



Children's Country Day School
January 2010 Newsletter

CALENDAR: JANUARY 18th Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School Closed

HAPPY NEW YEAR: We are happy to be back in session and hope you all had a very restful and fun winter break with your family. Our staff thanks all of you for your warm holiday wishes and gifts. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and wish you all a happy new year.

WINTER CLOTHING: We do try to get outside daily, weather permitting. Please be sure to send appropriate winter outerwear with your child daily. **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING** – jacket, hat, snow pants, each boot and each mitten. Thank you.

**If your child has borrowed winter clothing items from CCDS, please be sure to return them to school ASAO as our supply (especially mittens) is running low. We do need to have items returned so they are available to other children if they need them. If you have mittens at home your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to school. Thank you.

TAX I.D. NIMBER: To assist you in preparing your tax returns, our tax I.D. # is: 41-144-2559

CAMP AND FALL REGISTRATIONS: School term 2010-2011 information is being sent home to current families as of January 4th. After January 15th registration for Fall 2010 will be on a first come, first served basis. Please respond immediately if you wish to reserve your child's space for the 2010-2011 school term.

Camp registration information will be sent home as of January 11th. We will hold space in camp for our current families until January 22nd. After that date, registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

Please watch your child's bag for the registration information.

OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW FAMILIES: There will be an open house for new families interested in Children's Country Day School on Tuesday, January 26th from 4:30-5:30 p.m. If you have friends who might be interested in attending, please let them know about the open house.

H1N1 UPDATE: As we start the New Year, we will continue to monitor illness within our school and community. Our policy of exclusion will remain 48 hours fever and

symptom free before children and staff may return after an illness. Some symptoms of H1N1 may include a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, headache, sore throat, fatigue, cough, nasal congestion and/or body aches. Vomiting and diarrhea may also be present. We appreciate your cooperation in our effort to keep our Children's Country Day family as healthy as possible.

MUSIC AND SIGN LANGUAGE WITH SYLVIA: In Music we've had fun singing and doing a lot of creative movement with the winter songs we've learned. The children especially enjoy dancing with scarves as we sing "One Little Snowflake" or pretending they're a bear as we sing about the hibernating bears in the winter. We've also been singing and signing the "Alphabet Song" and "What is Your Name?"

In Sign Language we're learning to sign the alphabet and how to finger spell our names. Preschool 1, signs the first letter only. The Burrow, Ponies and Llamas practice their full name. We've also learned to sign the phrase, "My name is _____" and "What's your name?" I've attached a copy of the manual alphabet for you so you can practice with your child at home.

NATURE NEWS: The month was much colder, and shorter, than anticipated, but we managed to get outside to explore the links between lynx, cottontails, snowshoe hares, deer, moose, caribou and wolves.

We pitted ourselves against the ever-agile cottontail, which can leap more than 10ft without breaking a sweat. A couple kids nearly tied the cottontail's record, but nobody came close to the snowshoe hare, which can leap a miraculous 15, and even 20ft.

We hosted the Whitetail Box from the Bell and enjoyed examining lots of antlers, bones and hooves. We did a great deal of journaling during Deer Week as we paid close attention to the herbivore's anatomy—you will find some fairly spectacular illustrations in your student's Nature Notebook.

During Wolf Week we not only examined a nice variety of animal pelts, and scat replicas(!), we also enjoyed role-playing, especially around the idea that a Timber wolf pack hunts cooperatively. Our role-play eventually evolved into story telling and we told some pretty detailed tall tales together. This was great preparation for developing individual narratives for illustration in Nature Notebooks. A few epics were dictated and the kids certainly liked "reading" their stories to each other.

Our last days before break were wonderfully balmy, with temps in the 20s and this was a heavenly respite from the subzero days that drove us inside. We closed the year by tracking bunnies, mice, squirrels, llamas, and kids in the fresh snow. The sun shone and life was good.

NEWS FROM THE CHICKS CLASS: Welcome back to Country Day as we hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break filled with plenty of time to spend with family and friends. We are excited to begin the new year in the Chick Classroom!

Throughout the month of December we enjoyed learning about the season of winter through a sensory table filled with snow and plastic toys, going outdoors and making snow tracks and watching our farm animals. In the dramatic play area we have our “Dino Cave” in which the children love to bring in the big dinosaurs. Our hat and mittens theme also was a great opportunity to introduce to our little friends how to put on our hat and mittens before we go outdoors and like always the Chicks class enjoyed the nature activities that Marlais brought to our classroom as well as the music and songs Sylvia brings.

