



BIG BEAR NEWS



WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY NURSERY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 18, 2019



Dear Wonderful Big Bear Families,

In celebration of the season, Big Bears are learning about Gratitude this month. In Big-Bear-speak, our theme is "being thankful." Each day Big Bears are responsible for visiting the writing center to add an entry to their personal gratitude journals with the help of Ms. Suzy or Ms. Heather. The children write and draw about a family member or a food or a friend whom/that they are thankful for that day, as well as something about themselves for which they are thankful. The range of choices the children make, from almonds to lollipops, from parents to siblings, from their eyes to their ability to draw reflects the beautiful diversity in Big Bears. As always, we are planting seeds...seeds of gratitude. They say that we are not grateful because we are joyful; we are joyful because we are grateful.

We integrated Ms. Suzy's birthday celebration into our gratitude unit. The children lovingly prepared a class book about why they are thankful for Ms. Suzy ("she teaches me art" - "she hugs me" - "because I love her"), and also baked her a cake and created bday banners. The children are learning to express gratitude with their words AND actions.

We are also integrating our preparation for our Dads and Special Friends Day this coming Friday into our gratitude unit ("why are you grateful for your dad/mom/special friend?"). The children are preparing special gifts, using their fine motor/tracing and writing skills, their thinking skills, their creativity, and a focus on patterns. They cannot wait to share their gifts with you this Friday at 10:45 at Donuts with Dads and Special Friends!

We have read a variety of picture books focusing on gratitude, from the downright silly to realistic fiction. Our selections have included: Mo Willems' The Thank You Book, Patricia Polacco's Thank You, Mr. Falker, and Todd Parr's The Thankful Book. Each author/illustrator has lended itself readily to activities in the art center where the Big Bears have simulated some of their unique styles.

In math and science we have been investigating rocks and magnets, estimating and building, creating patterns, and exploring fall at the science table.

Speaking of gratitude, we want to thank YOU for attending parent/teacher conferences and being so open to listening and sharing about your wonderful children. When we are all on the same team, it is the children who reap the greatest rewards. Go Team Big Bears!

Have a beautiful week,
Ms. Heather & Ms. Suzy :)

Celebrating Ms. Suzy



Halloween Fun



A Cold Snap



Love,
Ms. Heather & Ms. Suzy :)