

BUILDING BLOCKS



2019



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR:

by: Maria Marino

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for the delicious treats that were sent in during the holiday season. The entire staff enjoyed all the goodies and gifts. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays as much as we did.

YEAR END TAX STATEMENT:

If you need a year-end tax receipt for your records, you may visit tuitionexpress.com and log in using your ID number. If you cannot log in or would prefer that we print a receipt for you, just let us know.

OUTDOOR PLAY DAYS:

Occasionally each classroom (excluding infants) will schedule outdoor play days. Check your child's calendar to see when their class will be going outside. Please know that we will not take the children out if the temperature goes below 32 degrees. Be sure to send appropriate clothing - snow pants, hats, boots, and mittens.

PLANNING FOR PRESCHOOL:

All three year old parents are invited to come and visit Courtney Miller, our four year old teacher, as she describes the experience your child will have next year in our four year old program.

Courtney will be available to answer any questions you may have about your child's preschool year and their transition into Kindergarten.

Mark your calendar: Monday, March 11th from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Look for more information in your email soon.

A NOTE FROM THE NURSE:

by: Linda Thoman, RN

Happy New Year everyone! Thank you for all the delicious treats over the past month.

It will definitely be difficult to stop snacking and eat healthier food now.

According to the news, flu season appears to be upon us. Posted on the bulletin board is a flu information fact sheet; more information can be found online at www.cdc.gov/flu. Also, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding people who are sick are a few ways to remain healthier this winter. Stay warm!





LETTERS FROM LULLABY LAND: Infants - by Michelle Mikita

Happy New Year everyone. And away we go-o-o-o! Allison is so anxious to stand. She is doing everything she can until that final day when she is up all on her own. Derek just can't stop moving and grooving all around the room. Cora is trying so hard to pull herself up. It will be any day now. And big boy Vincent has the rolling over thing down pat. Ame is loving food and Ava is working so hard with the walker, pushing it all around the room. Our new baby Grace is such a joy. She joined the group with no fuss and no muss.

As winter creeps up on us, we plan to do a lot of singing songs, clapping hands, dancing and having tons of sensory fun every day. So as baby grows please keep us informed and up to date about any changes in diet and bottles. We will also be introducing and practicing with a sippy cup when it is age appropriate. And remember to label, label, label everything that you bring into daycare.



FUN WITH ONES: One Year Olds - by Melissa Corliss

We are in a new year and ready to learn new things in the month of January. Speaking of new, I'd like to welcome from our infant room, Matthew and Jack. We would also like to welcome Evan, who joined us in December. Last month was a whirlwind of fun and entertaining activities from creating snowmen out of marshmallows to ringing in the New Year with some colorful confetti. December came with so many fun activities like decorating the classroom with our Christmas art along with the class Christmas tree and dancing to Christmas music to get into the holiday groove. We also filled our bellies with cookies and hot chocolate while we read books all comfy and cozy in our pajamas which helped to exercise our sensory and literacy skills. I think



Santa knew we were ready and full of Christmas spirit because we had a visit by Mr. Claus himself. I hope everyone has a wonderful New Year and I can't wait to see what fun and exciting adventures 2019 brings to our classroom.

It's time to get all bundled up because this month we will be talking all about snow. Get ready for some fun outdoor play to help exercise our large motor areas. We are also going to enjoy indoor snow play and have so many fun snow themed projects ahead of us that help develop our baby's sensory, fine motor and creative expression skills. Coming into January means that we





TWOS NEWS: Two Year Olds - by Jodi Jackson



Happy New Year everyone. I can't believe it's 2018. What a great year 2018 was with your little ones. I have watched them grow so much and become their own person. I'm so blessed to have a part in their growth.

December was so much fun. We built a No Snow Snowman, made a menorah with our handprints to celebrate Hanukkah and we pinned the carrot on the snowman. That was one of my favorite activities because the kids were so excited to participate. They waited patiently for their turn and understood the concept of cheering each other on by jumping up and down. We read a story about Santa's reindeer and made reindeer food so that the reindeer could keep up their energy for the long trip all around the world. Your little ones enjoyed a relaxing day in their pajamas for our Polar Express day with Miss Laura Betty. She really is the best storyteller. Santa came to visit. How cute was that? We had fun making your Christmas gifts using lots of glue and glitter. At least the glitter added more sparkle to our decorated classroom. Celebrating this holiday season with your little ones was a real blast. We sang Christmas songs, read stories and threw confetti all over the hallway as we counted down to the New Year.

January begins with some sad goodbyes to Brooke and Phoebe. I'm really going to miss them but I know they are in good hands with Miss Meghan as they move up to the Two Plus class. We also have some wonderful hellos to make for Connor and Gunnar who moved over from Miss Melissa. I'm excited to have them in my class.

