

CPS & ECC Gazette

The Directors Corner



February 2012

Dear CPS Families:

Welcome back to those who recently returned from break...and for everyone else there is something to look forward to; it is still light outside at **5:15pm!** Spring is on its way!

We want to acknowledge and thank the classrooms for participating in the Martin Luther King "Service to Others" Celebration. The Children created activity bags for the families at the SOS Shelter. The bags which have since been delivered, consisted of art activities for children of various ages. They are on sight and ready for use as needed!

Are you up for a challenge? Building Brighter Futures for Broome is presenting the "Cuddle Up and Read" Early Learning Reading Challenge this year. Aside from all the interaction and snuggle time you will thoroughly enjoy having read 100 books, you will also receive a raffle ticket to enter the prize drawings. Attached you will find a sheet with more information and your goal to reach for the stars!!!

Once again, we will be sponsoring students from BU, Cortland, and BCC working on internships and volunteering. The students will be learning about childcare routines, stages of child development and how young children learn. The students will also be observing, planning, and implementing activities with the children. Please welcome them aboard, they will be wearing nametags.

We often receive information on a number of health and safety related issues such as; recalls, car seats, winter safety, flu preparedness. We post all that pertinent information for your viewing under the appropriate categories on the boards at the main entrance. For the safety notices from the Consumer Product Safety Commission visit: www.cpsc.gov.

Often this time of year can be challenging, but what could be better than making others smile? You and your child will need to start now making homemade valentine cards - they will need plenty of time to dry!

This year February offers an additional day for everyone from the whimsical to the procrastinator to enjoy...Happy Leap Year!

Peg Smith
Executive Director

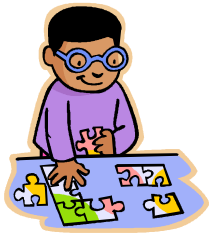
Wee Bear News

The winter months seem to happen at the appropriate time to allow young 2 year olds to develop small motor skills. Several Wees are able to concentrate on 10 piece puzzles. They match the pictures, turn the puzzle piece, and finish with little frustration.

We are drawing lines, (horizontal & vertical), almost perfect circles, and even practice "writing." We are stacking blocks, putting pegs in pegboards, using playdough, and even pretending to play with Fisher Price people. This aides in developing eye hand coordination and hand strength.

We have enjoyed the snow only a few times, but look forward to a few more snowstorms!

Kelly
Louise
Sue



Bear Cub News

In February we will be talking about families, friends, friendship, sharing, and doing project related activities. We will also celebrate Valentine's Day and have an opportunity to exchange Valentines with our friends. I will send home a separate letter in regard to this.

Just a reminder on being prepared to go outdoors to play. We go outdoors everyday as long as the temperature is 20 degrees without the wind chill factor. Please remember that your child will need snow pants, boots, hats, mittens/gloves, and a coat. Please label all items with your child's name to help keep items of clothing from being misplaced. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Also many parents have had questions about our sick policy. In general, if your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or more and can not function in a normal day setting they should stay at home. Our sick policy can be found in the parent handbook on page 28. We know how difficult it is to leave work or school but please be respectful of others in our attempt to limit the spread of disease. Our program is dedicated to the well-being of all children, families, and staff. Backup care is strongly recommended.

You may have noticed that your toddler is becoming more independent and wanting to do more on their own. We are working on some self-help skills (ex. feeding themselves, cleaning up toys and dressing themselves). It is a great opportunity to encourage your child to help put on his/her socks/shoes, put legs in snow suits and pull them up and push feet into boots. They will be very proud of their accomplishment once the task is achieved. These simple tasks will help build their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Finally, the Bear Cubs are responsible for the bulletin board in the front hallway for February. Please take the time to stop and admire your child's artwork.

