



### **DATES TO REMEMBER;**

**Monday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** –  
School closed for Presidents’ Day, vacation begins

**Monday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>** –  
School resumes

### **Thank You To:**

-Juliet’s mom for coming in to read to the class.

-Siena’s family for the yummy birthday treats.

-Liam and Clara for the yummy Valentine’s Day cookies

-all the families who participated in the exchange of Valentine’s Day wishes in the Armadillo Class. The children enjoyed delivering the cards to friends at least as much as opening them during small group.

**Have a healthy and happy vacation!**

### **CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS**

Over the past few weeks the Armadillos have explored many aspects of wintertime. In the water table we played with snow brought in from outside, wearing mittens when our hands got too cold. We cut snowflakes at the writing table and melted ice blocks, experimenting with salt and water to discover ways to make the ice melt faster.

During circle time we learned about hibernation, birds that fly south and those animals that grow extra fur to help weather the winter months. The children cut and glued paper to create polar bears on icebergs and built a winter habitat using sticks, twigs, leaves, styrofoam and other recycled materials.

A table and blanket were transformed into a bear cave in the dramatic area. Using a lantern to shed some light in the cave, they enjoyed cozy moments reading books and playing with stuffed bears.

### **ACTIVITIES & SKILLS**

Using ideas generated by the children at circle time, we made a bed for our classroom bear to hibernate in for the winter. Our bear has a blanket, a pillow and a story book to keep him cozy until we wake him. We found a quiet place in the classroom for our bear to sleep and there he will remain until the first day of spring.

In anticipation of Valentine’s Day, we spent a lot of time at the art table and writing table, drawing, cutting and painting hearts. As well as focusing on fine motor skills, this holiday gave us the opportunity to think about love, friendship and a sense of community in our classroom. It is always heart warming to see how open and kind the children are toward each other.

In response to how much the children enjoy sending and receiving cards, we have created a post office in our classroom. At the writing table there are materials to write, address and stamp letters. The dramatic play area is the post office, complete with a large mailbox, delivery bags and small mailboxes for each person in the class. Please feel free to write a letter to your child and mail it here, as well as to encourage your child to write letters to their classmates.

### **FAVORITE STORIES**

- [Bear Snores On](#) by Karma Wilson
- [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett
- [Clifford’s First Valentine’s Day](#) by Norman Bridwell