

## ~ Toddlers ~



Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday and we're able to enjoy the break! Now it is time to get back in our routine and start the New Year off strong. We loved learning about all of your family traditions and seeing the fun photos of you and your children! Over the month

of December the toddler's did a lot of fun arts and crafts to share with their family and give as a present. We also enjoyed reading tons of books about all the different Holiday's that people around the world celebrate, The book Latke was a huge hit in our classroom and we even got to try some ourselves, Austin made both preschool and our classroom some from scratch for us to try. The toddlers got to take part in some sensory play and make their own playdough and after worked together to clean up their mess,

spraying the tables and wiping it down. The month of December's virtue was Kindness. The toddlers worked really hard on showing their kindness to one and other, we checked in our friends if we hurt them even if it was an accident, we worked on growing our self regulation during "the waiting part" even when it was hard, and showed our friends gentle touches. The toddler room collected used and new clothing to donate to YouthLink, an organization to help vulnerable young adults find shelter and offer other resources.



For the month of January the toddlers will be learning about different arctic animals. Each week we will be focusing in on a different animal from the arctic, week one we will be talking about Polar Bears and working on gross motor skills with a Polar Bear obstacle course, making our own slime, and ice-fishing for polar bear foods. Week 2 we will be learning to walk like penguins, making penguin puffy paint art, and sliding around like a penguin on their bellies! Week three we will be diving into Beluga Whales with water sensory "Whales in the ocean", an "I Spy" whale busy bottle, and puffy paint beluga whale art! Week 4 we will be learning about Snowy owls. The toddlers will use their fine motor skills to cut out shapes and glue them onto a paper plate as will as feathers to make a snowy owl mask and later use in dramatic play with friends, we will be making an igloo home for all of our arctic animal friends outside to live in, we will also be making their own "owl eyesight" by making their own binoculars so they can see just like the snowy owl!

Our virtue for the month of January is Celebrating Our Differences, everyone has differences whether that be the way that we look, who we live with, our cultures and religions or even how we think! What is one thing you do as a family that may be considered different to others that your are comfortable sharing? The toddlers will be reading many different books about celebrating our differences around the world. The toddlers will be encouraged to notice differences in the classroom and to talk about these differences with each other and teachers. Five ways you can celebrate differences at home with your children; model behavior (notice/celebrate differences out loud, point out displays of people who are different than you, have conversations about what you notice) explore diverse entertainment, try foods from different cultures, celebrate your own heritage, read, watch and buy examples (babies/ action figures with differences like skin tone) of people who are different!



This month we are happy to be welcoming Lincoln into our classroom and cheering Brooke and Sullivan on as they move onto Preschool!

Happy New Year, welcome back! Robyn, Kayla, and Tanisha