Coming up in January: We will be learning all about fish/sea creatures and bears as we look forward to learning through picture books, songs, music, art, and also spending time looking at the fish in our new aquarium.

Reminder that we also will be going outside all winter on a daily basis (unless it is to cold) so be sure to always send your little ones with appropriate gear: warm coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens or socks (all clearly labeled with your child’s name).

Sandy and I are looking forward to beginning a new year with you and your child.

NEWS FROM THE DUCKS CLASS: First off we want to welcome everyone back after our extended break. We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!

December sure went quickly. Temperatures were very cold but we did manage to get outside a couple of days and enjoy the beautiful snowfall. It was pretty funny watching our Ducks as they began exploring snow for one of the first times in their lives. Many of them thought the best part about the snow was the way it tasted! We hope to have many more opportunities for sledding, snowman building and playing in the snow in the month ahead!

In December we talked about how people and animals get ready for winter, how people celebrate different holiday traditions, and fun activities to do in the snow. Some highlights were visiting and feeding animals around the farm and helping them “fatten up” for winter, cooking potato latkes, decorating sugar cookies, and attempting to go sledding outside. Our Ducks also enjoyed exploring big chunks of ice with hidden surprises inside (lots of natural materials, i.e. pine cones and pine branches), “washing dishes” in the sensory table, building train tracks, making snow people in art, and playing with moon sand and play-dough.

Looking ahead into January, we have the following themes coming up:

Jan. 4- Jan. 8- Transportation

Jan. 11-Jan. 15- Friendship week

Jan. 19-Jan. 22- Bears

Jan. 25- Jan. 29- Terrific teeth

We look forward to many fun activities in January!

Nicole and Deidi

NEWS FROM THE BUNNIES CLASS: Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a relaxing break and we are so excited to be back! In December we shared our Tradition Pages and enjoyed having special visitors. Adam Rutzick (Benny's dad) came in to help us learn about Hanukkah and taught us how to play the dreidel game. Sierra Nimtz (Kasey's mom) baked yummy cookies with us and we enjoyed decorating them. Libby Hlavka (Annie H's mom) and grandma brought in delicious cookies for us to decorate with frosting and sprinkles. Nancy Swanholm (Annie S's mom) helped us make gingerbread people and we ate gingerbread cookies. Natascha Bartsh (Ava's mom) taught us about running marathons and we ran our own race while we pretended to be tortoises and hares. We had a blast learning about the traditions celebrated by our classmates. Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

We also learned about different ways that people celebrate birthdays. We made a piñata and all worked together to break it open. We loved the treats inside. We had a special chocolate snack and ate rice noodles!

We spent time outside when the weather was warm and had a great time playing in the snow! We learned that the slides are really fast when they are snowy! Please keep sending the winter gear, we will continue to go outside as much as the weather allows.

Thanks,
Hillary & Angie

NEWS FROM THE GOATS CLASS: The Billy Goat class would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and have returned to school well rested and ready to get playing again! Looking back on the month of December (and it feels like we have to look *waaay* back as it's been so long since we've been together) the Billy Goats had plenty of fun those first few weeks. We had our first big snowstorm which not only gave us a day off of school, but an excuse to get practicing putting on our winter gear and get outside to make snowballs, snowmen, and go sledding. To get in the spirit of living with the snow and cold over the next four months we read books about how people, animals, and even snowmen survive the winter. We put together works of arts such as mittens and snowmen. Of course, bouncing penguins around the sensory table amidst fake snow was also a classroom hit. We are definitely a class that knows how to find the fun when the situation presents itself!

One of our last Nature class conversations with Marlais focused on the topic of wolves and we ventured in to continuing it in our classroom. It became apparent to everyone that our favorite aspect of wolves was the way they talk to the moon. To add to the sound effects we made wolf masks and quickly found out how fun it was to play in a wolf pack.

We also looked at the fictional side of wolves and read stories such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *The Gingerbread Man*. Fascinating what wolves can eat.

Be sure to check out pictures in our classroom section of the school website and see us getting up close and personal with the llamas, plus red cheek versions of us playing in the snow!

We are glad to hear that everyone had a great vacation and are looking forward to a fantastic rest of the school year!

~Shannon and Sara

NEWS FROM THE PONIES CLASS: Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to enjoy some extra time with their families over the holiday season.

