



**CALENDAR:** February 15 - President's Day-School Closed

**TAX ID#:** To assist you in preparing your tax forms, our Federal Tax I.D.# is 41-1442559

**CAMP AND SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS:** The Summer on the Farm 2010 and the 2010-2011 School Term information has been sent home. If you have not received it, or if you need additional forms, please let a staff person know. Registrations are now on a first come, first served basis so if you have not returned your forms, please do so soon.

**CONFERENCES:** Watch for information coming home regarding Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences which will take place in March.

**REMINDER:** If your child has come home wearing clothing which belongs to Country Day, please be sure to return it to school.

**COMMUNITY:** We want to let you know of two upcoming events that are near and dear to our hearts and give you the opportunity to either participate or donate to the cause if you so choose.

The first is the Juvenile Diabetes Walk on February 27<sup>th</sup>. A number of our staff will be walking on behalf of a former student, Caroline Schlehuber. Her brother, Owen, is currently in our Pony class. We would encourage you to visit Caroline's website, <http://walk.jdrf.org/walker.cfm?id=87611453> to learn how you can help. She is a beautiful, strong girl who has taught us all about life and how precious it is. You can also view her video link at <http://vimeo.com/8929581>

The second organization is the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Our wonderful Matt Meyer (Technology Wizard) lives with CF on a daily basis. The Great Strides CF walk will take place the first Saturday in May. We would encourage you to think about walking or donating to the cause. More information may be found at <http://www.cff.org/>

We appreciate any time or donation you may make. Thank you.

**WEB GALLERIES:** Posted now within the parent section of the Country Day Website are more than 6,000 photographs from the first half of the year. The photographs have been sorted by child for ease of finding pictures of your little one. A second posting will take place during May which will include all photographs taken during the 2009-2010 school year. [Click here to check it out.](#)

**MUSIC AND SIGN LANGUAGE WITH SYLVIA:** In Music we've learned some new chants, rhythms and echo songs and had a chance to sing with the autoharp. The children especially love the chant, Oliver Twist where they feel the beat in the movement. We have a lot of fun with the echo songs and their favorite is I am a Pizza by Charlotte Diamond. I'm sure your child would love singing along at home if you go to the following website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Zwvyhms8c>. We've also had fun singing songs about the zoo to reinforce our sign language.

In Sign Language we've been learning the signs for a variety of zoo animals. We've had fun singing songs, reading books and playing a zoo cube game using the zoo signs as well as the signs previously learned. They'll be bringing home their own color book with zoo animal signs and I'm sure your child will enjoy teaching them to you.

**NATURE NEWS:** We got off to a great New Year in the Nature classroom! We started off hosting the Fish Box from the Bell Museum. The children were excited to "catch" their own fish, including a three foot long Northern Pike. We learned how fish breathe, what different fish eat, and what fish do in the winter. Country Day has approximately twenty fish throughout its indoor environments, and we went on fish hunts to find, identify and compare the various fish in our school.

We got busy outdoors in our Bear Week. The kids used teamwork and engineering skills to build their own bear dens in the woods near the Children's Park. We then feasted on a healthy and calorie dense hibernation snack to prepare us for the long winter's sleep. Erin Rupp of the Bell Museum visited our school to give the children hands on experience with bears. We got to touch and feel bear fur, bones, and teeth.

Many of the children have enjoyed watching the Webcam of Ely, Minnesota's very own black bear: Lily. She gave birth to a cub in her den, and although we didn't see it at first, the children were very patient in watching her. To continue to learn about Lily, and bear's in general, I highly recommend visiting: <http://www.bear.org/website/> for information and to view a live "den cam".

What's black and white and has a red eye? It's Minnesota's state bird, the common loon. Loons are spending their winter months in the warm Atlantic around Florida and the Carolinas. We used real stuffed loons, loon eggs, and a loon slide show to learn about our feathered friends. The children were very diligent loon moms and dads as they sat on their eggs and hatched loonlings. We listened to loon calls and imagined ourselves spending summertime on our favorite lakes.

February looks to be an animal filled month. We will be getting "hands on" with many of our Country Day animal friends. Many will be brought indoors for closer observation and exploration. Each classroom will focus on one animal (their classroom 'name' animal) and begin creating informational books on that animal. They will be taking pictures of the animals, getting background information such as their birthdates, as well as doing research regarding each animal. Look for more information to come as we all work to become experts on the animals at Country Day.

**NEWS FROM THE CHICKS CLASS:** We were very busy Chicks during the month of January. The Chicks were introduced to many different sensory items, from water of different temperatures, to bubbles, snow, moon sand, and also a variety of textiles and textures of animal furs.

We also did many art projects along with play dough, coloring, painting and easel work. We continue to develop and work on fine motor skills through these activities.

