

Bunny Class

News for February, 2012

Class Pictures

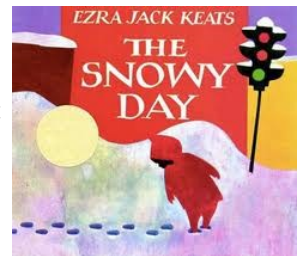
January was another fun month in the Bunny Class. We began the month learning about water. We explored with our water table and enjoyed scooping and measuring the water. We added different colors to our water and mixed the colors together. We played with ice and watched it melt away into water again. We even tested different ways to melt the ice.

Nature News

Sign Language and Music

Next we enjoyed exploring winter and luckily a little snow fell during this week. We watched snow melt away when we brought it into our classroom. We made a snowman project. One of our favorite books was --Snowy Day. We really liked making our

own snowy footprints for an art project.



Commotion in the Ocean! We ended January with fun learning about the Ocean. We measured out the length of a whale shark with tape and we were so surprised how big they really are. We made ocean pictures and a jellyfish. All kinds of questions were asked about sharks. Sharks might just be our favorite ocean animal. We finished off our ocean week with a Beach Party! We put on our swimsuits, danced to beach music, had fun fishy snacks and put on our sunglasses. We had a blast celebrating our Beach Party.

Winter Fun: We had a so much fun at the Winter Party put on by the Pony Class. We enjoyed sitting by the campfire and listening to Sylvia sing in the llama pasture. We had a yummy treat of a cookie and hot chocolate!

The January snow has been a lot of fun. We enjoyed shoveling the snow and walking around to make tracks in the freshly fallen snow. We discovered that the snow makes the slides super fast and we love zooming down them. Sledding in the llama pasture was a favorite activity for everyone.



Thanks Sydney! We were lucky to have a high school student helping out our classroom for three weeks. We loved having Sydney Shapiro join us in the morning and we were very sad to say goodbye. We enjoyed a special snack on her last day and shared a lot of hugs.

Valentine's Day is coming very quickly and we would like to let you know what we are planning. We will have special activities from Feb. 13th-14th. We will decorate bags at school for your children to collect their Valentines. Your child can bring in Valentines for their classmates if they would like. We have 21 children in our class. If you choose to send more than just the card, please remember that no food or candy can be sent home. Here are some other options: play-doh, stickers, tattoos, pencils, bubbles and notepads. When you fill out your cards, please fill out the "From" section and leave the "To" section blank or write "my friend". This allows the children to easily pass out their own Valentines. Please try to have your child's Valentines to school by Friday, February 10th. This will allow us time to help the children pass out their own Valentines and accommodate to the different schedules in our classroom.

-Deidi and Angie

January Nature News

Nature Pictures

January has been a water filled month at Children's Country Day School. Pre-2 and Pre-1 students began by learning about the different characteristics of water and how much water there is on earth. Students conducted their own freezing and melting experiments. All students, including toddlers, tested different objects' ability to float.

LAKES AND PONDS: From our study of water, we moved into water habitats. Pre-2 students constructed a mountain range and then sprayed the geographic feature with colored water to see where rivers and lakes would form in their habitat. We discussed the challenges of living in a river environment and examined river organisms for adaptations that would help them survive. We then began our exploration of lakes and ponds. Pre-2 and Pre-1 students learned about the different types of habitats that animals can live in within a lake or pond. Pre-2 students learned about the different zones in a lake caused by different amounts of sunlight that they receive. Pre-1 and Toddler students read the book *Scoot!* about 6 little turtles and their friends in a pond. Toddlers played with turtles in make believe ponds. Pre-2 students also learned about wetlands. We talked about what they are, where we can find them, and who lives in them. Students learned about the cleaning abilities of this habitat. We used a wetland model (made of sponges and aluminum foil) to test a wetlands ability to clean pollutants out of water.



OCEANS: Once we had studied the different water habitats of Minnesota, we began our exploration of the ocean. Each Pre-2 nature group got their own ocean habitat to focus on. The groups became experts on the kelp forest, coral reefs, sea shore, deep sea, and open ocean. After learning about the habitat and the animals that live there, they created the habitats on the walls of the nature room. We spent the whole week creating an underwater world in the nature room. From our exploration of underwater habitats, we started studying mammals of the sea, specifically whales and dolphins. We reviewed what mammals are and talked about the characteristics that make a whale or dolphin a mammal. Students learned about how some whales have teeth because of the big prey they eat and others have baleen to catch very tiny krill. Students had the opportunity to listen to a variety of whale and dolphin noises. We then learned about sharks and rays. We focused on the characteristics that make sharks great predators in the ocean. Students were able to see and feel real ray skin, eggs, and a shark jaw from the Bell Museum. We created sharks in our nature notebooks based on what we learned about their anatomy. Students also examined a real puffer fish, four different kinds of coral, a sea sponge, and a sea urchin from the museum.



To begin our unit on Minnesota and start to wrap up our unit on water, we learned about Minnesota fish. Students learned about the characteristics of prey and predator fish. Students then pretended to fish and we studied their catch. We began to learn how to identify the different types of Minnesota fish and learned about their place in the food chain.

-Emily

Sign Language and Music

In Music, we've learned some new chants, rhythms and echo songs and enjoyed singing with the autoharp as well as the piano. The children especially love the chant, Oliver Twist, where they feel the beat in the movement.

The all time favorite echo song is I am a Pizza by Charlotte Diamond. You can find the song online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Zwvyhms8c and I'm sure your child would have fun singing it with you at home.



We've also been singing songs about the zoo to reinforce our sign language. A great one to sing and sign is Going to the Zoo Tomorrow, by Raffi.

It's been a fun month in **Sign Language**. We started out the month with a special guest. You may have heard from your child that my son Trent came in one week to help with Sign Language. He is deaf and was home from college over winter break. (Many of the children already know Trent as this past summer he helped with summer camp.) It was a great experience for the children to sign with him and learn about his hobbies and interests. Trent was amazed to see how so many of them could finger spell their names and felt so comfortable signing with him.

We've also have been learning the signs for a variety of zoo animals. We had fun singing songs, reading books and playing games using these signs along with the signs we've previously learned. They're looking forward to bringing home their own coloring book with zoo animal signs. I'm sure your child will enjoy teaching them to you.

-Sylvia



American Sign language for "hippo"