



Big Bear News

12/7/17

**School Year
2017 - 2018**

Important Dates

**Performance:
The Sneetches at
New City School
Thursday, Dec. 14**

**Last Day Before
Winter Break:
Tuesday, Dec. 19**

**First School Day
Back:
January 4, 2018**

**NO SCHOOL
MLK, Jr.
Monday, Jan. 15**



Washington University Nursery School

What's happening in the classroom?

As we approach the winter holiday season - sometimes perceived by children as the *getting* season - we are focusing on *giving* with our Big Bears. In all the holiday hullabaloo it is easy for children to "get the gimmies" and, quite frankly, focus on themselves beyond what is typical of this age. This week, in our attempt to aim high and plant more seeds of compassion, we will introduce the Big Bears to the family that WUNS has adopted from the 100 Neediest Cases and create homemade play dough for them. We will challenge their ideas via literature and discussion of just what constitutes a true "gift" and re-introduce the idea that a gift can be homemade play dough, a hug, a special drawing, or simply time.

At circle we will also ask the children to ponder the difference between wants and needs, using classroom objects to more concretely show this concept. We will play around with this abstract idea for several days and have the kiddos eventually find objects around the room themselves that illustrate the difference. Please use our lessons as a springboard for conversation at home and help your Big Bears to remember what is important during this special - and often overwhelming-for-children - time of year. We also plan to think about you! Be on the lookout for special giving projects made especially for you.

Please help your Big Bears to survive and thrive this holiday season by adhering as much as possible to routines and rules at home as we do the same in the classroom. This will provide the children with much-needed stability - and rest! - as they enjoy this emotionally-charged and highly-anticipated time of year. This includes trying to maintain regular bedtimes and routines (hard to do right now, we understand!), incorporating quiet time and unstructured play time during the day, and enforcing rules at home. Thank you for trying!

Below is the link to help our family in need. We have been so touched by your generosity. Thank you!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C48ABAE2AA1FA7-100neediest



*Happy Holidays,
Big Bear Families!*

*Love,
Ms. Suzy & Ms. Heather*

