

# Teddy Bear News

Our philosophy is that children learn most effectively through play. We support and encourage each child's unique social, emotional and intellectual development in a nurturing, hands-on and safe classroom environment.



## Important Dates

November 23 – 25 (Wed, Thurs, Fri)	Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)
December 20 (Tuesday)	Last Day of School Before Winter Break
January 4, 2017 (Wednesday)	First Day Back From Winter Break
January 15, 2017 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)

## Classroom Happenings

The Teddy Bear Class has been so fun, active, and focused on the fall holidays. Immediately after the ghosts, the Old Mrs. Witches, and the pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins of Halloween, we immersed ourselves in the turkeys, turkeys, turkeys and leaves, acorns, and grey squirrels of Thanksgiving. We told the story of the first Thanksgiving. Of the Pilgrims, the Mayflower, the hard times, and the dear helpful Native American friends. We made lots and lots of leaves using various methods of adding color and texture to the paper leaves. We also made a giant turkey (our Mr. Turkey who sat on a backyard fence). We painted him and then the next day we added lots and lots of feathers to the old guy. He is magnificent, and will reign on the bulletin board for a few more days.



## Developmental Goals

The Teddy Bear teachers and children have been talking about the concept of thankfulness. The teachers would substitute the phrase, "I am so thankful" for the words, "Thank you." i.e. "I am so thankful for your cleanup help." "I am so thankful for having this snack." "I am thankful that you gave your friend a turn." We then talked in circle about the word thankful. It is was a special word that tells a feeling inside of us: like the words happy or sad. We read our Thanksgiving books and applied the word thankful to the pilgrims. The children were able to see the problems of the pilgrims and how the Native Americans helped in so many ways.



## A Closer Look

We have also been focusing on the idea of being school boys and school girls.

This is big! It is different than being family. The children have a lot of fun in our class and on the playground. They are learning and thinking and processing every single minute of this great time. We are using the words "school boys and school girls." The children are recognizing that they are working as they play. We are trying to make the Teddies aware that they are thinkers, listeners, lookers, and doers.

With all of this in mind, we are trying to establish a calm, thoughtful, interesting, and fun atmosphere in our classroom.. Now, of course, the average three year isn't big on calm. However, he/she is curious, and interested. We will build on that.

## Books and Songs Enjoyed

We sang many fall songs...*A Turkey is a Funny Bird*, *Hello Mr. Turkey How Are You?*, *I'm Going to Eat on Thanksgiving Day*, *I'm An Acorn*, *Grey Squirrel*, and the special Native American song, *Heyae Yanna Yanna Yanna*.

We read many fall season books: *Fall Changes* by Ellen B. Senisi, *Have You Seen Trees?*, by Joanne Oppenheim, *Pumpkin Pumpkin*, by Jeanne Titherington, *Fresh Fall Leaves*, by Betsy Franco, *Thanksgiving*, by Miriam Nerlove, *Thanksgiving Day*, by Anne Rockwell, *One Little, Two Little, Three Little Pilgrims*, by B.G. Hennessy, and *What Is Thanksgiving*, by Harriet Ziefert.



Dad's, Granddad's, and Special Friend's Day was a special one in the Teddy Bear Class! We are so thankful to you: for all the time, love and effort you give to your children and to us. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We truly love being with them. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Love, Marbie & Chona