

## ~Preschool~

Welcome to the new year! We hope everyone had a relaxing winter break with their families and friends. The preschool room is ready to embrace the colder weather during the month of January. The class will “travel” north to the Arctic to explore the climate, animals and people that call this area home. As we learn about the Arctic, the children will have opportunities to compare how our environment here in Minnesota is similar, as well as learn of some differences. Our activities will focus on making a connection to life in the Arctic. How do animals and people survive there? What special clothing, tools or food is commonly used there? To help the children connect with the environment in this part of the world, the class will have opportunities to watch short National Geographic clips throughout the month.

Our last two weeks of the month will highlight our virtue of ‘Celebrating our differences’. The children are engaged in daily conversations that share details about themselves, favorite colors, favorite books, family members, pets and more. Naturally, when these conversations occur the discussions transition onto who likes similar things and who does not. Often, we discuss the different dynamics of our family and who lives in our home. Some of us have pets and some of us do not. These topics are a few examples of how preschool age children recognize similarities and differences between each other. The teachers will use these examples as part of our learning with celebrating our differences. Each child will have a chance to be highlighted throughout the month with a poster that tells us a little about themselves. As we are learning about each child, we will continue our discussions about how we are all similar and different in many ways and that is a part of what makes us special. Beyond our likes and dislikes our focus will also allow us to learn about differences in appearance, abilities, culture and more.

### Special Days:

January 7th : Show and Share day! (Your child may bring 1 item of their choosing)

January 13th : LANA

January 26th : Warm Cocoa Party

### Reminders:

Each child has an art folder located on the side of the art desk. Please check your child’s folder each night for art they complete independently and through teacher lead activities. If your child does not already have a small bottle of hand lotion or Chapstick at school, you may bring in those items to help with chapped skin during the winter months.

Happy January,  
Your Preschool Staff