This month will be filled with winter animals, winter activities, learning about snow and snowmen and lots of sensory activities using our fine and large motor skills.

Thank you to all the families who thought of us this holiday season with your generous gifts.





TWO PLUS NEWS: by Megan Holt

As we say goodbye to 2018, I can't help but reflect on how much the children have grown over the past few months. It has been a real joy to be a part of your child's life this past year. Saying goodbye to Brody and Zahara, who moved over to Miss Olivia is hard, but looking back at December and all the fun we had learning about Traditions Around the World was a great part of our month.

We started off the month getting ready for winter with learning about our first holiday Hanukkah. Max helped me teach everyone that the colors of Hanukkah are blue and white. We even used them to make our very own Star of David decorations. Isaac always amazes me at how detailed he can be when he does his projects. He sat there and made sure that he placed the blue and white tissue paper exactly on the wooden star. When he was done he just turned to me and said, "All done". Then it was time to light our Menorah. All the kids had a ball lying down on the floor together to color it. Leah made sure that all her friends knew we were using the yellow crayon. It would not be Hanukkah without making dreidels. We decided to take a different spin on creating them by using marshmallows, pretzel sticks, and Hershey kisses. Viviana did a great job following directions when putting all the pieces together and she really enjoyed taking a big bite out of her Hersey kiss when she was all done.

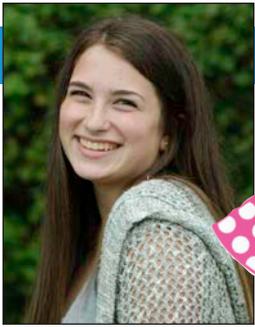
There was so much excitement within our room on St. Nicholas Day. All the kids waited to see what they would receive from St. Nicholas in their shoe. Laila was first in line to get her shoe and when she saw the candy cane, a huge smile swept across her face. It was priceless.

This month we also made sure to add in some fun winter activities. When it came time to create our very own snow Brody ran right up to the table to help me first. He needed no help scooping up all the snow mix and dumping it right into the big bucket. Ryder really made me chuckle. As the snow grew bigger and bigger, his mouth opened wider and wider in anticipation. Playing with it was a lot of fun and Everly couldn't wait to start putting her hands right in it. When I asked her if it was cold she just laughed. It was adorable! The next holidays we learned all about were St. Lucia's Day and Los Posadas. Kellan and Zahara had a blast dancing around together in their St. Lucia's Day crowns. For Los Posadas each of my friends got a chance to make a card for one of their friends and they even traced their name inside. When I asked Lukas who he was making his card for, he was so thoughtful and told me his sister's name.

Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Years were our last holidays, and these seemed to be the most exciting ones for everyone. Everyone was so excited to tell me what they wanted from Santa. I heard baby dolls to cars and trains. We had a thrilling month not only learning about all different traditions but also getting ready for our holiday pageant. I know with the excitement of seeing all the mommies and daddies in the audience it can be a little nerve racking, but I am so proud of the children for trying to sing in front of everyone.

As I say goodbye to 2018 and welcome a whole new class into our Two Plus room it has been a real joy to have had the opportunity to get to know and teach your children. I know that they will excel in Miss Olivia's class. I am so thrilled and happy to welcome Phoebe and Brooke. I know they will only add joy and laughter to our room. We have a big month ahead of us and I cannot wait to see what it will bring!! Have a great January.

**HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR**



NEWS PLEASE FROM THREES: by Olivia DeNatale

Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the nice break and holidays with family and friends. As we leap into a new year, I would like to say goodbye to all of our big friends as they move to the Preschool room. With that, we welcome our new friends Brody, Drew, Vincent and Zahara to threes.

December was filled with so much fun and festivities. We started our month off learning about Hanukkah. All of my friends were so excited to learn about this holiday. Niko and Tomyris had so much fun making the candles to go on our menorah. Evelyn did such a great job making her Star of David. Throughout this week we also learned about St. Nicholas. In honor of St. Nicholas Day each of the children put their shoes in the hallway before nap in the hopes that there would be

something special waiting for them when they woke up. Jaxson couldn't wait to go out into the hallway and find the surprise that was left in his shoes.

The following week we talked about snow. Lily and Abby were especially excited to make their own snow to play with. Justin's favorite activity this week was getting to paint with the snow.

All of my friends did a great job singing for our Christmas pageant. Audrey and Harper could not wait to sing and loved it. This month we also learned about St. Lucia. Domenico and Orla did such a great job making their crown.

All of my friends could not wait for the Polar Express. Alonna had a blast and asked when we could go back on board.

