

# Burro I Class

## News for February, 2012

### Class Pictures

Welcome back and Thank You for a great month! January was filled with lots of fun and excitement.

### Nature News

First we would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the families that brought in old shoes. It was very exciting for the children and families in Costa Rica! Denise took over 130 pairs of shoes, which was amazing!! Thank You for all your generosity as it made a huge difference to these families.

### Sign Language and Music

**CELEBRATING WINTER:** The children had a great month exploring animal tracks, ocean life and finishing our month with one of the children's favorite, the Winter Carnival. Everyone was also VERY excited that we finally have enough snow for the children to play in. We were able to spend some time in the llama pasture sledding, along with building snow forts and homes.

This month we also got a chance to celebrate the school wide Winter Party hosted by the Pony Class. The kids enjoyed the time together playing out in the lower burros' pasture, while singing songs around the campfire with Sylvia and friends and staying warm with hot cocoa and cider.



With the snow finally arriving it is a good time to remind all to make sure your child has the following items with them each morning. We are playing outside everyday as much as the temperature allows us so please help your child stay warm.

Gloves or mittens  
Hat  
Snow pants  
Snow boots  
Warm Coat

### What to look forward to next month:

School will be closed Monday, February 20 for President's Day.

Next month we will be learning about

- Find out more about our wonderful state Minnesota
- Explore a favorite winter pastime of Ice Fishing
- Presidents: our current president, Barack Obama and other important Presidents of the past



Thanks for another wonderful month. Please as always let us know if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to come in and share a project, read a story or etc. Stay Warm!

*-Kelly and Denise*

# 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](http://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"*