We discovered the Chicks really enjoyed the flannel board story called “Snowman”. The Snowman story consists of identifying what he wears and the colors of each object. It is a great reinforcement of color skills as well as repetition.

After our first week back from winter break and dealing with the deep freeze, we found ourselves able to venture outside and explore the snow mountain. The Chicks were eager to scoop and shovel the snow. Even while bundled up we were able to tramp around the property and visit our animal friends. Feeding the llamas continues to be one of our favorite outdoor activities.

During the month of January we were introduced to many bear stories and activities along with learning about some sea creatures. Did you know that most bears really don’t hibernate in caves? They build their own dens from sticks other items they find in the environment.

The month of February our dramatic area will be Housekeeping. Get your taste buds ready as the Chicks will be cooking up some tasty treats as well as taking good care of our “babies”.

Our themes for February will be:     2/1 - 2/12     Colors-red/hearts  
  2/15 - 2/26     Colors-rainbows

We will also be focusing on the animals we are so fortunate to have here at Country Day. The animal focus will be a school wide project in conjunction with our nature program. The Chicks will be putting a special focus on our chickens as we all work to become experts on this feathered friend. We will share some of the interesting things we learn in future newsletters.

We would like to welcome two new friends to the Chick class. Adrian and Anna joined us the last week of January and we look forward to getting to know them better.

Thank you to all parents for sharing your child with us. We have been enjoying the school year very much.

Sandy and Beatriz

**NEWS FROM THE DUCKS CLASS:** I know we continue to say this from month to month but boy did January fly by! We kept ourselves busy during those cold winter days by discovering the wonderful world of Transportation. We got our big dump trucks out; the trains, which was sought after by many, and even managed to sprinkle in some airplanes and boats. A lot of vroooming going on during that week:) Then we had a whole week where we focused on our friends. We loved making our Friendship frames and loved even more the picture we got to put in them. Helping to make our 'friendship shakes' was also great fun, but the eating part was even better. I'm sure most of you saw our bear den/tent we had in our dramatic play area during the month. You may have even discovered some cubs hibernating in there. This den partnered well with our bear unit. During that week our little cubs enjoyed dressing as bears, snacking on some bear 'treats', and of course doing a bit of growling. We really enjoyed our special visitor from the Bell Museum that brought in some real bear skins and some interesting books to look at. Quite exciting! We wrapped up the month by exploring the world of birds which paralleled our nature unit in which we learned about our great MN bird, the loon. Throughout the week we liked touching, blowing, and painting with feathers. One of our favorite songs was **sung to the tune I'm A Little Teapot.**

I'm a little birdie, short and fat.  
I eat worms and I don't like cats.  
When I see a cat come out to play.  
I spread my wings and I fly away.

On the days the weather wasn't too chilly .....

\*We liked caring for our animal friends. We even got to take Gracie the goat onto the Upper Maka a couple of times.

\*We went sledding on the llama hill. The 'going down' part was the best as well as getting pulled in the sled by a buddy or two.

\*We played on the Upper Maka. We realized going down the slides with snowpants on is quite exhilarating.

So that wraps up January...Whew! Now we get to leap into February.

We are looking forward to discovering those beautiful pearly whites we all have and how to best care for them during Dental Health month.

Then get your red, white, and pink ready because Valentines is right around the corner. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day the week of February 8th-12th. We plan on exchanging Valentines during this time. Please remember no treats, just cards. If you wish to have your child participate, please have your valentines to school no later than Tuesday the 9th. Please send 16 valentines. We ask that you do not address them to specific children.

The last 2 weeks in February we plan on visiting our ocean and jungle friends. We will also be focusing on the wonderful animals of Country Day during the month of February.

As the “Duck Class”, we will work on becoming experts on the ducks. We will let you know some of what we learned next month.

**FYIs.....** Thank you to all for the great job your doing with labeling. It truly makes our job much easier when we are working to get outside. Thank you!!

We would also like to welcome our new friend Elizabeth who is enjoying visiting with the Ducks and also Jonah who is new to Country Day.

**NEWS FROM THE BUNNIES CLASS:** The Bunnies stayed active throughout a brisk January! The cold temperatures and snow were ideal for our snow and ice unit. Some of our favorite activities were:

- Freezing objects in ice and watching them melt
- Creating different shaped ice “cubes”
- Playing with penguins in the icy sensory table
- Cutting glitter snowflakes
- Sculpting puffy snowpeople
- Painting snowflakes with salted paint
- Gathering snow and using words to describe it like: “white”, “cold”, and “wet”

After our ice and snow unit, we continued on to a unit about pets. The Bunnies and their families have created some wonderful pet pages. We really enjoyed getting to know more about these special animals. Some fond memories from our pet unit include:

- Creating fish bowl collages
- Brushing Hillary’s dog Rupert and feeding him treats
- Eating pet-themed treats: biscuits (dog), milk (cats) and sunflower seeds (birds)
- Making bird seed designs
- Creating painted turtles
- Observing and drawing pictures of Angie’s pet guppies

We also welcomed some special guests to our school this month. Erin, from the Bell Museum brought bear costumes to help us learn about bear hibernation. She also brought real bear skulls and fur for us to observe and feel.

