



Demarest Co-op News

February 2017



A Message from the Director & Teachers

We can't believe spring is right around the corner and that the school year is quickly coming to an end! As always, we look forward to many more weeks of fun and exciting learning experiences for all our little friends.

We ask that you please keep your children from running around the hallways as well as the music room while waiting for the doors to open in the morning. We do not want any bonked heads!

Lunch bunch and our extended day program have been a huge success! We encourage your child to try it if they have not done so already. Having lunch in school promotes independence and prepares them for a longer school day!

~ Miss Laurie, Miss Lisa & Miss Christine

Note from the President:

Valentines, Groundhogs, Penguins, oh my! Our kiddies had a very fun February and came home with lots of great crafts to show off everything they've been learning about this past month.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mr. Cupcakes fundraiser. Cupcakes will be available for pick-up at 11:30am and 2:00pm on Thursday, March 16th.

Although I've been enjoying this winter snuggled up at home with my family & new baby, I am definitely anxious for warmer weather. Check your e-mail regularly to stay up-to-date on upcoming snow storms and school closings.

- Christina

Mark Your Calendars:

March 16th - 2s St. Patrick's Day Party

March 17th - 3s & 4s St. Patrick's Day Party

March 21st - NO SCHOOL
(Teacher's Workshop)

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Miss Christine's 2s

February started off with Groundhog Day in the 2's. We made an adorable groundhog craft and at circle talked about Groundhog Day and what happens when the groundhog sees his shadow like "Phil" did this year. We pretended we were groundhogs waking up from our burrow in February, coming out seeing our shadow and quickly making our way back to our burrows to go back to sleep.

It was fun making our Valentine bags in which we would collect our treats and cards from our friends on Valentine's Day. It was a blast using the parachute to bounce around some stuffed hearts. Parachute fun is always an exciting part of our class. We took turns letting different friends get onto the parachute and give them "merry-go-round" rides. The children are very good at waiting for their turn and helping "pull" their friends around. Our Valentine party treats were so yummy with strawberries and cupcakes.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Eric Carle was an exciting story we read in class. Each child got a character from the story and brought it to the flannel board as the story was read. We talked about all the colors of the animals and what sounds the animals made. At the end of the story, the children pretended they were the animals making each sound that the animals would make.

We hope you enjoyed your winter break!

- Miss Christine, Miss Kim, Miss Maureen



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Miss Lisa's 3s

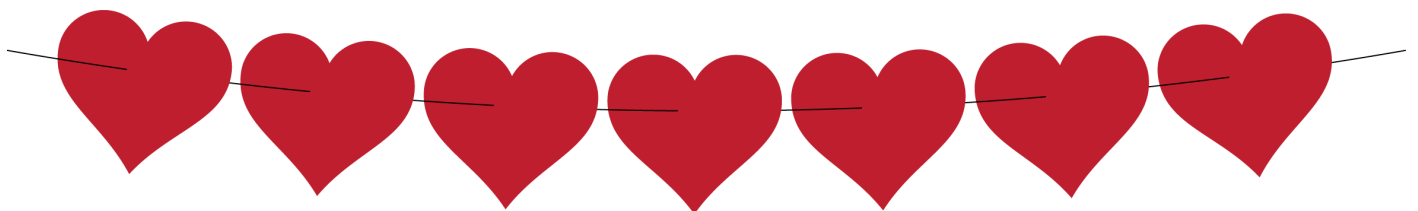
February flew by because we had a week off and it is a very short month! We began the month with learning the letter "F". We reinforced this by decorating our "Fs" with beautiful Feathers for February. Mrs. Wonderwhy came to visit us and taught us about outer space and the planets. We had a lot of fun when Mrs. Wonderwhy asked some of our friends to pretend to be planets circling around the sun. Nature Mark also came to visit us... twice! The first time he came, he brought in his friend Georgina, a bearded dragon, to share with us. We learned that bearded dragons come from Australia, and they like to eat insects and vegetables. The second time Nature Mark came, he brought in a special kind of parrot called a blue and yellow macaw. His name is Monte, and he does talk but unfortunately he was too shy to talk to us. We learned that macaws come from the rainforest (or the jungle).

We read a very special book, *The Penguin and the Pinecone* by Salina Yoon. It is about the friendship between a penguin and a pinecone, and it teaches us that we can be friends even if we are different and come from different places. At circle, we learned that penguins come from Antarctica. They like to play in the snow, ice and water just like we do.

We spent much of February preparing for Valentine's Day. We made Valentines for our friends and family, and we even made a post office in our classroom so we could "mail" them. We bought and sold stamps as well as typed on computer keyboards in the post office. We also used stamp pads to stamp our envelopes. We decorated our Valentine bags, and we had delicious treats that Miss Andrea made for us for our party. All of our friends were very generous with their Valentines and candy this year. Thank you so much!

As always, we are working on our social skills by sharing what we have done over the weekend with each other. We are interacting so much more than we did at the beginning of the school year, and our vivid imaginations are truly reflected in our free play. Even though this was a short month, we were able to "squeeze" a lot of fun (and learning) in.

- Miss Lisa, Miss Christine, Miss Maureen



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Miss Laurie's 4s

We started off the month of February celebrating Groundhog Day! The children loved learning about the legend of the groundhog. Before the actual day we made our own predictions about spring and charted them. The children were amazed when they saw the intricate tunnel system that a groundhog makes. They could not believe that groundhogs actually have potty chambers in their tunnels, as well as sleeping chambers and escape tunnels. We learned lots of new vocabulary words like woodchucks, burrows, hibernation, kits, shadows and legends.

Before we knew it, Valentine's Day was coming! We made our own Valentine mailboxes for all the mail we received from our friends. We had lots of fun delivering mail to one another and making our own personal cards at the writing center. We all went home with a mailbox filled with goodies.

Next, we talked about Penguins. The children loved learning about penguins. We used a globe to find Antarctica and to see how far away it was from New Jersey. We learned that Antarctica is the coldest place on earth, there are 17 different kinds of penguins, the Emperor Penguin is the biggest penguin, and the Fairy Penguin is the smallest penguin. Our favorite penguin was the Macaroni Penguin because of the silly yellow spiked feathers on the top of his head. Some of the new vocabulary words we learned were: warm blooded, blubber, down feathers, oil glands, waterproof, windproof, huddle, krill, rookery, and chicks.

As always Miss Lisa did some awesome science experiments with us like Valentine crystals, and we also enjoyed visits from Nature Mark and Mrs. Wonder Why.

- Miss Laurie, Miss Kim, Miss Beth, & Miss Lisa



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