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Growing Highlights

February 2019

Dear Parents,

We are finally starting to get more snow and the temperatures are dropping causing us to stay inside more. One question everyone always asks me is “what **DO** you do with those children all day when you cannot go outside?” As I have told parents before, we like to bring the outside indoors. We have lots of ride-on toys that the children love to use indoors to work on gross motor skills. Teachers also like to bring in the gymnastic mats, ball pits, and water tables. Children are always amazed at what they are able to do inside! Some of our favorite indoor winter field trips are: Kids In Motion, The Children’s Play Gallery, The Big Backyard, and any gymnastics studio.

Have you seen our newest siblings at Grandma’s House board? (Located just outside my office) We have had so many siblings start in the past 6 months that we thought it would be fun to post pictures for everyone to enjoy. What an amazing feeling for us to have so many families stay with us longer!

Jess Donohue, Director

jdonohue@grandmashouse.org



SAVE THE DATE

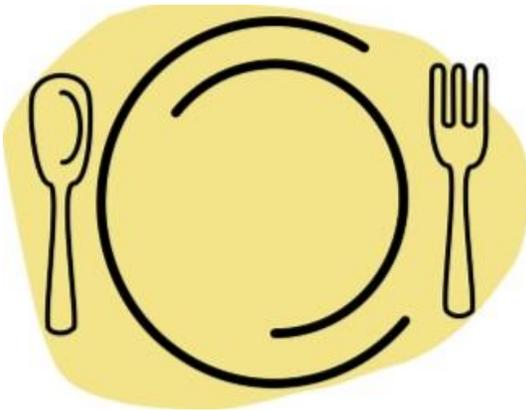
Sunday, June 9, 2019

Grandma's House Annual Family Picnic

Upcoming Events

PJ & Book Drive ~ Starting 2/18

NOTES FROM GRANDMA'S KITCHEN



Did you know...

Fresh or Frozen fruits and vegetables are used in our snacks & lunches instead of canned fruits and vegetables.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Lil Cheeseheads

We made it through January, we hope everyone is staying warm! Since we all love our friends, we decided to create our own box of conversation hearts for the baby room. These hearts say terms of endearment and developmental milestones we are working on for each baby:

Christopher – SMILES & roll over

Harvey – XOXO & recognize objects

Finley – HOLD MY HAND & reach for

Woodland Creatures

We have been learning about different countries around the world, such as painting our own version of the Colombian flag as well as the African flag. Other fun activities we like to do is match colors and shapes. These are easy to do at home just by using items around the house. Our teachers have been helping us learn to use scissors as well as encouraging us to use gentle touches, using our manners and words more to get what we need. Also, as

toys

Zara – SO SWEET & turn to sound

Coen – SNUGGLE ME & sit up

Ariana – BE MINE & manipulate toys

Mary – SWEET AS SUGAR & making sounds

Jonny – HUG ME & roll over

Gauge – SWEET CHEEKS & differentiated cry

George – CUTIE PIE & play with fingers

Spread LOVE the month of February!

Ms. Holly S. & Ms. Jenna, Infants

Cream Puffs

Love is in the air! We would like to wish you days filled with love and happiness. We will also be working on sitting without support for our younger friends by placing them between our legs while reading books. Also, this month our portfolio focuses are throwing balls over hand, naming their friend and pointing to them. Please have your child wear pink or red on Thursday, 2/14 for Valentine's Day.
Ms. Denise & Ms. Bekah, Older Infants

Polka Tots

The old saying goes, "Love is in the air"; well in Toddler land, "Learning is in the

a class, we love to make things we can eat and we are helpful in pouring and mixing the ingredients. This would be another fun activity we can do as a family at home.
Ms. Jennie & Ms. Diane, 2 1/2's

Door County Cherries

We have had a great start to the new year! Over the holidays we learned more about New Years by creating a ball drop countdown and we learned what year is next by gluing gems on the numbers of 2019. Next, we started to learn about the ocean and what animals live in the ocean. In this unit we practiced using a simple tool, an eye dropper, to drop blue and yellow liquid watercolors on coffee filters to see the colors mix. We also worked on recognizing shapes by playing a game, "I have...Who has..." and by matching shapes together. For ideas at home, you could have your child explore another simple tool like a scale or magnifying glasses. For practicing shapes, you could walk around the house and see if your child can find items that are square, circle, triangle, etc.
Ms. Cassidy & Ms. Ashley, 3's

The Cabin Kids

air"! At the end of 2018, we learned about Winter Holidays. During that time we focused on pushing and pulling toys. We used bikes, walkers, trucks, and boxes to move about the room. We got so good in our skills that everyone in our class is now walking! During that unit we also practiced fitting items into openings, like dropping candles into plastic jugs. To begin the year, we learned about Sesame Street. During those weeks, our portfolio focuses were imitating simple tasks and pointing to body parts. We imitated the teachers while dancing with Japanese fans and while doing simple hand motions with songs. We worked on pointing to body parts while exploring medical tool toys and while engaged in conversation during diaper changes. We will keep practicing these skills and more during our next theme – Dinosaurs!

