

BIG BEAR NEWS

Number 12

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The Wells Fargo Stagecoach

Since the beginning of March we have gone from snow and cold to warm weather and rain. As they say, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." On the 3rd we took a spur-of-the-moment walking trip to see the stagecoach parked in front of the new business school building. Everyone was so energized by being outside that we walked all the way around Mudd Field before heading back to the classroom.

In Our Own Words

This past week we enjoyed several warm days outside and saw lots of clues that spring is on the way. The bulbs we planted in the school garden last fall are emerging from the soil and the crocuses are already blooming. We asked each child to tell us how s/he knows that spring is on the way.

Chien: It rains and flowers grow.

Kyra: The leaves come out and apples start growing on the trees.

Avaneesh: It's warmer and the sun is shining. Grass and flowers grow.

Sonali: Chinese New Year and Holi mean that spring is coming.

Sabrina: It's turning warmer and the snow is melting.

Christopher: I have baseball practice.

Shun: It's getting hot and cloudy. I will play in a pool.

Olivia: I am looking forward to going to my sister's school.

Cate: The sun is here and it's drying up the snow.

Manu: Plants are growing.

Kenley: The sun is shining and it's getting warmer.

Sadie: Rain comes and helps the flowers and grass grow.

Nina: There is sun and blue sky. I saw worms on the way to school.

Louis: After Holi comes spring.

Estella: The snow is melting. It's almost out of my back yard.

The Past Two Weeks

Last Monday we put the finishing touches on our Lion Head and practiced wearing the head and parading around our room. Since many children wanted to be the lion in our Chinese New Year parade, we chose three names from a hat and took turns. Many children held up the body of the lion (red sheet), and the rest made lots of noise to scare away the evil spirits. At the end of the morning we all paraded through the school, visiting each classroom.



Chinese New Year Lion

During the rest of the week we learned about the Indian holiday of Holi, a celebration of spring, color, and the triumph of good over evil. The art table was busy with texture painting in bright colors and powdered paint mixing. We also made na'an, a type of Indian flat bread.



Colorful hands

On Friday we listened to music from India and watched videos of dancing and Holi celebrations. Later Big Bear parents Amy and Santhi joined us for a special snack of na'an and gulab jamun. Then we put on old t-shirts and went outside the classroom with paper cups full of special powdered colors to throw around. What fun! We were all very colorful by the end of the day. Thank you Amy and Santhi for a wonderful celebration!



Holi fun

With St. Patrick's Day on the way we read many Irish tales of leprechauns and pots

of gold at the end of the rainbow. We made shamrocks from green hearts, gold coins from foil, bookmarks using contact paper, and rainbow prints using bubble wrap. At the writing table we made a map of our classroom. Each child labeled one the areas and drew a picture of themselves. We played a game where each child hid a gold coin (chocolate!) for a friend and showed him/her where it was by placing the pot-of-gold on the map. In the picture below, the coin was hidden on the small block shelf.



Map of the Big Bear Room

Coming Up

We will have special guests on Wednesday, March 25. Former Big Bear students Nadia (with her mom) and Marina will bring in chickens from Nadia's backyard coop and talk to the school about eggs and chickens. We will be doing activities related to birds at the art and writing tables. Depending on the weather, we will plant seeds indoors and in our garden with hopes of a harvest by the end of the school year. The following week chicken eggs will arrive!

~~Friday, March 27 **Blue Group Show and Share** (Avaneesh, Cate, Chien, Christopher, Estella, Kenley, Kyra, Louis)

~~Thursday, April 2 **Red Group Show and Share** (Manu, Nina, Olivia, Sabrina, Sadie, Shun, and Sonali)



Wedgit Pyramids by Louis and Avaneesh



Block Skyscraper by Shun

~~NO SCHOOL on Friday, April 3
Teacher Professional Development Day

~~Remember to use **Sign-Up Genius** to
schedule your Parent-Teacher Conference.

~~Thanks for your Scholastic Book orders!

Say Hello Around the World (tune of Farmer in the Dell)

Let's wave and say hello,
Let's wave and say hello,
Let's say hello to all our friends,
Let's wave and say hello.

Let's wave and say ni hao...
Let's wave and say bonjour...
Let's wave and say hola...
Let's wave and say guten tag...

Michael Finnegan

There was an old man named Michael Finnegan
He had whiskers on his chinagan
They fell out and then grew in again
Poor old Michael Finnegan, begin again.

There was an old man named Michael Finnegan
He went fishing with a pinagan
Caught a fish and threw him in again
Poor old Michael Finnegan, begin again.



A Long Chain Wrapped Around the Room Photo by Sabrina