

The Learning Cooperative Newsletter

01/15/2013

Volume 2, Issue 3

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A Note From Ms. Jury

December seemed to fly right by, and the New Year is under way.

The children seemed to quickly get back into the school routine after Christmas break. Many thanks to Jen Trela and Donna Goulet for their help with that.

Mid-year progress reports will be available by the end of January. If you would like to schedule a conference, please send an email. Tentative date for conferences: February 7 & 8 and will be during school time.



Dates to Remember

- ◆ January 21 - No School
- ◆ January 22 - Salem Schools closed. TLC open
- ◆ February 18 "Fostering Positive Behavior" workshop 9:30am
- ◆ February 25 - March 1 Winter Vacation
- ◆ March 6 - "Kindergarten Readiness" workshop 9:30am

Special Thanks...

Many thanks to new Salem Family Resources Board of Directors member, Andrea Goodnow, and our own Mrs. Wasserman for introducing our classes to Hanukkah traditions and to Joe Goulet and Mr. O'Shaughnessy for making our Polar Express experiences come to life! Please see photos.



Happy Birthday Ella, Evie, Andrew and Kylie!

In the classroom



In December, we completed our semester project - our annual calendar, which included some handprint keepsakes along with showcasing some of our work with colors and shapes for First Years students, with modifications with work for Early Learners.

We also took a ride on the Polar Express - complete with a visit and presents from Santa himself. The children enjoyed themselves and their special sing-a-long with "the big guy in red."

In January, our theme is snow. We actually have some this year! Hooray!

We will use snow and frost to continue to work on social and self help skills (turn-taking, game playing, snow clothes), fine motor and visual motor skills, math skills (matching, sorting, numeral recognition and computations for those that are ready) and literacy and language (rhyming, vocabulary building).

In addition to indoor motor activities, we will certainly head outside for some fun, motor activities and exploration in the snow, and take advantage of the great sledding hill right outside our door!

Upcoming events

On Monday, February 18th at 9:30am, Salem Family Resources will be hosting a "Fostering Positive Behavior" workshop.

On Wednesday, March 6th, at 9:30am, there will be a workshop addressing "Kindergarten Readiness." This informative workshop will give parents an idea of what teachers are looking for children to know upon entering kindergarten.

Both of these workshops are free of charge and part of the Ready, Set, Go! Series. We are holding them at the Triumphant Lutheran church, 171 Zion Hill Rd, Salem, NH. Child care will be provided. Please contact Ms. Jury if you or someone you know would like to attend.

Fundraisers

In January, we are offering the FunPass book. This coupon book has great discounts for frequently visited attractions located in New England.

The books cost \$30 each. But, you can save so much more than that throughout the year. Order forms will be sent home with your child soon. You can order as many as you

would like (ask friends and family if they would like one too).

The books will be available by February 4th - just in time to use the coupons this ski season and for February vacation!

Of course, outings are always more fun when you can save some money, too!

Cultures & Cooking & Creativity with Ms. Jury & Mrs. Fichera

In December, we taught the children how different cultures celebrate Christmas around the globe. We celebrated as they do in:

- Great Britain by making "Christmas Crackers" (like mini firecrackers). The students made some and used "store-bought" and Gingerbread cookies.
- The Netherlands by making and eating delicious Chocolate

Letters (the children's initials), and having the "Sinterklaas" visit. We left hay in our shoes near the fireplace we made. When we returned, the Sinterklaas's deer had eaten the hay and had left us chocolates!

- Mexico, by making paper maché piñatas. Each child took one home, and we also made one to break at our fiesta. In addition, we made "metal tooled" ornaments out of pie plates. We also made yummy Apple Tortillas.

Fun with Fine Arts with Nancy D'Agostino

In December, we explored forms of sculpture in our environment and learned about sculpture materials.

We began by looking at a few animal sculptures to get a sense of basic shapes found in those pieces. Then, we worked with clay. Clay is a wonderful medium to strengthen the muscles needed for fine motor activities such as drawing and writing.

We wrapped up the month by creating tree sculptures out of felt, buttons and dowels. Sewing buttons onto felt strengthens hand/eye coordination, listening skills and turn taking.

A bin of large plastic buttons in a variety of shapes and colors was a hit! We used them for learning about patterns, sorting, counting and playing "Button, Button, Who has the button."

Sensational Science with Frannie Greenberg

Our December science classes were filled with fun and excitement. We explored balance, water and surface tension, and sound. Our little scientists are always happy to explore the world around them and share each week about the things that they have observed at home.

If you would like to repeat an experiment from class, you might enjoy the following:

Drop on a Penny

You will need:
Water
Penny
Pipette or small dropper

Predict how many drops of water can be placed on the flat surface of a penny before they spill over the edge. Keep track of how many and notice the shape of the water. The reason that you are able to place so

many drops of water on the coin is because of surface tension. The molecules of water are attracted to each other.

Do you think the same thing would happen if you used a different liquid? Try using milk or juice. Remember to start with a dry coin.

A Special Reminder

As we move into colder weather, please remember that we still try to get the kids outside to play. Please bring in coats, hats, and gloves/mittens for your children. If you can donate some extra mittens, in case someone forgets one day, it would be appreciated.

We will watch the weather and snowfall and advise when we will go sledding at school. We may not need snowpants on a daily basis, but if you'd like to, you can send them in the backpack.

January Poems and Rhymes First Years

Shake your Flake

Shake your flake to the ceiling.
Shake your flake to the floor.
Shake your flake, Shake your flake, Shake your flake some more.
Shake your flake while you're walking,
Shake while you hop.
Shake your flake, Shake your flake, Shake your flake, now ...stop!

Snow on my forehead,
Snow on my knee,
Snow in my eyes,
It's getting hard to see.
Snow on my boots,
Snow in my hair,
Snow on my mittens,
Snow is everywhere.

Snowflakes

Sung to: Twinkle Twinkle
Snowflakes, Snowflakes, dance around.
Snowflakes, Snowflakes, touch the ground.
Snowflakes, Snowflakes, in the air.
Snowflakes, Snowflakes everywhere.
Snowflakes, Snowflakes, dance around.
Snowflakes, Snowflakes, touch the ground.

January Poems and Rhymes Early Learners

Frost/snow (Sung to The Farmer In The Dell)
The frost/snow is on the roof (point hands over head)
The frost/snow is on the ground (point to the floor)
The frost/snow is on the window (make a window with your hands)
The frost/snow is all around (make large circles with hands)

Snow on my forehead,
Snow on my knee,
Snow in my eyes,
It's getting hard to see.
Snow on my boots,
Snow in my hair,
Snow on my mittens,
Snow is everywhere.

To the tune of "London Bridge" (we vary this and add silly things to our snowperson!)

Big white snowflakes are falling down,
falling down, falling down,
Big white snowflakes are falling down,
Let's build a snowman.

Scoop some snow and make 3 balls,
make 3 balls, make 3 balls.
Scoop some snow and make 3 balls,
Let's build a snowman.

Make 3 balls and stack them up,
stack them up, stack them up,
Make 3 balls and stack them up,
Let's build a snowman.

Add a face and two stick arms,
two stick arms, two stick arms,
Add a face and two stick arms,
Here's our snowman!

