



## Classroom III Holiday News



Our classroom is in full swing as the Holiday season gets underway! If you have a chance to observe, you will see that the children are busy scrubbing chairs, cutting bananas, counting candy canes and bead stairs, creating compound words, doing multiplication, and making tree books (among many, many things!). We encourage you all to stop by!

### What's New?



In October and November, we rang in the fall season by studying parts of a pumpkin, leaves, trees, and birds. The children told the pumpkin sequencing story, scrubbed pumpkins & gourds, made tree and bird books, matched bird tracks, and learned how to draw penguins (a big hit!). Mrs. Huntzinger even cut open a pumpkin and roasted the seeds so that the children could taste them (not such a big hit!).

Mrs. Rach also talked to the children about the pilgrims. They learned about their lives and their journey over to America. We

discussed with them what it meant to be thankful and asked each child what they were thankful for in their lives/ what they felt happy about having each day. Here are their answers:

- ❖ Mary Elliott = my family
- ❖ Rithika = my dog
- ❖ Naomi = my friends
- ❖ Landen = my trains
- ❖ Elsa = the food we eat for Thanksgiving
- ❖ Audrey = my family & friends
  - ❖ Addi = my cousins
- ❖ Abbey = my sister & my dog
- ❖ Ailis = my cat & my family
  - ❖ Sebastien = my family
  - ❖ Cole = my family
- ❖ Julia = my cat, my dog, & my family
  - ❖ Eliza = my mommy
- ❖ Will = my family
- ❖ Aileen = my dog & my dad
- ❖ Joey = my mom & dad
- ❖ Colin = my trains
- ❖ Liam = my family & my grandma
  - ❖ Claire = my family
- ❖ Heidi = my grandma, my grandpa, & my whole family
  - ❖ Elke = my cat & my dogs
- ❖ Elizabeth = my nana for letting us celebrate Thanksgiving with her
  - ❖ Chase = my dog & my family
- ❖ Isabella = my sister & my family

It was wonderful to hear their answers and listen to the reasons that they were grateful for these things!



Last week's lessons in large group were about recycling and composting. Mrs. Campbell discussed what it means to recycle and compost and the ways that it helps the environment. She made lists with the children about what can and cannot go into our new compost bin. We now have "pet worms" in an aquarium that will help our food scraps become usable soil/fertilizer. We will continue to check the worm's progress and make a classroom - wide effort to reduce, reuse, & recycle!



This week, we have introduced some of our peace lessons. Mrs. Latimer told the children the story of Black Elk (a Native American story) and his red road of peace. She has also been practicing the "silence game" with the children and talking about the importance of making quiet time for yourself. The silence rug now provides the children with a place to sit peacefully and quietly in the classroom and listen to the buzz around them.



Next week, we will be learning about holidays around the world. We plan on introducing holiday traditions in Mexico and China and talking about Hanukkah with the children. If your family celebrates a special holiday this time of year, please let us know! We always love to learn about different cultures.

### *Important Dates*

\*\*December 17th- Winter break begins

\*\*January 3rd- Classes resume

\*\*January 14th- No school. This is the scheduled conference day for 3rd years. After the break, Mrs. Latimer will be contacting parents of third year students to arrange a time to conference.

\*\*January 17th- No school - MLK Day

### *Thank yous, thoughts, & reminders*

\*\*Our Humane Society donation basket will be in the hallway the rest of this week and next week. If you are able, please help us brighten the animals' holiday season!

\*\*We are holding an Open House on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to drop by with your child between 8:30 – 10:30 to catch a glimpse of what they have been learning and share in some holiday crafts. Hope to see everyone there!

\*\*Class begins at 8:30 each morning. Please make an effort to have your child here by that time.

\*\*Please label your child's hats, coats, & gloves!!

\*\*If you pick your child up early from the classroom at the end of the day, please make eye contact with one of the teachers and let us know you are taking your child with you. It is safest for us not to *assume* that you took them – we need to know for sure!

\*\*Thank you to the Blandford family for providing our Thanksgiving pies.

*We hope you all have a wonderful, safe winter break!  
Please email, call, or stop by anytime.*

*Gretchen, Heather, JoAnn, Viviana, & Melissa*

