



## PANDA POST DECEMBER, 2017

### PANDA HAPPENINGS

With falling leaves and Thanksgiving now behind us the Pandas are exploring the world of bears. We began our unit by reading My Teddy at circle. The following days the children were able to construct their own Teddy which now adorn the windows of the classroom. Another favorite book was Corduroy where again the children could decorate their own Corduroy using crayons and gluing on Corduroy's buttons and pocket.

We also went on a "Bear Paw Hunt" where green and purple paws were scattered around the room for the children to find. Each child was able to pick out 1 paw and bring it back to circle. At circle time we then counted out how many green and purple paws were found, graphed them and decided whether there was more or less of one color or if it was a "tie". By doing this each day at circle the children were able to build on their ability to follow directions, enhance number recognition, as well as strengthen their counting skills, and further their understanding of "more," "less," and "tie."

Additional activities included cotton ball bears, playing with bears in our sand table and painting "caves" for the bears out of boxes. The children were also introduced to the concept of "hibernation" when we put some of our bears into the painted caves to "sleep" for the winter.

As we complete our Bears Unit we will finish up 2017 with our "All About Me" Unit.

### HOLIDAY STARS

Holiday stars were recently sent home for the children to decorate and bring back to school. It is always a special treat during our Panda Circle time for each child to share their family traditions with the class. The stars are already being returned to school and are now adorning our bulletin board – be sure to check out the stars "lighting up" the back of our classroom!

We encourage you to send the star back with your child if you haven't already. We will continue to share the stars at our circle time.

### OUR FAVORITE. . .

**Books:** My Old Teddy  
Corduroy

**Yoga Poses:** Yoga "Bear"  
"Downward Dog"

**Songs:** "Let's Go On a Bear Hunt"  
"Sleeping Lion"

### TAKE HOME CALENDAR

Young children often have difficulty with the concept of time; it is very abstract and challenging for many preschoolers to perceive a day, a week, etc.

To help explain to the children that they will have many "stay home days" while on school vacation, it is often easier when there is a visual model from which to refer.

The Panda teachers will be sending home a "Countdown Calendar" with the days we are off from school. We are also including stickers so that the children can put a sticker on each day they are home and concretely observe those stay home days as well as when they will return to school.

We ask that you explain the calendar to your child and give them assistance should they need it – it also makes for a positive sharing experience for you and your child!!

### THANK YOU TO . . .

. . . Alex's and Hillary's moms, Allison and Felicia for coming into to our class and doing an Art Project with us as well as bringing cookies for us to decorate!

### WARMER CLOTHES (for inside and out!!)

Now that the cold weather is coming (in addition to growing bodies), it may be a good time to check and make sure your child has the appropriate extra clothes for our room; when we begin to go out in snowy weather the children often come in from the playground with wet socks, so having several extra pairs of socks and underwear is recommended. Layers are also suggested since the classroom at times changes temperature.

In addition, since we do go out every day unless it is exceptionally wet or cold we ask that when the temperature really begins to dip (which could be any time now), you begin to send in snow pants, snow boots, hats and mittens each day (we do prefer mittens since we encourage self help skills and they are easy for the children to put on by themselves). Snow pants and snow boots help keep the children warm, so they will begin to be worn even if there is no snow. Also a change of sneakers or shoes for the classroom is much appreciated since this avoids our classroom floor from becoming wet and slippery.

Although sometimes the temperature is predicted to be as high as 45-50, it is often much cooler when we go outside and our playground often does get a little windy; we appreciate your understanding in sending these extra clothes in!!