



## Our Sun Bear Family

### Dates of Interest

- 9/28** Family Play Date:  
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm  
WUNS Playground  
All families and siblings welcome!
- 10/6** School Photos  
Watch for an email for specific details
- 10/7** NO SCHOOL  
Professional Development Day for Teachers/Staff
- 10/15** Open House  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Come visit your child's classroom
- 10/31** Halloween Celebration  
Watch for an email for specific details

At WUNS, we believe that children learn most effectively through play experiences that are designed to build communication, socialization, fine and gross motor, creative and collaborative skills. Our curriculum is aligned with best practices standardized by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC).

## Sun Bears: Off to a Roaring Good Start!

As we begin a new school year, we marvel at how well our Sun Bears have adapted to new teachers, routines, class spaces and friends. Last week, we started to build a community of learners, of artists, builders and dreamers. We already can tell that our Sun Bears love learning and feel safe because they are good listeners and friends. That is exciting to see!

This week, in honor of WUSTL's mascot and our own logo, we studied bears. As children worked on creative projects such as a bear cave and bear headbands, they had the chance to build stronger fine motor skills, an important building block to writing. We sang songs and enjoyed stories with bears as main characters, and filled our rotating library with books related to the bear theme. One day was devoted to learning facts about polar bears, another about our namesake, the Sun Bear. We finished the week with a walk, inspired by the book, Going on a Bear Hunt. Ask your Sun Bear if they found any bears on campus!



Some familiar- looking bears made their way to our patio this week. And they were particularly fond of “bear toast,” a special snack we made.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: BLOCK PLAY

One of the centers that Sun Bears discover (sometimes early in the year, sometimes later) is the block area. Here you will find large, medium and small wooden blocks in a variety of shapes and sizes. As children approach this area of the classroom, one child might have an idea about what to build. Another child chimes in and the collaboration starts. A rocket ship, tower, airplane, zoo, dump truck, or garage may emerge. So much play-filled learning: children express ideas and compromise about what the structure should look like. They balance heavier and lighter blocks so that their building stands strong. Then the role-playing begins: who flies the plane, does the spaceship countdown, collects the materials for the vehicles to transport? A visitor might see chaos when it is time for clean-up, but we teachers know that children have practiced communication, collaboration and fine and gross motor skills. And the pride on a Sun Bear's face after a successful “build” is a beautiful thing to see. We also know that clean-up in the block area provides another learning opportunity. Each smaller block has an outline on the shelf where its shape belongs. Stacking the blocks on the shelf becomes a game of matching patterns, which is a foundation for math problem-solving. There is more to a block than meets the eye!



During parent orientation, Miss Katie handed out a Scholastic Books order form. Due date for book orders is September 27. No pressure—this is totally optional! In the past, the school has enjoyed the bonus points from orders that go toward the purchase of new books for our library. Miss Katie will send home book orders two more times this school year.

Until next time,

*Miss Colleen & Miss Katie*