

Bunny Class

News for January, 2012

Class Pictures

December for the bunnies was a month filled with stories and special visitors. We appreciate all of you that took time out of your day to share your family traditions with us and those that sent in your family tradition page to be shared. Either way, the children always benefit from discovering all of the enjoyment their family as well as those of their friends like to do together.

Nature News

Sign Language and Music

Staying Healthy

When we weren't baking or creating our holiday surprises for you, we also learned ways we can keep our bodies 'less germy' during our school and home days. We loved beginning many group times with Those Mean Nasty Dirty Downright Disgusting but Invisible Germs. We followed with a variety of experiments showing how we can transfer germs when we don't cover our coughs or sneezes. One of the favorites was when we put colored water in a spray bottle and pretended to sneeze. The children were then able to see and feel sometimes how far and wide our sneezes can go when we don't cover them. We also showed how we can transfer germs from our hands to our friends or toys, also using colored water. For those that chose, we had a couple of germy art projects available. (Many of them loved creating their own germ with a mixture of colored shaving cream and glue...most just like to play in the goop.~)



New Friends!

We are looking forward to some new bunnies join our group in the New Year. Please welcome our friends Jane Staples and Xavier Husom. We are so happy to have you join our Bunny Bunch.

January Events:

As we say goodbye to 2011 we look forward to 2012 and hopefully lots of snow. Here is a quick snapshot of our month ahead.....

We begin with learning about water and all the different forms it takes.

We will then learn about the biggest body of water we know... oceans. We will discover how many oceans there are on our planet and all the amazing creatures that call it home.

Then we will take some time to play with snow and ice. Yes, I believe by the end of January we will have both of these.~) We hope to go sliding, go hunting for tracks, discover how ice melts then freezes, distinguish between evergreen trees and 'leafy trees', and many other snow and ice projects.

We hope your family enjoyed your time together over the holidays and we look forward to a lot more learning and discoveries in 2012.



-Deidi and Angie

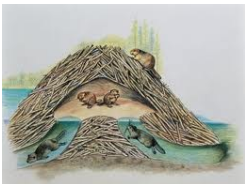
Animal Homes: Mounds, Nests, Webs , and Lodges

This month we have been very busy learning about animal homes and constructing them around Children's Country Day. We started out learning about termites and the homes they construct out of sand, dirt, saliva, and wood. Pre-2 students helped paper mache a life size termite mound as well as make clay termites. We also went outside and constructed a termite mound out of snow. From termites we switched to another animal architect, birds. Students learned about a variety of different birds and the nests they make. Oven birds construct their nests out of mud, while weaver birds create hanging nests that look like baskets. Pre-2 students created their own nests and hung them from a tree in the nature room. Pre-1 students and toddlers also attempted to build nests out of sticks.



Spiders were our next topic. Pre-2 students learned that some spiders make webs, while others actually dig their home. We talked about the different aspects of the trapdoor spider homes and students created pictures of their favorite spider homes in their nature notebooks. We went outside to the woods and students built webs from yarn. For our final nature classes,

we learned about Beavers. Students learned about the different steps that beavers use to build their lodges. We went out to the woods to create our own beaver lodge. Pre-1 students enthusiastically helped build up the lodge. Toddlers had the chance to create their own little beaver lodges out of wood and rocks.



Coming in January:

If you are looking for some opportunities to explore nature with your family, here are some local options:

- The Minnesota Science Museum has an amazing exhibit on extreme weather. I highly recommend it!

- In February, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will be hosting their annual open house.

The staff will share how they care and rehabilitate Minnesota's wild animals. Check out their website for more information.

In January we will be learning about water. Students will explore the different characteristics of water, learn about Minnesota's water habitats, and spend some time learning about the ocean.

-Emily

Sign Language and Music

In Sign Language we're learning to sign the alphabet and how to finger spell our names. Signing the letters is a wonderful visual that helps children in learning their letters and another way to practice the spelling of their name. The Preschool 1 classes have been signing the first letter only of their name. The Burro, Ponies and Llamas practice their full name. We've also learned to sign the phrase, "My name is _____" and "What's your name?" We ended the month playing a fun Sign Language Bingo Alphabet game.

In Music we've had fun with creative movement as we sing 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?" to reinforce what we're learning in Sign Language. Another favorite song has been, "Three Little Fishies". Everyone enjoys acting this out and swimming with the rainbow colored ribbons. There's also a rhythmic clapping part they love to do on the chorus. Your child might enjoy listening to it at this website. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK_wrM8OdGY&feature=fvw