Friend Kasey brought her mom Sierra and grandmother J.J. to school. J.J. read us the book Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allen Alhberg. Sierra and J.J. also helped us decorate wooden horses.

Tamsin’s mom Jae also visited our class for Tamsin’s birthday. She read us Peek by Minfong Ho, which we really enjoyed.

It’s hard to believe we are halfway through our school year. We are looking forward to new experiences in the coming months!

-Angie and Hillary

**NEWS FROM THE BILLY GOATS CLASS:** 2010 is off to a great start! While it has been rather chilly and we've been spending more time inside than out, we are having a lot of fun! On the days we were able to go outside, we had a blast sledding in the llama pasture. The llamas even came over to watch our kids as they went whizzing down the hill. We also spent some time on our Upper and Lower Maka digging in the snow, looking for icicles, and making a few snow angels. Thankfully we have also been able to spend some time running and climbing in the gym as well to get out some of our energy.

In the classroom, we started out the month celebrating Winter and creating a variety of snowmen. Thank you to all who participated in our homework assignment. Your children were very proud to bring their snowmen back to school and post them on our bulletin board. Be on the look-out for more activities in the months ahead. We also enjoyed learning about Bears and Loons and discovered where they live in Minnesota as well as what they eat, what they do in the winter time, and enjoyed looking at a number of books and pictures about these topics.

Looking ahead to February, we will be hard at work to create a book about our Billy Goat friends that reside on the Country Day farm. We will also, of course, be celebrating Valentine's Day as part of our Love & Friendship theme. We will be sending more information home regarding our celebration in the next week or so.

Until next month...  
Sara & Shannon

**NEWS FROM THE PONIES CLASS:** After a restful winter break we got back into the swing of things with a week on all things snowman! We created many different types of textured snowmen using glue, shaving cream, felt, sticks, buttons, etc. They are proudly displayed in the hallway and we can't help but touch them every time we walk by!

A week of snow and ice followed. There was a lot of exploration going on as we discovered snow crystals, melting ice, and deep, deep snow outside. We had a wonderful time on "Our Snowy Day" as we tromped out into the woods where we found big sticks, animal tracks and scat, great fallen tree branches to climb on and huddled in the bear den. We wrapped up the day with an outdoor picnic.

We learned of the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and discussed at length, peace, harmony and treating others fairly and with respect. We hope these will be life lessons they carry with them always.

The Winter Carnival week was a hit with lots of exciting activities! We really enjoyed looking at all the ice palaces from years past and creating our own inside. They built walls, tunnels, a horse sculpture (you need to use your imagination for this one!) and many other interesting things. Turns out the Ponies are excellent clue finders. We scoured the Country Day grounds in search of the Medallion. It was discovered in the front yard buried by the birch! There was no cash prize but we were satisfied with the chocolate that

came along with it☺ Marathon day was awesome! We prepared by eating a carb-filled pancake snack and by doing plenty of stretching and warming up. Everyone was such a good sport...lots of encouraging words for each other. As one child put it, the most important thing was not winning but being proud of ourselves. Well said!!

The month of February will be spent studying the great state of Minnesota, celebrating Valentine's Day and participating in our own Country Day Olympics.

**\*\*We are collecting cereal boxes that will be used for Valentines. Please send in any empty boxes you may have at home. Thanks!\*\***

**NEWS FROM THE BURROS CLASS:** *January Wrap Up* The Burros returned from winter break eager to see friends and explore in our beautiful winter wonderland. We studied **animal tracks** our first week back which was the perfect opportunity to see the many traces left behind from the animals who visited our school while we were away. We used colored water to spray some tracks we saw to remind other children to preserve the tracks. We also made our own tracks with snowshoes as we trekked through the snow. It was the perfect week for a visit from the farrier. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care. We watched as April, May, and Ginger got their hooves cleaned for the new year.

The following week the Burros had a great time learning about **Martin Luther King Jr.** and all the great things he did for us. We were reminded how important it is to be kind and respectful to all friends. We also were really excited when we were able to watch Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and work on our own dreams for the world. Here are some of them...

- Ben: "I have a dream that no one would get made fun of."
- Max: "I have a dream that everyone could go bowling and all get along."
- Hannah: "I have a dream that the planet was clean."
- Liam: "I have a dream that the world would be peaceful."

