

# Burro II Class

## News for January, 2012

### Class Pictures

#### Looking Back on. . .

December was a short but busy month. We focused on reading *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. The class acted out the story while learning about foreshadowing, narrating, and sequence. We have many budding actors in the class!

### Nature News

### Sign Language and Music

We were busy little beavers making lodges and dams. The class had tons of fun using logs and branches to make our very own beaver house in the forest.



#### Looking Forward to. . .

We have been asking all of our friends, “What would you like to learn about?” We are using their answers to help decide our upcoming units. Some topics of student interest include: moose, snowflakes, tigers, letters, flowers, and honey bees.

In Nature will be spending January focusing on water, wetlands, and ocean exploration. In our dramatic play we will be enjoying our pizza parlor. Sorry takeout only, no delivery!



### Thank You!

Thank you for all the wonderful winter wishes. Shannon and I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a special school with such wonderful families. We are looking forward to an awesome New Year!

*-Shannon and Jenny*

### 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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK_wrM8OdGY&feature=fvw)

