



# PANDA POST

## January

### PANDA HAPPENINGS

The Pandas made an easy transition back into the classroom after our December break and enjoyed getting reacquainted and playing with their friends.

We recently finished a unit exploring the Wonders of Winter! Our Dramatic Play area is now a “Hot Cocoa Stand” where the children are enjoying serving hot cocoa and drinking it with their friends along with some tasty “cookies”!

The Pandas experimented with making “inside snow” with baking soda and water. Deciding how much of each material was needed to make the snow was a fun STEM activity for all involved. The snow was then added to the sensory table where the children squished and molded the snow into snow balls. Additional winter activities included creating a winter collage, making a snowman out of 3 different size “snowballs” (this enforced the math concept of small, medium, and large), as well as winter mazes, and decorating winter pictures with bingo dotters.

We have now begun the exploration of Dinosaurs where activities will include dinosaur stencils and stamps as well as creating “handasaurus” prints, dinosaur tracks and dinosaur skeletons with Q-tips.

### WELCOME RYAN & SADIQ!

Ryan and Sadiq have recently joined the Panda Class. Children and teachers alike are enjoying getting to know our new friends as we move through the winter months. Welcome Sadiq, Ryan and Families to the Pandas!!

### THANK YOU FOR A GREAT RETREAT

Our Professional Development Day on January 12<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We were able to connect with staff we may not see on a daily basis as well as learn some new information about brain development. Thank you again for supporting us in this annual event!!

### MYSTERY BUCKET

We have begun sending the Panda Mystery Bucket home! This is an activity that is extremely popular each year. As the children’s names are randomly chosen, they have the opportunity to bring the bucket home, and return it to school with a “mystery” hidden inside. Three clues are shared to assist friends in guessing what is contained inside. Guessing what is in the mystery bucket is an exciting addition to our daily group circle. After the mystery is revealed each child gets their picture taken which is added (with their clues) to our Panda Mystery Bucket Book. Looking at the book with friends and teachers is always an enjoyable activity in our room!

We do ask that when it is your child’s turn to bring the Mystery Bucket home, that you bring it back in a timely fashion so that all of the children in the class can enjoy this experience.

### OUR FAVORITE:

Stories: Penquin and Pinecone  
Snowmen at Night  
Froggy Gets Dressed

Songs: “5 Little Snowmen Fat”  
“I’m a Little Snowman”  
“Snow pants, Boots”

Yoga: “Snowman”  
“Skiing”  
“Mountain”