

# JANUARY 2018 GIRAFFE NEWSLETTER

## THANK YOU TO:

Everyone for the wonderful hot chocolate and pastry bar presented to us before the vacation break.

A special THANK YOU to all the parents for the Amazon gift cards!

Samantha G. for making us play dough, Kalani for the yummy birthday snack

John's mom, Luke's sister and Isabella's sister for reading to us

The fifth-grade chorus from Loker School

Everyone for providing us with the opportunity to learn together at our professional development day on Friday, January 12, 2018.

## HOLIDAY FUN

In preparation for the holidays and winter break the children were engaged in some very fun activities. We baked sugar cookies, which we ate for snack. The children decorated and filled bags with yummy ingredients to bring home as gifts for their families. They all made holiday cards too. We made fancy decorations for the classroom and strung beads to look like candy canes. Every child that returned the yellow star got to show their classmates how it looked, and also talked about their family traditions in front of the class.

## THE GINGERBREAD MAN

When we returned from Thanksgiving break we introduced the class to the classic tale of The Gingerbread Man. Once we shared the story the class began to make it come to life. We added props for storytelling, created houses, and decorated individual gingerbread people made from fun foam. Our favorite part of this unit was making the dough, and decorating it to look like a gingerbread man. The children were excited about putting it in the oven to bake. The surprise came when we looked in the oven and saw that he was gone. All that was left was a written clue which told us where he might be. The clue led us on a hunt around the school and town building to find him. Unfortunately, he was never found, because his last clue indicated he went on vacation to a sunny and warm climate. During this unit we also learned the songs "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?" and "5 Cookies in the Bakery Shop". The class also danced the "Cookie Pokey", and tried "Candyland" the board game as a daily choice.

## Favorite Books

The Gingerbread Man by J. Aylesworth, Gingerbread Baby by J. Brett, Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? By B. Lass, Gingerbread Man Loose on the Fire Truck by L Murray, The Runaway Tortilla by E. Kimmel

Proper outdoor clothing is necessary for the playground. Our goal is to go outside to the playground or for a nature walk every day. Please make sure your child brings **waterproof** mittens/gloves, a coat, boots, hat and snow pants. Please also pack extra pairs of socks in case your child's feet get wet. Label all clothes and boots with your child's name too. \* Please make sure your child has sturdy indoor shoes/sneakers for running in the gym!

**GALLETA** Spanish word for COOKIE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY KALANI!**