The Ponies started off the month of December by talking all about families. A lot of time was spent discussing how every family is unique. We worked on color, shape, counting and graphing skills while making family pictures and graphs. Each child brought in a "Me Doll" that they worked on at home. These were shared with the class, and are currently on display in our room! Everyone had so much fun telling their favorite thing about each doll.

We then did a unit on germs and healthy living. We discussed the importance of hand washing and did an activity that demonstrated how quickly germs can spread. We also talked about different foods and how good choices can help us to stay healthy!

Our last week before Winter break was spent mostly baking and eating! As a class we made homemade pretzels, baked cheese bites, and banana bread. We also had many parents come in to share some of their holiday traditions that often included baking or decorating different types of cookies and pretzels. It was a great way to prepare for the holidays!

Our January themes will mostly revolve around winter. Hopefully we will have a bit of a warm up so we can get outside and enjoy the Minnesota winter! Our topics will include snowmen, snow/ice, and Martin Luther King Jr. The week of January 25th we will be talking about the Winter Carnival. We have a lot of fun activities planned.

NEWS FROM THE BURROS CLASS:

December Wrap Up

December just flew by in the Burros classroom with all the excitement of the snow and of upcoming holidays. Our themes for December were Winter Traditions, Bundle Up!, and Holiday Magic. We had several special visitors throughout the month who read us stories, taught us to play dreidel, brought us holiday gifts, taught us new songs, and shared some yummy snacks. We spent as much time as we could outside; the Burros LOVE sledding. Seth even took us on his toboggan down the llama pasture hill. We had a fantastic month!

A **special thanks** to Max's, Bella's, Simon's, Anna Sophia's, and Shore's families for visiting our classroom this month. Please let us know if you would like to visit our classroom in January!

Upcoming Themes

January 4-8: Animal Tracks

January 11-15: Martin Luther King Jr. / Peace

January 19-22: Animals in Winter (No School Jan. 18th)

January 25-29: Explore Minnesota

Last month we celebrated Maik's, Olivia's, and Bella's December **birthdays**. In January we will be celebrating with Andrew, Will D, and Simon.

Please don't throw away your 2009 calendars or your holiday cards. The Burros will be busy making art with **recycled items** and would love to use them. Please send any donations in your child's binder or bag. Thank you!

We hope everyone enjoyed your time together over the holidays. We're looking forward to a wonderful 2010 with your child!

Happy New Year!

~Kelly, Denise, Britini, & Laura~

NEWS FROM THE LLAMAS CLASS: Special (belated) thanks to Will K's mom for celebrating Will's 5th birthday with us. We enjoyed the special story The Curious Garden. We would like to thank you for donating the book to our class. Thanks also to William P's dad, for celebrating Williams 5th birthday with us. We enjoyed the story Ferdinand. Special thanks to both families for bringing in special snacks. Special (belated) holiday thanks to Molly's mom, Sierra, for coming in and sharing their Christmas tradition of baking with us. We enjoyed rolling out the dough, cutting the cookies, baking, decorating and especially eating them. Thanks also, to Anna and Leni's mom, Karen, for coming in and sharing their Hanukkah tradition with us. We enjoyed the story The Magic Dreidel, as well as playing the dreidel game. It was kind of you to give each of us a dreidel of our own, as well as the chocolate gelt. Thanks also, for bringing in cookies for snack. Thanks also, to Max's mom, Stephanie, for coming in and sharing their families tradition of decorating Ginger Bread Houses. We enjoyed being able to work in teams as we decorated the most beautiful Ginger Bread House ever!

We recently finished the letter/sound bucket. Special thanks to each of you for helping your child's turn to be a wonderful learning experience. We will now be doing the Mystery Bucket. When it's your child's turn, please remind him/her that it is a mystery, and therefore we can't share with our friends what is in the bucket.

Our new dramatic play area is set up as a Pizza Shop. The children are really enjoying opportunities to be chefs, as well as servers. It's fun to see and hear, the interactions as they spend time together in this area.

Winter weather, BRRRR is here to stay. When the weather warms up, we will go outside daily. As long as the weather is above zero - and no wind chill. Please help us, by sending your child to school daily with complete outside gear. If he/she is not wearing it into school, please help them to have it tucked into a bag or backpack. Special reminder to label Everything! Thanks!

We would like to close with wishes for good health, and an abundance of warmth during this month of January. Cuddle together!!
As always, Nancy and Elizabeth