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## Growing Highlights

February 2019

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Dear Parents,

Hope this newsletter finds you well. February is often associated with love due to Valentine's Day. During this month, I thought it would be an act of kindness to do some kind of a drive to benefit an organization. My daughter, Liz, had a great experience with an organization called "Bob Under the Bridge." This organization travels down to a park in the inner city of Milwaukee every Saturday (rain or shine) throughout the year to distribute various items to the homeless population that live nearby. When she was helping, she noticed how many people, especially children, needed shoes and boots. I would like to do a shoe/boot drive in the month of February. These shoes/boots can be used or new, for adults or children, any size. If you donate, please take a moment to talk to your child about where these shoes are going so they can see what a difference everyone can make in another person's life.

Please remember to bring snow gear and extra clothes. If your child goes home in our spare clothes, please return them. It is very wet this time of year.

Look for an email coming soon about a parents meeting! I am going to hold it at Endter's downtown, pizza on me! I will also include an agenda so you can see what we will be talking about and you are welcome to bring ideas, too.

*Jane Sweet*, Director [jsweet@grandmashouse.org](mailto:jsweet@grandmashouse.org)

# SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, June 9, 2019**

*Grandma's House Annual Family Picnic*

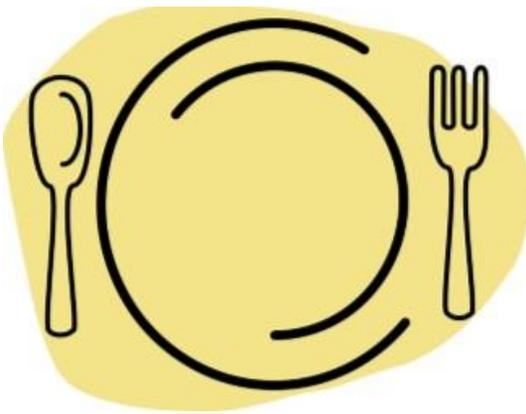
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## Upcoming Events

*PJ & Book Drive ~ Starting 2/18*

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### 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.

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### NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

#### *Rainbow Fish*

The infants are moving and grooving. They started the year off with a bang and are determined to keep it going. The infants

#### *Very Hungry Caterpillars*

We had a very busy January with keeping active in the classroom. We have been enjoying dancing to silly songs and

are discovering all the new things they can do. They are rolling, babbling, scooting, holding, grabbing and some are eating First Foods. It is a very exciting time for everyone. We love to see all the new skills developing in the room. We are encouraging more tummy time and as always more time on the floor. The babies like to see others on the floor with them like their friends in the room and their teachers as well. Valentine's Day is right around the corner and it is a perfect time to make new friends and build friendships. That is exactly what we are doing in our room. We like to sing to the children with songs that include their names and their friends' names. We also like to have each child know who they are sitting with, eating with, and/or playing next to. This gives them opportunities to create connections to others and learn their names. We hope that this is the start of long lasting friendships for years to come.

*Ms. Andrea K. & Ms. Kristine, Infants*

### *Lunch*

Our themes this month are Transportation and Red, White, Purple & Pink colors for Valentine's Day. A favorite art activity is to dip toy cars in paint and wheel them around on paper to see the tire tracks. We

stomping and jumping throughout the room. Our portfolio focuses were practicing our pincer grasps by picking up paper pizza toppings to glue, picking up spaghetti noodles to thread through cheerios and peel/stick fruit stickers. We also sorted colored noodles into colored bowls, sorted colored donuts and sorted ice cream colors. We have been working hard at matching colors and shapes. Throughout the classroom, you will find shape, color, and picture activities that are interactive. Our process art projects have been encouraging our friends to create with assorted media such as small plates, yarn, googly eyes, paint, etc. These projects also encourage us to work together and practice sharing.

*Ms. Tricia & Ms. Chantel, 2's*

### *The Lorax*

In the month of January, we explored the Arctic and Construction/Community Helpers. Unfortunately, we visited the Arctic a week too soon so we had to use cotton balls in our sensory table for burying our arctic animals. We have plenty of snow now!! We also worked on *1-1 corresponding numbers* and *sizing objects from small to big and big to*

will be encouraging learning to walk as one of our child portfolio focuses. Walking is truly an individual process and learning how to walk is on a young toddler's time table. Being able to participate in the young toddler's walking journey brings genuine joy for all caregivers. Another portfolio focus is transitioning from a bottle to using a sippy cup. When a toddler is still drinking formula from a bottle, I will introduce a sippy cup with water in the sippy cup. It's a great beginning to learn fine motor skills.

*Ms. Marti and Ms. Moira, Toddlers*

### *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

In the month of February we will learn about Valentine's Day and explore Nursery Rhymes. We will continue to work on stacking blocks and putting puzzles together. We have added small heart boxes to our block area and felt hearts to our flannel board wall. We have also been encouraging manners and friendship. In our book area, we have added multiple books with those themes. Speaking of books, the children really love song and story time. We are going to end February with Nursery Rhymes. Some of them include: Baa Baa Black Sheep, Humpty

*small.* We used various sized bowls for sizing objects and dinosaurs for our corresponding numbers. The children also enjoyed our construction area building houses, garages and fixing random things around the classroom with hammer and screwdrivers while wearing hard hats.

*Ms. Shannon & Ms. Donna, 3's*

### *A Bad Case of Stripes*

Winter is in full swing, but the children and I had been wondering... "Where is all the snow?" Apparently we jinxed ourselves because it's here now!! We have been very busy learning about the season of winter and winter animals. We ended January talking about our families and how they make us feel so special! This month we are going to explore the author Eric Carle and What Makes a Good Friend. During these units we will look at the topics of living vs. non-living, life cycle of insects, and identifying our shapes and colors.

*Ms. Amy, 4/5's*

## Happy Birthday

Dumpty, Hey Diddle Diddle and Itsy Bitsy Spider.

*Ms. Ruth & Ms. Kelly, Older Toddlers*

*Peter Rabbit*

The snow is finally here!! Through January we kept our eyes out for snowflakes but rarely caught a glimpse. Friends enjoyed using the small shovels on the playground when they could and practiced pedaling on the small tricycles while they waited their turn. With the snow here in full force, I'd like to remind families to be sure your child has the appropriate gear for outside play (hat, mittens, snow pants, boots, jacket). We go outside as long as the temperature is above 0. The children love to play out in the snow so I want to make sure they have the proper gear. As one of our portfolio focuses for February, we are working on self help skills. Encouraging your child to dress themselves for outside is a great way to bridge learning between home and school. We will also be working on using our words during conflicts. To practice this at home, try modeling responses to conflicts and having your child mimic your words. Our friends have come a long way with using their words since September but we are finding new conflicts with each other here in the new

4 *Leo Spindler*  
6 *Adalind Kleine*  
12 *Natalie Weddig*  
15 *Eleanor Schroeder*  
16 *Zaniel Martinez*  
17 *Ms. Lindsay*  
21 *Cody Carlson*  
22 *Bryce Novotny*  
27 *Ms. Tonia*  
28 *Ms. Andrea K.*  
29 *Lucas Defenbaugh*

## Congratulations!

On celebrating anniversaries with  
Grandma's House!

*Ms. Marti 6 Years*

*Ms. Lindsay 1 Year*

*Ms. Mo 1 Year*

year. Our friends need some reminders on their manners and more practice talking nicely to each other. If you have any concerns or questions on how to help these behaviors at home, feel free to ask. I hope everyone has a great month.

*Ms. Loryn, 2 1/2's*