This week was filled with all holiday cheer. Emma and Nicholas really enjoyed making mittens out of their hand prints. They even thought they could really wear them. Aiden had the most fun making reindeer dust. All of my friends could not wait to sprinkle their reindeer dust all over their lawn so that Santa and his reindeer could spot their house from up in the sky.

I am looking forward to kicking off the new year with some fun filled activities, projects, and lessons. We will continue to work on our numbers, colors, letters, and shapes as we have been. Last year was great, and I know this year will be even better.



REBECCA'S THREE PLUS: by Rebecca Henry



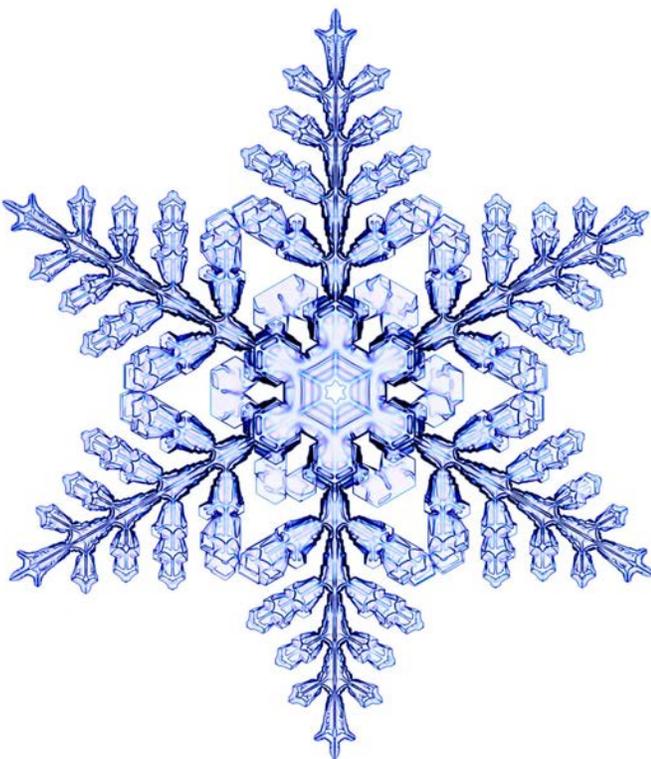
Happy New Year! 2018 was a year filled with lots of growth and learning, fun activities, and adventures. I hope you all had a great holiday. I'd like to start by thanking everyone for your generous gifts. I really appreciated it. December was a super fun month where we learned all about holiday traditions, snow, and holidays around the world. We also welcomed our new friends Evelyn, Harper, Nicholas, and Audrey into our classroom. We are so excited to have them in the preschool room.

We started off our fun month talking all about holiday magic. The first day we had our Grinch day where we all wore green. Jaquel looked so cute in his Grinch hat. We also had fun playing our reindeer letter match game, making candy cane beads, and Hanukkah candles. Kinley and Skyler loved stringing the beads to make their candy canes. They were showing everyone who came in.

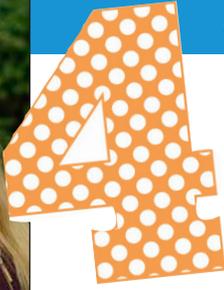
The following week we learned all about holiday traditions. We all took turns sharing our favorite traditions during the holidays. It was so nice to hear all about what the children look forward to in December. During this week we also did a lot of fine motor and math activities like making a shape Christmas tree, tissue paper ornaments, and making cards for our friends around the building. Luigi loved making the tissue paper ornaments. He made sure to use every color tissue paper on his. We also had fun baking Christmas cookies together, and decorating our Christmas tree. Mackenzie loved putting up the Christmas tree. She said it looked just like the one in her house. We also had our holiday pageant this week. The kids had the best time singing for their families, and meeting Santa. Autumn loved singing all the songs, especially "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" in sign language.

We continued the fun with holidays around the world next. During this week, we learned all about Los Posadas, St. Lucia day and more. Jackson and Greyson loved making cards to hand out to their friends for St. Lucia day. Jackson made his all red, and Greyson made his green.

We ended our Christmassy month learning all about the snow. We talked about what snow feels like, looks like, and when it snows. We worked on group participation and our social emotional skills by making a big snowflake together as a class. We also had fun drawing snow themed pictures!



December turned out to be a fun filled holiday month. Everyone was so excited to tell me all about what they got for Christmas. January is going to be even better as we explore our building study. We will be learning all about buildings, what they're made of, how big or small they are, and so much more. 2019 here we come!



