



Play and Prep Preschool Newsletter

January 2021

News from the Directors

Happy New Year! We hope you had a safe and relaxing holiday with your family. We are excited to have the students return to school the week of January 11th.

Our birds have been very hungry over the break. We are looking for black oil sunflower seed for birds or suet cakes if you would like to donate any to the garden.

Thank you to our parent reps who serve on our preschool board. The board has created a Chipotle night out at the end of January. The preschool will receive 33% of orders from in person or online. Money raised from this event will go toward an item for our outdoor area. Thank you in advance for supporting this event.

Jody Halley & Emily Johnson

Important Dates

Jan. 4- Current & alumni registration for 2021-22 begins
Jan. 11- Regular classes resume
Jan. 11- New family registration for 2021-22 begins
Jan. 18- No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 25- 4-8pm Chipotle Fundraiser (see attached flier)
Feb. 4&5- No School Parent Teacher conference (virtual)

Check out our fundraising page at **Mabel's Labels** at www.mabelslabels.com and click on Support a Fundraiser then find Play and Prep Preschool in the school listing. Play and Prep will receive a percentage from your order.

Heinen's Tasteful Rewards School Program. Register Play and Prep with your Tasteful Reward Card at heinens.com/schools, In-store at the Customer Service Desk, or call Customer Relations Department at 1-855-475-2300 ext. 2337. Past participants must **RE-SELECT** Play and Prep by logging in to their Tasteful Rewards profile.

Pre K Class- Oak



It is hard to believe we are entering January. In December your kids learned a lot about snow and winter while using their senses to explore and create both art projects and science experiments. In January will be all about construction and identifying our different feelings. We will be spending one week exploring the construction unit. I know the kids will love the opportunity to use their imaginations while constructing and creating buildings, towers, and bridges with different building material. I am always in awe of their ideas and teamwork when building! We will then be spending two weeks learning about our different feelings. It is often difficult for kids aged 4-5 to understand and verbalize their emotions which is why we will be spending a couple of weeks learning about this. I have numerous art projects, group activities and individualized areas dedicated to recognizing, identifying and coping with different feelings.

Emily Harrigan

Pre K Class - Willow



I hope everyone enjoyed some safe family together time during the holidays! When we return in January we will be exploring themes of construction and transportation. We will continue to work on our letter recognition and sounds as well as turn our focus to numbers beyond 10. For the remainder of the year we will work on writing our names using proper capitalization and lowercase letters as well as focusing on knowing our birthdate, address, and phone numbers! I look forward to returning to the classroom with the kiddos and continuing to learn and grow together!

Kaitlyn Pecherkiewicz

3's Class - Beech



Holiday Greetings from Beech! We focused on a gingerbread man theme in December. We read several books about gingerbread men and a few that were about other food items that ran away. It was interesting for us to notice the similarities in all of the stories even though they were very different overall. In centers, we worked on a gingerbread people matching game, matching gingerbread men to their shadows, matching the letter on the gingerbread man to the same magnetic letter, and ordering the gingerbread men by size. All of these activities worked on visual discrimination. Visual discrimination helps us to understand and interpret the world around us. It is especially important when learning to read, write, and do math.

Miss Julia and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gifts to us, and our hearts were truly warmed by your kind words. We hope you had a very happy and healthy holiday season, and we will see you when we return!

Patti Mauldin

3's Class - Maple



What a great month we had in December exploring snow, gingerbread, and various holidays. The kids really enjoyed our classroom hot cocoa shop and worked hard creating special gifts for you all! As we get back to our school routine in January, we will be exploring winter and hibernating animals. We are going to be learning about keeping ourselves healthy and practicing positive relationships and social skills. We will continue doing fine motor activities to help strengthen hands and begin to focus more on writing our names. Happy New Year!

Lesley Perlberg

Outdoor Class - Pine



The Pine class had a fun month of December! We enjoyed the obstacle of climbing over snow mountains to get to the garden, where we spent our time watching for birds, building with bricks and straw, and working on our holiday presents for our families. We also enjoyed a fun holiday party in the big room. We will be focusing on snow and ice in the month of January.

Laurel Cline

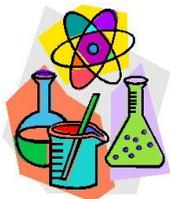
Messy Monday and Sweetgum Classes



December provided us with lots of wonderful snow play days to make snowballs and snow sculptures, measure snowfall and catch snowflakes to look at with magnifying lenses. We also learned about hibernation, bears, and even created our own bear den. We spent a week learning about evergreen trees and the important role they play in providing birds shelter during the winter months. Deer and reindeer rounded out our ongoing animal studies. We also enjoyed making holiday gifts for our families! January will have us learning about the snowshoe hare. And even though not found in Ohio, we are going to learn a bit about animals adapted for the cold like walrus, seals, and polar bears. And hopefully there will be lots more snow and ice to explore!

Carol Juergemeier

STEM



In January, students will tinker with magnets. Students will sort items into magnetic and non-magnetic and may even discover that magnets not only attract objects but can also repel objects. Students will also get a chance to do a little magnet fishing!

Emily Johnson

Music



We will be combining literacy and music this month as we read the book “The Mitten” and then act out the story in musical form!

Lesley Perlberg

Creative Movement



This month we will be trying some cold weather sports. We will ice skate in our socks in the Big Room and play ice hockey. Using pool noodles and peanut butter jar lids the students will work on hand-eye coordination while scoring goals.

Emily Johnson