

January 15, 2016

# SUN BEAR NEWS

Washington University Nursery School



## Our Sun Bears Settle Back Into Play-Filled Learning After Winter Break

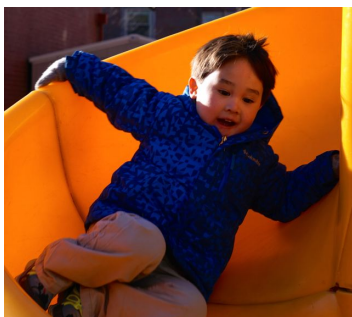
We teachers enjoyed a relaxing holiday break, but we were ready to see our favorite “bears” when school resumed on January 5. And wow, were they happy to see each other! It didn’t take long for the building blocks, books, magnets, markers, paints, and prop boxes to get some attention and love from the Sun Bear class.

Last week, we went to the dogs, so to speak. What did we learn during our dog unit? The attributes of dogs, which Sun Bears had dogs as pets, and how to be safe around dogs we don’t know. Miss Katie’s dog, Murphy, provided a hands-on model, and each child practiced asking Miss Katie if s/he could pet Murphy and then found a spot on his back to pat. It was hard to tell who had the most fun during Murphy’s visit, but we suspect he has four legs.

Art activities included paper bag dog puppets, paw print molds made out of salt dough, and stamp art using plastic dog models. One of the children’s favorite writing activities last week was finding the capital and lower case letter Ds in a sheet full of other letters (and that tricky lower case “b.”) We loved reading the books, Harry the Dirty Dog, The Poky Little Puppy, and Dog’s Colorful Day during circle time.



Upcoming dates:  
1/18: MLK holiday, No School  
1/21: Book orders due  
2/10: Family Night at the Magic House



## It's About Time

Time is not an easy concept for children to grasp, but we provided several activities this week to help increase their understanding of it. We have several sand hourglasses that mark different measures of time (30 seconds, 1 minute, 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 10 minutes). Children love to compare, experiment with, and sequence these. An old small, grandfather-like clock provided children a chance to take a timepiece apart, and several old wristwatches interested children during free choice.

The art, writing and math centers gave Sun Bears materials to make clocks with all the numbers circling the face. We also played a matching game that helped children understand the digital and analog equivalents of time. Our Spanish lesson this week taught children to respond to "que hora es?" (what time is it?) with "Son las dos, son las tres, son las cuatro, etc."

Books we've enjoyed include What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile?, The Completed Hickory Dickory Dock, It's About Time, and A Second Is A Hiccup.

Some sunny days these last two weeks were much appreciated for some fresh air and fun.

Until Next Time, *Miss Colleen & Miss Katie*

