



## **Giraffe Class News: Week of January 11 - January 15**

Dear Giraffe Families,

We want to say a big thank you to R.J.'s family for bringing in a special birthday snack on Friday. The children love to help their friends celebrate their big day!

The Giraffe students had an exciting week learning, creating, and experimenting! For table activities, they had an opportunity to illustrate in their journals "What is your favorite thing to do in the snow?". There were many creative pictures and responses such as sledding, skiing, building a snowman, making snow angels, or even drinking Hot Cocoa. The giraffe students also enjoyed experimenting with "Snow" (a mixture of baking soda, water, and silver glitter) and using their hands to form snowballs or other structures of their choice with the mixture. The children even used their imaginations while stomping arctic animals, such as polar bears and penguins, around their trays. Other table activities the giraffe students participated in this week were making paper plate arctic foxes, tracing the word "snow" with their glue sticks and adding small pieces of construction paper onto the outline, painting with ice cubes, and coloring/ then cutting out the characters from the story The Mitten by Jan Brett. Many of the children had fun reenacting the familiar story afterwards while using their puppets.

During circle time this week, we focused on learning about winter animals. We read the story The Mitten a couple of days in a row and the children were excited to participate in themed activities such as a character sequencing lesson, a mitten number matching game, and a graphing lesson about "Which is your favorite animal?" in the story. They listened and followed along to the audio version of Hibernation Station by Michelle Meadows, before learning about different types of animals that either hibernate or migrate. When the children were asked if they would rather sleep all winter long (hibernate) or travel to somewhere warmer for the winter (migrate), the majority vote was to hibernate! To end the week, we read the story Who's Been Here?: A Tale in Tracks by Fran Hodgkins. Afterwards the students observed pictures of various animal tracks before guessing who they belonged to.

Next week we will continue our theme of Winter Animals. The giraffe class will also have **pajama day Thursday (1/21) and Friday (1/22)!!**

Some guidelines for pajama day:

- Please no onesies or slippers
- If your child doesn't want to wear their pajamas to school, you can pack them in their backpack incase they choose to change into them later
- Please make sure appropriate sneakers or shoes are available to change into

### **Friendly Reminders:**

Please make sure your child brings in appropriate winter attire everyday! Even though there is no snow on the ground the outside temperatures are still very chilly, especially during our morning playground time.

Sincerely,  
Olivia, Jeanne, Dominique, and Carrie