



Demarest Co-op News

January/February 2018



A Note from the President

Penguins, Groundhogs, & Valentines, oh my! The winter months at the co-op have been lots of fun. I love seeing all the great crafts the kids have been making. They walk out of class so proudly and can't wait to show off everything they've been making and learning about these past two months.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mr. Cupcakes fundraiser. I hope everyone enjoyed their delicious Valentine's Day treats.

Our next fundraiser will be our **Annual Tricky Tray** on **Friday, March 23rd**. It's usually in May, but we moved it up to March this year since May always seems to be a hectic time of the year for families. It's going to be such a fun night and the baskets I've seen so far look FABULOUS!

- Christina

Mark Your Calendars:

March 5th - Nature Mark visits the 3s & 4s

March 6th - Nature Mark visits the 2s class

March 7th - Mrs. Wonderwhy visits the 3s & 4s

March 20th - NO SCHOOL (Teacher's Workshop)

March 23rd - Tricky Tray (kid-friendly event)

March 30th - No School (Good Friday)

March 31st - Egg Hunt (more details to follow)

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Miss Christine's Class

It was amazing how well the class transitioned back to school after Christmas break. Seeing their smiling, excited faces happy to be back was wonderful! We jumped into freezing cold January by making bubble wrap snowmen which decorate the hallway. We read the story *Frosty the Snowman* and in my special bag was a little Frosty singing stuffed animal and Olaf. We painted with toy cars which turned into beautiful works of art. Check out our beautiful, sparkly snowflakes that decorate our classroom tree.

Next we read *The Hat*, by Jan Brett. This is the story of Hedgie the hedgehog. Ask your child what Hedgie wore on his head as a hat. The children had a blast making their own spiky Hedgie. Next as a group we made our giant Hedgie and used handprints to make his spikes. We also read the story *One Snowy Night* which is another fun hedgehog story. All the hedgehogs are displayed on the wall of our classroom. The children are all proud of their hedgehogs and each class asks me which one is there's while we eat our snack.

The children made some adorable polar bears which are hanging in the classroom. We read the story *Polar Bear, Polar Bear* by Eric Carle as a group. Each child got an animal character from the story and as the story was read, brought their animal to the flannel board to help tell the story. We talked about each animal, what sound they made and what color they were.

The 2s classes love googly eyes. Their faces light up as they create an animal and add those eyes. When we create our animals we talk about placement of objects on the face. Where they eyes go in relation to other parts, etc. However, it's up to them to create their own masterpiece, so where ever they place their eyes or other parts on their animal's body is ok in our class! They always are asked if they are happy with their creation and when they say yes, it goes to dry!

One of our favorite learning games is "Hide the Snowball". We usually play this game during snack time. I hide a "snowball" behind a colored mitten on our flannel board. They have to tell me what color they think the snowball is hiding behind. They have all become pros with their colors and love when they guess correctly and find it! It's wonderful to see them learning while having fun. They really are patient and wait their turn for me to call on them and ask me their color.

When we return from vacation we will read *The Three Little Pigs*. This is such a fun story. In the past, after reading the story once, the children had no problem retelling the story at circle time. They enjoy the "huffing and the puffing" of the big bad wolf and making the squeaky voices of the pigs. The story I tell is the wolf jumps out of the chimney of the brick house and runs back to the woods to his mommy who told him to leave those 3 pigs alone! This way the story is a little less scary than the real story! Soon to come will be our pig crafts! Always a favorite!

- Miss Christine



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Miss Lisa's Class

We began January learning about the letter "J" (for January and jewels). We had a lot of fun playing a new game where we roll the "snowball" to a friend and say "hi" or "good morning" to them. This is a good social exercise for us. We really enjoyed the classic book, *The Gingerbread Man*. We loved repeating the phrase, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man" each time Miss Lisa read the story to us. I think we enjoyed eating our Gingerbread people for snack even more. As you saw hanging in the hall, we were very busy creating our own Gingerbread people using our own faces and fingerpaintings we made with gingerbread dough.

We were very interested in the sensory table that was filled with "snow" and polar bears. Thank goodness it wasn't cold like the snow outside. We read another great classic book, *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats. We enjoyed decorating our paper with white puffy paint for snow and putting our boy, Peter, somewhere in the snow.

At our science table, we explored the effect of putting salt on ice. Just for fun, we added some liquid water color with our eye droppers to work our fine motor skills. (Everything's better with watercolors!)

Thanks to all of you who brought in items to help us create our snow people, cats or dogs. We were inspired by the wonderful book, *Snowballs*, by Lois Ehlert. In the book, there were different kinds of snow people and animals made from items such as bottle caps for eyes, kernels of popcorn for a mouth, etc. Our snowpeople/animals were so amazing that I am going to save them for our May Art Show.

We began the month of February learning the letter "F." We reinforced this by decorating our "Fs" with beautiful feathers. We talked about shadows on Groundhogs Day, and we had so much fun making shadows with a light and a sheet. Mrs. Wonderwhy came and talked to us about the "chemical reactions" that happen when we cook. We loved preparing the cookie batter with her, but I think we enjoyed eating the delicious cookies we made with her even more.

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 cards and envelopes. We started decorating our Valentine boxes by putting our names on them. We had to pick out the letters of our name and put them in the right order on the top of the box. We then painted our boxes and covered them with heart stickers once they dried.

Our Valentine's Day party was a big hit thanks to Miss Tara and Miss Jamee. They brought us delicious treats! We had so much fun delivering all of our Valentines to our friends' boxes and playing "Who is my Valentine?" We took turns hiding behind the parachute while our friends looked around the circle and tried to figure out who was missing. We can't believe it is almost March. Time is flying by!

Stay Healthy,
Miss Lisa



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Miss Laurie's Class

Where has January and February gone? It's hard to believe that we are more than half way through the school year! It is amazing how much our little friends have grown since September. I am so proud of all of them!

When we returned back to school after the holiday season, we talked about the New Year (2018). Many of the children celebrated by having parties at their homes with friends and relatives. They talked about the fun they had and how they stayed up until midnight! Next, we did a unit on snow. We read the book *Why Does It Snow?* We found out what happens in the atmosphere to make it snow. We learned that no two snowflakes look alike and all snowflakes have six sides. Every day we shouted our snow chant hoping for a snowstorm! Along with our chant, we remembered to put a spoon under our pillow, and ice cubes in our toilet! This would seal the deal for a snowstorm. We made snow in our classroom using a special powder and water. It looked just like real snow, and even felt cold. We had an indoor snowball fight, which was a blast!!! We also had an indoor skating pond for all our arctic animal friends. It was even more fun putting cracks in the ice with our play hammers!!!!

Our two favorite stories this month were written by Jan Brett: *The Mitten* and *The Three Snow Bears*. We had lots of fun acting out the mitten story. We went inside a pretend mitten! *The Three Snow Bears* was very similar to *Goldilocks and The Three Bears*. It's about a curious Inuit girl named Aloo-ki. It takes place in the Arctic and the bears live in an igloo. After we read the story, we made igloos using marshmallows and icing!

February was here before we knew it and so was Groundhog Day! The children loved learning about the legend of the groundhog. They were amazed at 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, kits, shadows, and legends. Before the actual day, we made our own predictions about the arrival of spring. The Groundhog saw his shadow on Groundhog Day so needless to say...six more weeks of winter. Miss Lisa did a real cool science center about shadows. We each got a turn making shadows for our friends.

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

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!

We finished the month with a unit on transportation!!!

Think Spring,
Miss Laurie

