



# Big Bear News

February 2, 2018

School Year  
2017 - 2018

## Washington University Nursery School

### What's happening in the classroom?

Dear Wonderful Big Bear Families,

Big Bears have continued to enjoy playing with fairy tales! Reading different versions of beloved tales such as The Gingerbread Boy, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Cinderella readily calls on the children to use their higher level thinking skills. They analyze and predict, evaluate and draw conclusions. They compare and contrast story events and characters in Cinderella and The Rough-Face Girl, in Gingerbread Boy and the Gingerbread Girl, and in Jack and the Beanstalk and Jim and the Beanstalk. And again we must tell you how much Big Bears love a good story!

Fairy tales have influenced our Big Bear centers and routines. On Monday mornings the children have alternately discovered ginger snaps and beans in our estimation jar, and have been learning to make more and more thoughtful estimates. At circle time we discuss what influences their estimates - previous estimates, the size and shape of the object, how much the object fills the jar. We then lay out the objects on paper, counting by ones, often circling or gathering the tens, sometimes changing our estimates aloud. (Boy, little lima beans sure do add up quickly. The big ginger snaps...not so much!) Wonderful math in action!



In science Big Bears planted individual lima beans in baggies with wet towels to be observed as time goes on. You can find the bags hanging on the Big Bear window where they will (hopefully!) get a bit of sunlight. The children also observed what happens over time when a ginger snap rests in water or milk or oil. Ask your child which liquid the surviving ginger snap rested in all week! In the math center kiddos measured their shoes a la Cinderella using various units of measurement, such as unifix cubes, blocks, links, and more traditional rulers. We also graphed their favorite Gingerbread Boy story version, as well as their favorite cookie - the ginger snap or the homemade gingerbread cookie. The homemade gingerbread cookies which the children rolled out, shaped, and decorated won by a landslide! Those ginger snaps have a kick to them!

In the writing center Big Bears have been writing one-page fairy tales, as well as labeling different types of beans and creating beanstalks. In the art center they have been creating scary - and sometimes nice! - giants, and castles made of various geometric shapes and pastels. And don't worry - during our study of Cinderella we have also incorporated stories of knights and dragons to satisfy every child's fairy tale interest.

As we wrap up our fairy tale unit, we look forward to preparing for Valentine's Day and thus continuing our discussions about love and kindness.

Love,  
Suzy & Heather

