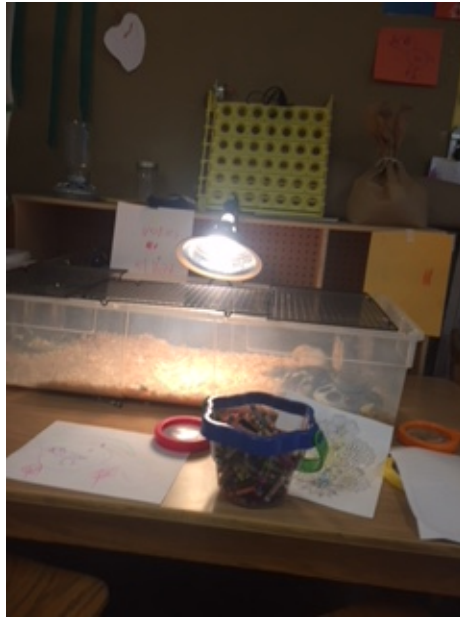




# Big Bear News

April 30, 2018



**School Year  
2017 - 2018**

## Washington University Nursery School

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM?

#### *Hello Wonderful Big Bear Families!*

Happy Spring! As you well know by now, we have been having a great time observing and learning about our baby chicks! The children easily rose to the occasion of welcoming such fragile little creatures into our energetic classroom. They respectfully used their quiet voices during close observation (Christian's handwritten reminder helped!), did not tap on the "walls" of the chicks' home, and practiced self-control as a whole group when we invited the chicks to circle time. They did such a great job that we allowed them to hold the chicks in the science center during the chicks' last two days with us. Animals can teach children so much!

The chicks provided lots of natural learning opportunities. Big Bears counted the total number of eyes, wings, and legs for our seven chicks, attempting to count by both ones and twos. They used their observation skills and scientific tools, such as magnifying glasses, books, and measuring tools, to learn about chick development and anatomy. They created their own creative eggs using colorful eggshells that they had peeled as well as a huge class nest in art. They estimated chocolate eggs as well as plastic Easter eggs in the estimation jar. And of course the chicks were great fodder for Big Bear journals.



#### **Important Dates:**

“Muffins With Moms”  
May 4, 10:45 am

School Picnic  
May 8, 5:30 pm  
Shaw Park

Last Day of School  
May 16

Our study of the chicks overlapped with our completion of our alphabet unit. We loved hearing the children walk into the classroom each morning having already discussed the Letter of the Day with you all and having decided on their own Word of the Day that started with that day's letter. (Tilly's "zizzer-zazzer" a la Dr. Seuss was a particular favorite!) They thrived on the routine of completing one page/day in the writing center. The children are so excited to take their personal alphabet books home this week.

We have been preparing for all you special moms (or special friends should you be unable to attend) to visit this Friday, May 4 at 10:45. It will be a wonderful playtime for you and your child; we will have activities set up in centers for you and your child to enjoy together.

This week we not only said goodbye to the chicks, but we also said goodbye to two beloved Big Bears, Amber and Ryan. We will miss you both so much! Good luck in your next adventures!

With this beautiful weather - finally! - don't forget that your Big Bears need to finish their homework. Yes...homework! They have been assigned to GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY! Enjoy!

Love,  
Suzy & Heather

