



Demarest Co-op News

December 2017



A Message from the Director & Teachers

Winter and flu season are here. Just a reminder that if your child runs a fever they cannot return to school unless they are fever free for 24 hours. If they are vomiting, they may not return for 24 hours after the vomiting stops. Please use good judgement when it comes to runny noses and coughs as well. If your child's nose is running non stop, they should not be in school. Many of them are unable to blow their noses or wipe them when they are runny. Although, we do our best to help them, germs are hard to prevent in preschool. A constant cough is another concern. Unless your child has an allergy, they should not have a constant cough. We will call you if we feel they should not be around the other children. Please help us keep all our friends healthy during the upcoming winter season. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

~ Miss Laurie, Miss Lisa & Miss Christine

Note from the President:

There are still a few spots left in our classes for the 2018-2019 school year and the best recommendations come from our Co-op families!

If you know anyone interested in enrolling their child in one of our classes, please have them contact me at:

demarestcoopnurseryschool@hotmail.com
or 201-988-6563

and I would be happy to give them a tour and information about our amazing preschool! :)

- Christina



Demarest Co-op News: December 2017

Miss Christine's Class

December in the 2's class started off with the story of *The Gingerbread Man*. This is always so fun for the kids to learn and follow along adding their singing of, "Run, run as fast as you can! You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!" The repetition of this song gets the children engaged in the story and they love it. As always, the teachers get a little nervous the first time reading this story that there might be some sort of tears or fear at the end when the fox eats the cookie. However, as usual, the 2s think it's hysterical that the fox eats the cookie! We had gingerbread cookies at snack and pretended we were foxes munching the cookie. The children had a blast finger painting with gingerbread cookie mix and turned their painting into gingerbread men which were displayed in the hall. They also made puffy paint gingerbread men with sparkly, jeweled bellies!

Rudolph was another fun story that we read. We talked about being nice to friends as we read the story. We had a lot of singing and dancing characters like Rudolph, Alvin, and dancing hats and Christmas trees! The kids loved them and sang along with them at circle time. At circle time we also told the story of *Ellie the Evergreen*. She was a tree who lived at the park that never had any other color on her except green. The kids helped give Ellie some color by decorating her with different color ornaments. Ask them about Ellie. They really loved the story. Miss Lisa sang lots of Christmas and Hanukkah songs and it was fun shaking the bells and spinning the dreidels as we sang. We hope you enjoyed the gifts the children made for you! Sorry about all the glitter (but the kids loved it)!

We hope your holiday and vacation was filled with joy and fun!

- Miss Christine



Demarest Co-op News: December 2017

Miss Lisa's Class

We began this month learning about the letter "D." "D" is for December, dots, dog, duck and of course, dinosaur! Mrs. Wonderwhy came and talked to us all about different animals. She told us that we should ask our parents to take us to Van Saun Zoo so we can see many of the animals that we talked about. Mrs. Wonderwhy even brought in her own tortoise to share with us. He was pretty sleepy because many tortoises hibernate (which means they sleep in the winter time.) We are learning more about this in January.

We spent much of our month preparing for Hanukkah and Christmas. We read a great book, *The Sweet Smell of Christmas*, by Patricia M. Scarry. We explored the different smells of Christmas: pine trees, cinnamon used in apple pies, gingerbread, and oranges that used to be put in children's Christmas stockings. (We also explored the gingerbread with our sense of taste. It was yummy!) We continued with our smells of Christmas theme by creating our own dough out of applesauce and cinnamon. It was messy, but a lot of fun. We made ornaments out of the dough, and the smell of the ornaments will last for years to come.

We had a lot of fun doing the "Reindeer Pokey" and spinning our dreidels while singing "I Have a Little Dreidel." Our Elf on the Shelf and Mensch on the Bench watched over us to make sure that we were being good friends to one another. We read a fun book called *How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague. Unfortunately some of our friends misunderstood and thought that Hanukkah has to do with dinosaurs so hopefully we cleared that up.

The children worked hard on all of their gifts for you. We would like to especially thank Andrea Gerstmayr for helping the children create the beautiful ornaments with their handprints turned into snowmen. And thanks also to Lara Toomin and all of the parents who helped with the holiday boutique. The children had a great time shopping.

Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather and please put their names on their coats, hats, etc.

Stay warm,
Miss Lisa



Demarest Co-op News: December 2017

Miss Laurie's Class

We spent the month of December learning about two very special holidays: Hanukkah and Christmas. We spoke about the traditions that families follow for each of these holidays. We learned that Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. It lasts for eight days. During Hanukkah on each of the eight nights, a candle is lit in a special candle holder called a menorah. There is a ninth candle called the shamash, or helper candle. It is the tallest candle in the middle of the menorah. It is used to light each of the other eight candles. We learned to spin a dreidel, play the dreidel game, make clay dreidels, and eat chocolate gelt! We sang a song called, "I Eat Latkes!" a new word for many of us.

The Elf on the Shelf joined our classroom for the Christmas season! He brought with him tons of excitement to our classroom each day. We all voted on a name for our elf (which was a boy), but could not agree on one specific name. To make everyone happy, we called him Elfie Michael Jack. He had a first, middle, and last name just like most of us! Elfie was an important part of our morning routine. He helped us to be extra good listeners. We made lots of Christmas decorations in our art center, learned new songs, and made special gifts for our families. Our favorite activity of all was pretending to be elves in Santa's workshop! Once we finished making all the toys, we boarded our pretend sleigh, hooked up the pretend reindeer, fastened our pretend seat belts, and held on tight for the big ride! Miss Laurie was Santa and she knew the way around the moon! We had fun using our imaginations! Miss Lisa did a science experiment with us in our science center. We made crystal candy canes! It was very interesting and extremely SCIENTIFIC!

Elena's Mom came to our classroom to make very special handprint ornaments for our trees. She was very kind to donate her time and share her talent with us!

We were also fortunate to learn about another holiday called Ramadan. This is a holiday observed by Muslims. This year Ramadan will be celebrated in May. It involves the sighting of the first crescent moon. We all made a crescent moon craft for Ramadan. We had fun celebrating all of our friends' holidays.

Happy New Year,
Miss Laurie



www.demarestcoopnurseryschool.com