

January

TEACHERS' BLOCKS

Murnie Leary

Director

Helping children wait and practicing patience. This is such a busy time of year, it seems like there's a little extra pressure on children to wait, especially with lots of indoor time. In a recent article, an occupational therapist wrote about the positive aspects of having children learn to wait. Waiting helps children learn self-control and patience. Make wait time short and give your child something to do, not necessarily technology. Give them a little job that is age-appropriate – children like to be helpful! Maybe they could sweep, or set the table, or pack the bag for the afternoon's errands. It may be helpful to "practice," to be ready when you need them to wait. Here at school, there are many "opportunities" to wait: for a place at the snack table, for a favorite toy, for the right time to add an ingredient when the class is cooking, to be picked up at the end of the day. The children are learning to wait, to be patient, and trust that their turn will come.

Mrs. Young & Ms. Drew

5 day 4-year-olds

For the month of January, we will be learning snow and ice. We learned how water expands when it turns to ice, and we are learning about how snow is formed. We put water in different shaped containers and watched the results as the ice popped out in our warm classroom. Try this at home! We want snow! We are reading about snowmen and snow people and will be creating our snowpeople families. It will be so fun to play outside when it finally snows! But thanks for sending your children to school warmly dressed, snow or no! We will read and act out Jan Brett's book The Mitten, and then compare it to another version of the same folk tale. We will learn about the Arctic and Antarctic, focusing on polar bears and penguins. We will do lots of alphabet and number activities as we prepare to become kindergarteners! We are also enjoying our chapter books at read-aloud (rest time) by Johanna Hurwitz, Pee-Wee's Tale, Lexi's Tale and Pee-Wee & Plush.

Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Laine

3 day 3-year-olds

Happy New Year! After a long, relaxing break we are very happy to be back in the classroom with your children. They all seemed to have grown over the break and adjusted very quickly back into their school routine. We are starting off the new year with an exploration of winter. While we await the first significant snowfall of the season, the children have been busy making winter inspired art projects, listening to classic winter stories from Jan Brett and Ezra Jack Keats, and learning new seasonal songs and dances (ask them to waddle like a penguin!). Our winter unit will conclude with our always popular Pajama Day on Friday, January 18. The children (and teachers!) will wear their pj's to school and enjoy sleepy time activities as well as make pancakes. We will not be playing outside on this day. We will follow up our winter unit with an exploration of Things That Go which provides a variety of exciting learning opportunities for the children. They are doing a terrific job getting themselves dressed to play outside, and thanks for remembering those red bags!

Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Sweeney

2 day 3-year-olds

Hope you all had a good break and holiday. We were so happy to see your children back at school. I got so many hugs and smiles! We heard about presents and family visiting. They did well getting back into the routine. We are now studying winter. We will do science experiments about snow and ice, art projects, sing songs and read lots of books about the season. Jan Brett's book The Mitten will be a highlight. We will act it out after reading it. Next, we will study things that go! We know that will be a popular topic. Looking forward to our time with your children and watching them grow and learn.

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Read-Brown

2 day 3-year-olds

Happy new year and welcome back! The first month of the new year is bound to be exciting as well as bring some typical January weather - cold and snow! This will, in fact, be the focus of our activities this month. We will be thinking about what *IS* outside at this time of year and using that as the inspiration for our projects. We will be making some very puffy snowmen complete with natural materials as embellishments, printing with evergreens and discussing what an "evergreen" is, thinking about our feathered friends by making bagel bird feeders and replicating snowflakes in our own unique and creative ways. Some of our projects this month will also center around night & day/moon & sun as we will celebrate our annual "Pajama Day" at the end of the month where everyone gets to come to school in their pajamas, eat pancakes hot off the griddle and have lots of fun. A letter regarding this day will be sent home to you in the next few weeks. Finally, since we do play outside every day, one of the very important activities we will be working on is getting dressed for outdoor time. This includes learning the correct sequence for putting on each item as well as honing some fine motor skills by practicing how to zipper, buckle and snap. Please make sure to send in the red winter bag every day with your child's regular white school bag. It should include warm snow pants/winter weather pants, boots, hat and mittens (extra socks and mittens are a good idea, too). By spring time, we hope to have them pros at this! As always, thank you for allowing us the gift of teaching and learning from your children every day that we are together!

Mrs. Warren & Mrs. Ross

4 day 4-year-olds

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you had a wonderful holiday with your families! We begin the month with a unit on winter. Children will have many opportunities to participate in activities related to winter while we continue to develop those skills necessary for kindergarten. We will also explore Fairy Tales later in the month. We will end the month with Pajama Day on Thursday, January 31st. The children and teachers will wear their pajamas to school and have pancakes for snack! More detailed information will follow in a separate notice. Our house corner has been transformed into The HNS Animal Hospital. The children have become veterinarians and are taking good care of our many sick and injured animals. On Thursday, January 10th, the children will be able to bring in one small stuffed animal to share with the group. The animal must be small enough to fit in your child's backpack. We would prefer no electronic pets! We appreciate when the children come to school prepared for outdoor play. Even if there is no snow, snow pants are often necessary for comfort and warmth. Again, if we decide to stay in because of severe cold, wind or ice, the children have an opportunity for further development of those important self-help skills! Please remember to send in the HNS red bag for wet clothes and boots. Please remember to label all clothing to avoid confusion. We look forward to a month of discovery, learning, and fun!

Mrs. Carroll & Mrs. Christino

3 day 4-year-olds

Welcome back from the holiday vacation and happy new year! Now with the cold weather and snow that could arrive at any time, we are going to place our attention on activities, projects and skills that center around this kind of weather. We'll bring the outdoors in with our activities that include making snowmen (focusing on spatial awareness of body parts), a pair of decorative mittens (focusing on what a "pair" means) and warm hat, glistening snowflakes (focusing on how no two snowflakes are alike, but that all have six points) and printing with real evergreen branches (focusing on the meaning of "evergreen"). Our sensory table will be filled with lots of very cold things like ice and snow and we'll be using our observation and science skills to investigate what happens to these objects when they're removed from their natural, outside environment. At the end of the month, we will celebrate our annual HNS tradition of Pajama Day when we stay inside all day in our pajamas and eat lots of yummy pancakes (a letter about this day will come home in the next few weeks). Finally, one of the most important activities we will be working on is getting dressed (and undressed) for playing outside. The children should arrive *each day* dressed in winter gear including cold weather snow pants, boots, hats and gloves ready to begin their day on the playground. On Mondays and Wednesdays when we have Lunch Bunch, we go out for a second time to play. Therefore, the children will be working on the correct sequence for redressing in their gear as well as learning how to zip and buckle. It will be a busy month, but as always, we are looking forward to spending it with all our friends!