

January 6, 2018

Dear parents:

Happy New Year! Our January has gotten off to a cold start. The children have spent all of their school time in the classroom. Instead of outside time the children have either been singing songs and chatting together in a group on the rug waiting to go home, or playing with inside recess toys in the classroom after lunch. It will be nice when the weather is warm enough to go outside for fresh air, climbing, running, talking loudly, etc.

During the mornings, the children have been getting reacquainted with their work on the shelves. There are some new language cards of Mammals native to this area on the shelf, we've been learning a song about peace, there are new art supplies, and new handwriting ideas.

In the afternoon we have started reading *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingles Wilder. The children have been learning about our country and history and this gives life to a time when our country was expanding west. You might hear about what they ate, that they hunted, and activities and events that happen in the book.

We also briefly discussed the concept of New Year, and what is a resolution.

Common themes for January will be peace, winter(seasons), New Year, and I will probably slip in Olympics as we gear up for the Winter Olympic Games in Korea in February. I love that the Olympics can represent peaceful competition with people participating from all over the world. The Olympic creed is, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well." I encourage learning about the Olympics as a way to become aware of our world community.

On Thursday afternoon the 5 year olds will be having a "tea" together. This activity is to support social graces: conversation, eating together, being careful, being observant of other's needs, It will be a beautiful time together. As for the "tea" it will just be warm lemonade or warm fruit tea accompanied by a piece of fruit or small baked scone.

Have a refreshing weekend.

Sincerely,
Laura Saylor