

CLASSROOM IV NEWS

There has been a lot of activity in November and December and much to report, as the days get cold and the garden outside rests for the season, while the birds gather in great numbers at the bird feeders, and children come in red-faced from the playground. We go outside every day, and in winter children need to be well-prepared with warm jackets, hats, mittens, and boots if there is snow. It is especially important to get out for fresh air at this time of year, and in the months ahead- please help your child be comfortable.

The first years will attend the annual performance of the "Nutcracker" this month. Second year students spent an exciting day at Safety City, learning about many ways to stay safe at home and out, culminating in a chance to navigate a miniaturized Lexington on foot and driving battery-operated cars. The third year children went on an overnight camping trip at Camp Shawano in Fayette County. Every one of them climbed on the climbing wall there and made many happy memories. These students are also earning their Junior Master Gardener certificates by undergoing many projects and activities at school and at camp. They also are meeting twice a week with other third year students to discuss literature in the Junior Great Books program. All this plus their regular assignments keeps them busy, but nonetheless they have written and performed plays based on classic fairy tales for the younger students- we have such a talented group!!

The Lexington Children's Theater has performed at school twice this year, the most recent being "Katerina the Clever", a Russian folktale. As usual, the troupe put on a wonderful show and provided time to answer questions at the end, which children are always eager to ask.

Our beloved but very elderly guinea pig Rugby passed away, and the children wrote many tributes to her. Serendipitously, a new home was needed for two guinea pigs from another school, and they have taken up residence next to Binders, another pig donated by Mrs. Torabi's daughter. We met as a group and selected their names, Fluffy and Fudge. They will be looking for winter vacation accommodations; please look for a chance to care for a classroom pet in your child's lunchbox soon!

We explore winter holidays from a historical perspective, and also participate in a community project at this time of year. On Friday, December 5, Rene Thompson (Eliza Leaver's mother) captivated the children with the story of Saint Nicholas, tracing the imagery through the years, complete with a timeline. Thanks, Rene!! We will also be exploring Hannukah, St. Lucia Day, and Kwanzaa. As is our usual custom, we will draw names and create gifts (at school) for each other. For our community project we are conducting a drive to collect gently used coats and pet supplies for shelter dogs; a letter about this project was sent home recently. We teachers so appreciate all that you do for our classroom and the faith and trust you place in the Montessori method and us; we hope you and your children enjoy a happy winter break together.