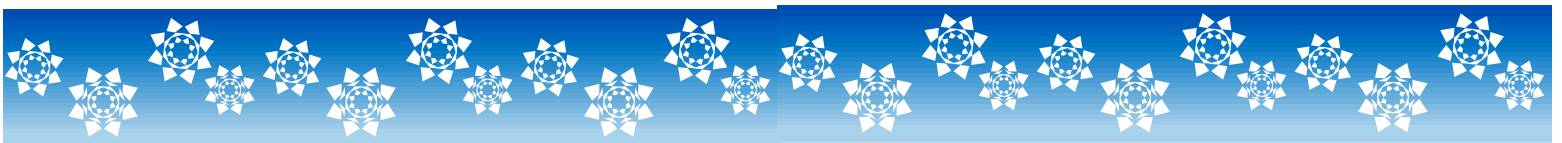
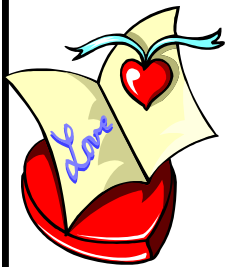
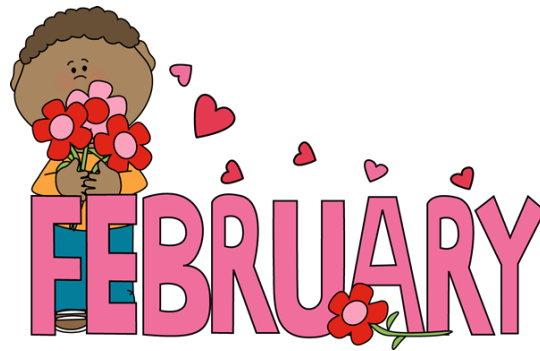


January was a fabulous winter month! We have discussed winter sports and activities, winter clothing and enjoyed lots of snowman stories! We have sequenced how to build a snowman, made melting snowmen, painted lovely snow pictures, and even used snowballs to create “Name snowmen” for ourselves. We have also built snowflakes with pipe cleaners and beads and written amazing poems about them. From science experiments to fine motor work—January has provided us with many varied learning experiences! Our rice filled snowmen have now created a lovely village! I will be photographing these and sending them home in early February, after we write stories about them. Our winter projects led into our penguin research! The children enjoyed learning about these special creatures.



Our class continues to learn about how capital and lower-case letters look and the sounds they say. This past month our letters were Ii – igloo, Oo—octopus, Ss – snow, and Nn—nest. We are using a program called Heggerty Phonemic Awareness to support the development of the children’s letter/word skills. In the classroom, I call it our listening activity.





February will have us getting ready for St. Valentine's Day. We will celebrate with a Valentine's Party on Friday, February 12th during regular school hours! Children will have the opportunity to exchange Valentines as well! This will be done in advance of the actual party so please have the Valentine cards to school by Friday, February 5th! Class names will be sent home via the take-home bags. The students will focus on friendship and kindness this month as well as the continuation of the many literacy and numeracy activities that we work on daily. We will be working specifically on the letters: Kk—kindness, Vv—Valentine, Qq—Queen and Bb for bears (The Three Bears). Literacy Stations have been going very well and each day the children fully participate in the activities to develop their emergent reading skills!

February will also include time to learn about Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes. The class will read three nursery rhymes daily and focus on the rhyming words. We will look at the difference between various authors and illustrators versions of the same stories. On the day we read The Three Little Pigs we will make ourselves “pig” masks. Students will be challenged to build houses with straws, popsicle sticks and lego bricks until the big bad, Mrs. Leason, comes around with her blow dryer and blows down the houses! Wish me luck with the lego houses! We will strive to learn about the beginning, middle and end of stories. Discussions will include who the characters are within each of the fairy tale stories we read together. Fairy tales and nursery rhymes will come to a high point with the “Fairy Tale Dress-Up Day” on Friday, March 5th! Each child will come to class dressed as a character from a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. Thank you in advance for your support in creating special costumes for this event!



Fairy Tales



Your child may have shared with you that we have begun "Literacy Stations" in our class. We are working at various set stations within the classroom using specific activities that will improve our reading readiness! I will be taking a group during this station time to work with the students on guiding reading and shared writing activities. We plan to have Literacy Stations daily. The home reading program began at the same time and you are asked to spend a few minutes each evening reading these leveled books with your child using the RAZ Kids program. I have been monitoring the usage thus far and am pleased to see many families logging in each day!



Shrove Tuesday will be recognized on February 16th. Unfortunately, we will not be able to serve our usual pancakes for the students but we will focus on how Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday is always the day before Ash Wednesday, and in the past was the last day of eating sweets before Lent began. The more recent view of Lent is not to sacrifice so much but to do "extra good things" for one another. This is what the children will be learning in class. Each child will bring home a sheet that has various tasks the children can do themselves to show Jesus their love! The first sheet will be sent home and I will send further sheets as we progress through Lent! Lent is a wonderful time to model for our children the behaviors we are hoping they will learn!



****Please send an empty, tissue box to school by Monday, February 1st, for your child to use as a Valentine mailbox! A list of student names was included in your child's take home bag, for your child to use for making Valentines!**