COURTNEY'S FOURS: by Courtney Miller

Goodbye 2018, Hello 2019. With the new year starting, I thought about how thankful I am to have your amazing kids in my class. They bring joy and laughter into my day.

The month of December has been a joyous and cheerful month filled with belief in Holiday Magic. Throughout the month our friends explored all things holiday. We started our holiday celebrations by celebrating Hanukkah and St. Nicholas Day. During Hanukkah we practiced our cutting and made our own menorahs. Aaliyah and Harper are getting so good at cutting. Olivia and Eli were especially excited for St. Nicholas Day. They spent the whole day asking when it was nap time, so they could put their shoes in the hallway to wait for St. Nicholas to bring them a treat.

The second week of December brought a fun week about traditions. We celebrated a variety of Holiday traditions and created some of our own. We decorated our tree. Justin and Kamdyn loved putting the ornaments on our tree. During this week we had our annual holiday pageant. All my friends did an amazing job and were so excited to sing. Audrina and Gabriella were a little nervous about performing in our annual Holiday Pageant but when show day arrived, they sang their hearts out. To end out our week, we celebrated Los Posadas. For Los Posadas we gave the office a special encore performance of our Holiday Pageant.

To kick off Holiday Fun week, our friends hopped on the Polar Express in our Pajamas. Giana and Harper loved getting their tickets, eating yummy cookies and drinking hot chocolate. All of my friends loved hearing the story and enjoying a fun and special day. Evan and Matthew were very excited to write their letters to Santa asking him for all the goodies they wanted. We ended our week experimenting with Candy Canes. Dara loved watching the candy canes fizz. She used her big scientist words to describe what the candy canes looked like. She did a great job.

We wrapped up our month with all things snow. We learned about snowmen, winter clothing, hibernation and so much more. Our friends really enjoyed learning about snow, but they loved celebrating Kwanzaa and the New Year. We rang in the New Year with a fun countdown with all our friends. Noah loved cutting up the confetti and getting to throw it in the air.

With January upon us, I would like to say thank you for the thoughtfulness and kindness I saw during the holiday season. I love all of my gifts and appreciate you thinking of me. I really do love spending time with your children and seeing them grow. I cannot wait to see what the next few months will bring. Throughout January, we are going to have so much fun learning new and exciting things starting off with buildings.





FROM THE EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW: *by: Laura Betty*

As we ring in another year of resolutions and setting goals, I'm not quite sure what else I can fix, change, rearrange, or organize that I haven't already tried to do for the past 50 something years. So instead of giving up, toning down, emptying out or keeping account of, I've decided to just hit the proverbial "refresh" button and hope that I can start out the new year with more clarity. When we get to a certain age, it's hard to change the way we do things that we've been doing for way more than 365 days. On January 1st it will be hard for me to stop snacking in between meals every single day when I've pretty much lived my

whole life around snacking. As a child I came home from school to a snack of milk and cookies; as a mother I shared a dish of milk and cookies with my daughter afterschool and as an adult, thanks to so many thoughtful parents, I can have a cookie with my afternoon tea for the next month or two. And how do I organize my closets in January when I don't know what I might need by June or July? It's hard for me to let go of things that I can re-purpose or sell. I have Pintest to thank for re-purposing all the things that belong either in the trash or in a box marked Goodwill and the village yard sale sites for holding onto stuff that just might be someone else's treasures. As far as keeping my bank account above zero, I really don't think I can set a goal to save more if I continually have more to give; to the electric and gas company for all the lovely light displays I plugged in over the holidays, or the grocery store for all the wonderful meals we enjoyed as we celebrated with family and friends, or the credit card company that so graciously allowed me to over spend by increasing my balance. And let's not forget my new gym membership that will transform my body and mind into a new me for the New Year! Have I gone yet, NO!

Resolutions are not to be taken lightly, nor are they for the faint of heart. Instead of making unrealistic resolutions, start with something small. If you really want to see a change for the new year, wake up a few minutes earlier and watch the sun rise. Turn off your TV, computer or phone and turn on some music. Plan a play date for the kids so that you can plan a date night for each other. Start writing in a journal. Learn a new game or sport. Make time for family and friends that doesn't revolve around a holiday. Change doesn't have to turn your world upside down; it's just here to remind us that snooze isn't an option.

My new year started off with a new hair cut and color, some new curtains for my living room windows, a new pair of sneakers and a refrigerator full of fruits and vegetables. I'll leave the resolution making to the ones who truly want to mix things up. As for me, I'll just stick to changing things I can and leaving the rest up to chance.

Babysitting Form *for Friday, February 1, 2019*

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Numbers: (1) _____

(2) _____

Please watch for a babysitting list which will be printed and posted at the Parent Bulletin Board by the entrance door at the beginning of the week.