Ms. Amanda & Ms. Lori, Toddlers

Fish Fry's

The new year has brought us many new learning opportunities to work on our evaluations. During our Snow unit, we asked all of our families to bring in family pictures to display around the room. This gave the children many opportunities to recognize familiar faces. We also worked

Wow! Time is flying when you are having so much fun learning new skills. We have been working very hard at writing our first names that we are going to start working on our last names. At home the activity can be the same as first names by using a yellow highlighter on a piece of paper and having them trace and then try on their own. We are looking at being able to differentiate what happens during each season. An activity to try would be to ask, for example, what season would we put our snowpants on or what season would we wear our swim suit. We are also practicing using basic technology; turning on and off the radio, using hole punches, shape punches. At home you could have them turn on their sound machines, help turn on a dishwasher, and use the remote to turn off the TV.

Ms. Brittnee, 4's

Rockin' Robins

We have changed the year and bumped up expectations. 4K is working on sounding out words, writing and spacing. When sounding out words, the students should be phonetically spelling their own words and adults can help stretch out the word,

on stacking at least 3-4 blocks by bringing in new blocks to play with. During our Pets unit, we practiced color matching by matching colored dogs to their dog house and peeling stickers to match them to colored paper. With the cold weather keeping us inside many days, we also brought in bikes to the classroom to practice using our feet to push ride-on toys. In the coming weeks, we will be learning all about Hearts and Friendship.
Ms. Olivia O. & Ms. Emma, Older Toddlers

Maple Leaves

It's hard to believe it is already February and it's hard to keep up with this Wisconsin weather; mild, rainy, cold, snow. It makes it hard on the children not being able to get outside as often as we would like. However, we came up with some inventive ways to burn off some energy. We had an indoor snowball fight, Twister color matching game, and brought bikes and push toys into the classroom. In February, we will be working on matching some shapes, such as circle, square and triangle. We will also work on verbalizing needs and wants, instead of pointing to something or signing more. Children will be encouraged to say "more water" or

but not give them those silent letters. When working on printing, I do give them words (correctly spelled) to copy so the students focus on the formation of the letters. A little tip we use for spacing is placing our left hand index finger beside the last letter written, then the new word can start next to that finger. This is really helping the students print clear words and will help others to read it even if their spelling is not developed. A portfolio focus worked on this month was the time and position understanding of first, second, third, last, as well as today, tomorrow, and yesterday. Sometimes adults talk with younger children in less words like saying the other day when they really mean yesterday because they are not sure if the child will know "that big word". Please focus on using these words in conversation. In the classroom, we write down details of things that happened or will happen to help us remember today, tomorrow and yesterday.

Ms. Holly L., 4K

Scholastic Book Orders

*Please Help Us Earn New Books For
The Bedtime Book Corner*

“help please”. We worked hard this past January and know our colors and are using more words every day. Let’s hope the groundhog predicts an early Spring.

Ms. Julie, Toddlers

Puddle Ducks

We come back from the holiday break roaring to go! We are learning to sort by color using the pull apart animals, and by shape using the wooden shapes. Jumping is fun, and we practice it a lot during music. We are also exploring all kinds of art materials – crayons, pens, oil pastels, finger paints and clay. Using our fine motor skills we are working on stacking 4-8 cubes or blocks. An interest that has popped up is our faces. We have been looking at pictures of ourselves and drawing on the pictures. We love to point to our eyes, nose, mouth and tongue.

Ms. Cat & Mr. Mark, 2's

It's book order time! You are welcome to order as much or as little as you would like. Books can be ordered and paid for online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date. You will set up an account in which they will ask for our center code: P6N7H.

***Book Orders are due:
Monday, February 18th***

Happy Birthday

- 2 *Ms. Lori*
- 3 *Melina Koehn*
- 4 *Bailey Schmitz*
- 6 *Jack Miller*
- 8 *Sarah Mathew*
- 12 *Ivy Flewelen*
- 16 *Ms. Cat*
- 21 *Josiah Jacobs*
- 26 *Jay Fields*
- 27 *Ms. Tonia*

Congratulations!

On celebrating anniversaries with
Grandma's House!

Ms. Lori *9 Years*

Ms. Brittnee *5 Years*

Ms. Ashley *3 Years*

Mr. Mark *1 Year*