

# PANDA BEAR NEWSLETTER

December 10, 2014

## HELLO TO ALL PANDA BEAR

**FAMILIES!** It is great to see everyone back from the Thanksgiving Break! Thank you to all of the Dads and other relatives that visited our classroom on our special day to honor our families before the Thanksgiving holiday break. We appreciate your attendance at this special event. The children love to share their friends and daily activities during this time. Hopefully, you were inspired to sing some of the Thanksgiving songs during your family celebration.



## NURSERY RHYME DRAMA

Our Panda Bear classroom enjoyed a week filled with **nursery rhymes**. We visited **HUMPTY DUMPTY, HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE, HICKORY DICKORY DOCK, JACK AND JILL WENT UP THE HILL TO FETCH A PAIL OF WATER, and HOT CROSS BUNS**. All of these wonderful nursery rhymes inspired the children to dramatize the characters when acting out the rhyme. We created scenes with different roles that the children were able to act out during our circle time. They gained awareness and confidence that they could act out an imaginary idea. We used simple pretend objects to support the words in the rhyme. We introduced new words in the rhymes, making the lesson interesting and engaging for the children. For example, the rhymes included words such as **fetch, fiddle, and pail**. Our rhyming unit provided groundwork for the children to strengthen their abilities to mentally picture different situations and to act out different scenes. The children learned the rhyme and had fun with the words. Every child had an opportunity to perform simple actions with props during circle time. They exhibited sustained attention while other friends took the stage. The nursery rhyme unit was a worthwhile experience, introducing meaningful content, building on what we have learned throughout the year.





## TRAIN TABLE VISITS PANDA BEAR CLASSROOM

We had the elaborate train table visit our classroom for several days. Many children in our class appreciate playing with trains. Daily, we have the loose tracks and trains available for play. However, the permanent train table was an exciting addition to our classroom. We will continue to bring the table in periodically throughout the year.

### HOLIDAY PREPARATION

The move into the middle of December happened so quickly! We are enjoying our time focusing on the different traditions, activities, songs, books and food that connect with this time of year.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION MOVING INTO 2015

**SHOW AND SHARE WILL START ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015.** Show and Share is a fun activity that the children really enjoy and look forward to. It is an opportunity to bring something to school that is really special to your child. The item must fit into his/her backpack. The item is required to stay inside of the backpack until we have our special show and share time. On our first Show and Share date (January 9<sup>th</sup>) we are asking that your child bring his/her favorite stuffed animal. The item will most definitely go home with your child in his/her backpack. Bringing a stuffed animal creates a neutral playing field for everyone. Our intent is not to make this time competitive, glitzy, etc. It is really about trust, comfort, getting up to speak in front of others, making decisions, and feeling good about oneself. There is no pressure...your child does not have to participate if he/she feels uncomfortable. If, and when, your child is ready to do this, the opportunity is available and encouraged. Some children just stand up in their place until they are comfortable saying something. Others may march up on our mock stage and blurt out some comments about their item. All children develop different skills at different times. We appreciate and respect that in all of the children at our school.

**HOLIDAY BREAK – BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 ENDS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2015.**



### **HOLIDAY WISHES**

**As we wind down before the holiday break, we want to wish you a healthy, happy and most joyous holiday season with your family. We are all blessed to be in such a wonderful and supportive school community.**

**Again, thank you for all that you do for your children and the school community!**

**MARSHA & COLLEEN**