



# February 2019 News



Oh boy, January was a busy month. We began the month with our *Snow and Antarctica Unit*. During this theme, there was a plethora of science and math opportunities. The children experimented with snow, watching what would melt the snow faster, and observed snowflakes. They made ice crystal snowflakes with pipe cleaners, salt and water and estimated the number of marshmallows they could scoop. They compared themselves to the size of an Emperor Penguin and matched buttons to the numeral or math sentence on a snowman. After reading *Inch by Inch* the children discovered the size of an inch, measured objects then predicted how many inch worms would fill a tape line. We even stressed Fact V. Fiction. We found that we can tell just by the cover if a story is fact or fiction when we compared penguin literature. We discovered that the story with the penguin on front wearing a Hawaiian shirt was probably fiction, while the book with penguins on icebergs was more than likely fact.

Our *Author Study* supported language development, print awareness and social skills. Cooperation was practiced with Cooperative Musical Chairs and kindness was the theme of many of Leo Lionni books. Ezra Jack Keats was the first children's author to use inner city children in his books. Following his characters Peter, Reggie, Susie and dog Willie, the children guessed what happened next and sequenced the story *Snowy Day*. They enjoyed a wonderful Pet Show after reading Keats' *Pet Show* where they made awards for their pets and presented them in front of the class. Robert Munsch allowed us to be silly and to laugh. The week was full of fun activities, crazy hair and sock days, colorful art work and color mixing experiments and messing sensory play. We will finish this unit the first week of February with the works of David Wiesner!



## Dates to Remember

**February 14**

Valentine's Day Party

9AM-10:30AM

All DT students invited

**February 15**

Grading Day-Noon Dismissal

Discretionary Conferences

**February 18**

President's Day

No School

**February 19**

Progress Reports Available

**February 21**

Millibo Art Theatre Visit

**March 1**

Pirate Day

(to Celebrate the Letter Rr

AAAARGH!)





# Looking Ahead to February



In February we will finish up our Author Study with David Wiesner. Each author we studied has a unique quality that is portrayed in his or her work. David Wiesner creates stories with no words. During this week the children will learn to create stories with their imaginations and write a wordless book of their own.

Following the *Author Study*, we will go into our Performing Arts theme. The children will learn about sound, song, presentation and dance. We will have a wonderful visit from the Millibo Art Theater on February 21st where the students will enjoy an actor's workshop and a presentation. At the end of the month we will go into the physics theme of *Magnets and Static Electricity*. This hands-on unit is always a favorite as we learn the concepts of attracting and repelling.

## Language Arts

- Alliteration: Ss, Bb, Pp, Rr
- Rhymes -ink, -ate, -ance
- Writing: Wordless Books
- What happens next?
- Writing: My chair would be \_\_\_\_\_
- Verbal Language: Presentation, speaking in front of a group, preparing for play

## Math and Science

- Wart math
- Estimate Number of Frogs in a Jar
- What makes sound?
- Attracting and Repelling
- What is a magnet?

## Social Skills

- Empathy
- Flight of the Bumblebee Game

## Social Science

- Performing Arts
- Instruments
- Presentation
- Music Tells a Story

## Physical Skills

- \*Paper Airplanes\*
- \*Hula Dancing\*
- \*Scarf Dancing\*
- \*Cutting\*
- \*Writing/Drawing\*



# Specials News

## PE (Physical Education)

We worked on crossing the midline during the month of January. Dancing (Macarena and Freeze Dance), crazy eight (we jumped, skipped, ran and walked on a path made to look like an eight), played Twister, played toss/catch/throw/roll/bounce the ball with partners, tried to get out of the 'human knot', enjoyed Simon Says and Follow the Leader. During February, we will be working on Dexterity and Control. We will be executing the clothespin drop, doing Penny Balancing Walks, playing animal charades, spinning coins and participating in gymnastics type exercises. ~Ms. Freeland

## Music

During January, we have been finishing up our Music Elements unit as we talked about dynamics, pitch, tone, and notes on the solfege. Singing songs as we changed our voices, drawing pictures as we listened to different types of music, and playing songs with hand bells helped us understand these elements of music. Songs the students enjoyed playing with the bells included: *Row, Row Your Boat*, *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*; *Eency, Weency Spider* and *Are You Sleeping Brother John?* Next month we will begin learning about musical instruments and instrument families. ~ Mrs. Draper

## Art/Drama

This month we started learning about acting in preparation for our performance in March (date to be determined). We spent a week taking turns acting out the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The kids enjoyed being the troll almost as much as they enjoyed trip tromping across the "bridge" as the small, medium and large billy goat. We also spent time supporting the *Author Study* by trying out techniques that the authors Ezra Jack Keats and Robert Munsch used in their books. Using paper cut outs, tissue paper shapes and kinetic sand to build sandcastles, these authors added another dimension to our process art. We look forward to adding the methods of Eric Carle the beginning of February and continuing to work on our play. ~ Mrs. Priest

## Sign Language

This month we have been busy working on community helpers, action, and sports signs. Some of the games we played to help us learn the signs included: Action Follow the Leader, Simon Says, and Community Helper Bingo. The students practiced asking questions as they asked their friends to come play a certain sport with them. We also reviewed our colors, clothes and family signs. We used a signs review game called: "Snap, Clap, Sign" to help us remember the opposites signs we worked on in December. It is a lot of fun! Next month we will be learning signs for transportation, technology, and question words. ~Mrs. Draper

## Hands-On S.T.E.A.M.

The cold weather in January inspired our S.T.E.A.M. activities. The children enjoyed building and testing penguin rafts and making snowflake crystals. One favorite was learning about the Inuit tribe and watching them make an igloo. We then used biodegradable packing peanuts to build one of our own. We discovered we had to get the right amount of water to hook the peanuts together or they either dissolved or they did not stick. In February, Valentine's Day will instigate S.T.E.A.M. We will roll and color hearts (math), make fizzy hearts (science), create conversation heart towers (engineering) and discover coding while beading (technology). Of course, as we always do, we will be supporting these activities with literature. ~Ms. Baker

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Progress Reports

Second Trimester Report Cards will be available for pick up February 19th. We will not hold formal conferences at this time. We will meet with parents of students heading off to Kindergarten in April and those in preschool the end of May. However, we will be calling for a few conferences for the afternoon of the 15th. If you would like a conference, we have limited spaces available on this day but will find a way to meet whether on the 15<sup>th</sup> or another mutually agreed upon time.

Arrrrrgh! Pirate Day is March 1st to support the sound of Rr (arrrrrrgh!). Children are encouraged to dress as a pirate. We search for buried treasure and learn to walk and talk like a Pirate.



## Dressing for Outdoor Play



Just another reminder about appropriate outdoor Winter wear. Please, please provide you children with a Winter coat, hat/hood and gloves/mittens. The temperature on our playground at 10am is much lower than the high temperature at three in the afternoon. We spend about 40 minutes outdoors during recess daily and then on Tuesdays and Fridays, there is an additional 30 minutes outdoors for PE. When the temperature is only 25-40 degrees, children's ears and hands do get cold.

## Valentine's Day Party

Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup>

9am-10:0am

All DT students invited



- Valentine Exchange
- Ice Cream/Sherbet
- *Minute-to-Win-It Games*
- Sumo Heart Challenge
- Cupid's Arrow Toss
- Make a Special Valentine for Parents