

December 17, 2019

To all the families that were able to participate in the Holidays Around the World celebration, we thank you! It was a huge success, as usual and the children and adults alike enjoyed the day.

December is always a quick month due to the time off and the hustle and bustle of holiday projects and music mixed in with our lessons. The children learned several songs including Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, I'm a Little Snowman, Ring Those Bells, Way Up High on the Christmas Tree, and Five Little Christmas Trees. Songs, poems and fingerplays are a wonderful way to come together at the end of each morning. The children practice so many skills at this time. Manners: respect for the speaker, being part of a group and thinking about others (sitting still, maintaining silence, as well as using a singing voice), the words to songs, and also rhythms. In the song Ring Those Bells the children made merry music with their bells (not noise) as they were being passed out and then we all kept our bells silent prior to the beginning of the song. For young children to be able to inhibit the impulse to ring, ring, ring is truly a great feat. And it is one we expect of our wonderful students because we trust in their capabilities.

Ms. Irwin assisted each child in sewing a peppermint sucker! Her patience is to be commended since most of the time I was in the middle of a lesson presentation and only available once in awhile for threading a needle or getting yarn detangled. A big thank you goes out to Ms. Irwin for the beautiful art and sewing projects the children enjoyed.

Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Flores came in to make snow with the children. Who knew hair conditioner and baking soda could make snow? Well, Mrs. Cook did, of course. The project was a messy bunch of fun - very similar to real snow. The children LOVED it. If your child's snowman was one of the lucky ones to make it home without "melting" then you got to see the finished project.

As for the beginning of the new year, please check in to see if your child has a full change of clothes at school. There were several times we took a child in to get changed and they still had shorts as their extras. If your child does not ever have toilet accidents, that doesn't mean they won't need a change - each child should have extras. Please mark EVERYTHING with their name. This includes hats, mittens, scarves, boots and coats. Think of getting your child ready for school in the morning.... we do that with

greater than twenty children at a time! Names make it so much less stressful for all involved.

Enjoy the holiday and time with your family. To those traveling, be safe!

These are the books we have received thus far for our author studies in January: Thank you to all who have donated!

Herve Tullet:

Mix it Up (✓ donated)

The Game of Finger Worms (donated)

Say Zoop

Press Here (donated)

The Good Morning Game

The Book with a Hole

Cynthia Rylant:

The Relatives Came

Dog Heaven (donated)

Poppleton (the original)

Night in the Country

Give me Grace

In November (✓ donated)

Shel Silverstein:

Don't Bump the Grump

Who Wants a Cheap Rhinoceros (✓ donated)

The Giving Tree (donated)

A Giraffe and a Half (✓ donated)

Lafcadio (✓ donated)

The Runny Babbit Returns (✓ donated)