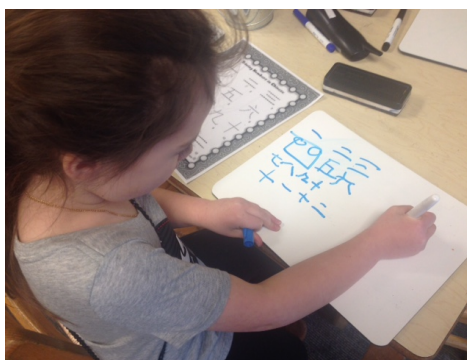


# Sun Bear Newsletter

February 12, 2016



## The Last Two Weeks in Sun Bears: Castles, Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day

During the week of February 1, the Sun Bears went medieval with their construction projects. It took several days, but by week's end, the "Sun Bear Castle" was complete, composed of recyclable materials and painted, stenciled and decorated with crepe paper and aluminum foil torches. The finishing touch? Children were given popsicle sticks, rubber bands, a plastic spoon and cotton balls to see if they could make an effective catapult. With a little help from bigger hands, this engineering feat was a success! Sun Bears are still enjoying their castle in the housekeeping area of the classroom. Children also made crowns, shields, and a family crest. Books enjoyed this week include Mr. King's Castle, Over at the Castle, Knights, and Dragon's Extraordinary Egg.

# Chinese New Year: The Year of the Monkey



Samuel's mom, Li Zou, visited the Sun Bears for a wonderful talk about Chinese New Year. Thanks, Li!

What a treat to enjoy Chinese New Year with the Sun Bears this week. Thanks to Samuel's mom, Li Zou, we learned about the Chinese Zodiac and that 2016 is the Year of the Monkey. Throughout the week, we explored a prop box with clothing, artifacts and games from China. Our writing and math centers invited children to trace and write Chinese numbers 1 – 10. We made lanterns from construction paper, monkeys from pipe cleaners, and lucky red and gold artwork. Several "Curious George" books were hits—even though our favorite little monkey gets into mischief, he has a way of getting it right in the end.



And last but not least, our week ended in a "love"-ly way with our Valentine celebration. Children created special bags and were very excited to share valentines with their classmates. We enjoyed heart-shaped pizzas that each Sun Bear made and a special cookie.

Ahoy, mateys! We are going to study oceans for the next two weeks! We look forward to sharing all our future adventures.



*Until next  
time,  
Miss Katie  
and  
Miss Colleen*