's stories, creating dinosaur feet and dinosaur bones, getting creative with penguin feather art, drawing with just the colors white and black, making our own road maps, getting messy with dirt and finger-painting letters each week!

Let us Hear Your Voice...

Have You Ever Seen a Penguin?
(Tune of "Did you ever see a lassie?")

Have you ever seen a penguin? a penguin? a penguin?
Have you ever seen a penguin swim this way and that?
Swim this way and that way and this way and that way?
Have you ever see a penguin swim this way and that?
(Move your arms like you're swimming)
Repeat, substitute "swim" with: slide, waddle and dress

I've Been Working on the Railroad

I've been working on the railroad, all the live long day,
I've been working on the railroad, just to pass the time away,
Can't you hear the whistle blowing, rise up so early in the morn,
Can't you hear the captain shouting...Dinah blow your horn!
Dinah won't you blow, Dinah won't you blow,
Dinah won't you blow your horn...
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah, someone's in the kitchen I know
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah strumming on the old banjo...
Singing...



Teacher Fun Facts:

- * Ms. Jennifer's son, Teddy has is about to turn 3!
- * Ms. Ursula's favorite Christmas gift was perfume!
- * Ms. Monica's son, Nathan is always asking, "what's this? and who is this?"

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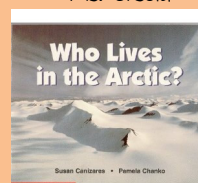
The Mitten
By: Jan Brett

Jan Brett is one of my favorite authors and I love reading her stories to the children because they end up loving the stories just as much as I do...they sometimes want to read them more than once! A little boy accidentally drops a mitten and the animals of the forest find it and decide to gather inside. Well, finally a bear climbs inside and in follows a mouse who tickles the bears nose and when the bear sneezes, all the children laugh...a very funny part of the story and all the kids just enjoy. I like how this author kind of creates these characters and brings them to life in this story...it goes perfectly in our winter curriculum themes!
Ms. Jennifer



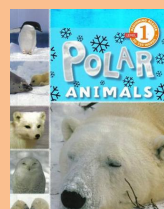
Who Lives in the Arctic?
By: Susan Canizares & Pamela Chanko

This story is bilingual and I love it! I can explain the pictures and words in both English and Spanish and then the children repeat both. This is a great way for children to learn another language and be exposed to different things. It's a very simple and easy story and its allowing me to spend more time with the children during a large group activity. I love when the children are asking questions and then they have their own stories to tell once we start getting into the book. I can't wait to read this with my Zebras!
Ms. Ursula



Polar Animals
By: Wade Cooper

If I had to pick a story for the month of January to be my favorite, I would pick the one about polar animals. I think that the kids are interested to know that animals live in very cold places on Earth. I was born in the tropics and didn't have this kind of environment so that is why these stories are so interesting to me.
Ms. Monica



Teacher Pick's

The Zebras Zip

Happy New Year!

Hello from the Zebras and welcome the new year of 2012! We are super excited for another fun year in the threes! We have started off the New Year with new friends in our classroom...hooray for new friends! Mia Chapman as well as Alex and Sebastian Balawe have joined our classroom and we are so happy to have them with us.

We are currently using Ms. Jennifer's camera from her home and we are hoping that the year of 2012 brings us a new classroom camera. If there are families interested in donating towards this purchase for helping hands points, please let us know!

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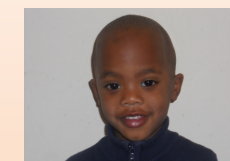
What's Going on This Month:

- * Center Closed for New Years Holiday
- * 1/18 Pajama Day
- * 1/19 Lil Sports

January Birthday's



Alex Balawe 1-19-09



Sebastian Balawe 1-19-09



Shawn Mitchell 1-10-08