We learned about **animals in winter** during the third week of January. The children all participated in making a web of the animals that we see in the winter. We then focused on polar bears, penguins, and moose throughout the week. We made paper bag polar bear puppets, potato penguins, and hand print moose. We also explored many books about different animals in the winter time. The Burros spent a lot of time in the Children's Woods working together to build bear dens. We also had the opportunity to participate in a Bell Museum presentation about bears.

We sure enjoyed exploring our great state "**Minnesota**" during the final week of January. Some of the facts we learned included...

- The name of our state came from the Minnesota River named by the Dakota Sioux for the river's "Cloudy" or "Milky" water
- Some of Minnesota's nicknames include... The North Star State, Land of 10,000 Lakes, The Bread and Butter State, and The Gopher State
- People who live in Minnesota or who come from Minnesota are called Minnesotans
- Our state bird is the loon

- Our state flower is the lady slipper

Throughout the week we enjoyed playing in the beauty that surrounds us, and doing art projects that support our state. One day our friend, Adam, came to Country Day to teach us about ice fishing. We learned about the many things we can do during our four seasons in Minnesota.

A **special thanks** to Will D's, Andrew's, and Simon's families for celebrating their birthdays with us this month. We also want to thank Anisa's dad for teaching us about India and Michael's grandmother for teaching us about Egypt. As always, we enjoy having Burros' families visit our classroom. Let us know if you'd like to come in February!

*Next Month*

### **Upcoming Themes**

February 1-5: National Parks

February 8-12: Bunnies / Valentine's

February 16-19: Presidents (No School Feb. 15th)

February 22-26: Germs

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

- Molly: February 16<sup>th</sup>
- Hannah: February 20<sup>th</sup>

The Burros will be celebrating **Valentine's Day** the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. We will be exchanging valentines during this time. If you wish for your child to participate, please have your valentines to school no later than Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please send 34 valentines with your child's name on the back. We ask that you do not address them to specific children. Also, please remember no treats!

**\*\*Please send in one empty cereal box by Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>\*\***

The Burros will be busy delivering Valentine's during the month of February. We have a post office set up in one our dramatic play areas where the Burros can sort mail to their classmates. We are collecting "junk mail envelopes" to add to our **Recycled Art** area throughout the month. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

We have a **new student** joining the Burros classroom in February! Theo will begin at Country Day the second week of February. We wish him a warm welcome and look forward to having a new friend in our class 😊

It's been a great start to the year. We truly enjoy watching your children learn and grow each day.

With Love,

Kelly, Denise, Britini, & Laura

**NEWS FROM THE LLAMAS CLASS:** Looking back we were delighted to have lengthy discussions about Martin Luther King Jr. During our many discussions, we were amazed at the children's recall. When asked, "Who was Martin Luther King?", some of the children replied in the following ways:

- \*He was a very nice man.
- \*He helped the brown people get what they want to do.
- \*He was a black man and now he's dead.
- \*The brown people were not treated nice.
- \*Some brown people are Indians.
- \*He was the king.
- \*He got shot.
- \*He got shot with a gun, and never came back alive again.
- \*A bad guy shot him.
- \*It was a long time ago.
- \*He was a doctor.
- \*He was nice to people.

When asked, "What was his dream?", some children responded:

- \*That everyone would be nice to each other.
- \*That the white people and the black people would share.
- \*Everyone would be nice to each other.

Lets all work together to see the wonder, and beauty of his dream, as simply stated in the words of our children.

We would like to send a special thank you to Annie's family and grandma for celebrating Annie's 5th birthday with us. We enjoyed the story as well as a yummy snack. Thanks also, to Molly's mom, little sister and grandma for coming in "just because". We enjoyed the story as well as the special project and snack. It was fun to watch each of the children while they colored and decorated their own little dogs. We truly would like to thank the families who have taken time out of their busy schedules to spend time with us. We feel like "just because" is a great reason to come. If you would ever like to come and spend time with us, please let one of us know although we know your schedules are very busy.

Welcoming February means upcoming discussions about Groundhogs Day, Dental Care and Hygiene, Valentine's Day and Presidents Day.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we are inviting children who would like to exchange valentines with their classmates, to write their name on each of 22 valentines - no need to address them personally and remember NOT to include any food treats. Bring them to school in a clearly labeled ziploc bag, during the week of Feb. 8th. The children will be delivering valentines on one of their scheduled days. Please note: We will not be having a Valentine's Day party; instead there will be a variety of fun activities taking place throughout that week.

Additional note: Spring Conferences will be held the middle of March. More information will follow as the time draws near.

We are looking forward to February weather, and an abundance of warm sunshine. Our fingers are crossed! Please remember, we try to get out daily, to enjoy the fresh air, visit the animals, or visit the Explore Classroom, which in itself is a winter wonderland. Please send your child with complete winter gear daily. Thanks!

Nancy and Elizabeth