Chris Cathi Megan

Pooh Bear News

Wow, can you believe it's February already? This month the Pooh Bears will be continuing our winter theme as well as talking a lot about healthy foods and our bodies, friends and sharing, and of course Valentine's Day! We will be sharing valentine's with our friends and I will be sending a separate letter home in your parent mailboxes.

The weather sure has been funny these days. Warm, freezing, snow, no snow! We always like to be prepared to get outside as much as possible so please help us by making sure your child has all appropriate clothing to do so. *Please* have snow pants, heavy hats, mittens, and boots everyday. Labeling all items helps us to make sure nothing gets lost. Outdoor play is a part of our program and if the weather permits us, we will be outside. We are also hoping for some snow to go sleigh riding!

The Poohs will end the month by having two **PAJAMA DAYS** so keep your eye out for a letter in your mailbox.

In January we celebrated two Pooh Bears turning 3. Dominic on January 8th, and Devan on January 14th. We will also celebrate two more Pooh Bears turning 3 this month. Niklas on February 5th, and Kaitlyn on February 22nd. Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to Dominic and his parents who welcomed a baby boy, Andrew, on December 28th!

Nadine Heather Megan

"When I play, I am learning."

When I stick things in holes, I am learning to line things up properly to fit.

Honey Bear News

During the month of January we learned about snow, mittens, and animals in winter. We finished up the lessons with the presentation from Finch Hollow, Tom Tasber did a wonderful job teaching the children about what animals do in winter. We talked about migration, hibernation, and camouflage. The children loved being able to touch the animals, like the fox, squirrel, coyote, owl, and skunk. Ask your child which was his/her favorite.

We have a very busy month planned for February. On Thursday, 2/2, and Friday, 2/3 we will be having a pajama party. The children can wear their PJ's to school. It is always a fun way to spend a winter day, staying cozy in jammies all day! We will be watching a short video while cuddling up on a quilt. We will be making a class/family quilt also. We hope you are having fun finding pictures of your child's family to put on your quilt square. After they come back into school, we will put the quilt together to display all of the families. Please be sure your child's square is returned to school by Thursday, or Friday so they can be included in the quilt.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Monday, 2/13, and Tuesday, 2/14. The children love to pass out the little Valentine cards. You can help your child write his/her name on the back of each card, do not put any names on the envelopes. There are 16 children total that come on both days so please include all of the children so nobody will be left out. Any edible treats will be sent home with the children.

We will also be talking about dental health and nutrition. If you know of anyone who would like to come in to talk to the children about these topics, please let one of the teachers know so we can set up a good time and date.

Thank you for continuing to send in snow clothes and boots. Even though we haven't had much snow we still like to go out to play. We want to be sure everyone is warm. Also please check your child's extra clothes bin. Spills and accidents do happen and we need dry, clean clothes to put on the children. Thank you to the parents who have labeled your child's belongings. With so many clothes that look alike, especially snow pants, we need them labeled so we know who they belong to.

Brenda
Irene
Mary



Teddy Bear News

January has been a busy month learning about our bodies. We learned about the Circulatory System (heart), Respiratory System (lungs), Digestive System, and their jobs. We started our food pyramid and are learning what different foods do for our bodies.

Next, we will be moving into Dental Health. We will be doing a variety of activities related to teeth.

Don't forget Valentine's Day! We will be doing some "love" projects! We will also be passing out our Valentines to our friends.

A Pajama Party will take place on Wednesday, February 15th and Thursday, February 16th. We will wear our jammies to school!

Happy 4th Birthday to **Etana, Jaidyn, and Isabel!**

Gabe Michele Renee



Panda Bear News

The Pandas had a fun visit with Tom, our friend from Finch Hollow. He talked about "Animals in Winter." He said we were a great audience and was proud of all that we knew about hibernation and migration. We also got to touch the real animals.

It is hard to believe that it's February already! The Pandas are getting ready for Valentine's Day. They will need a cereal box to decorate for their Valentines. Please bring one box in ASAP.

February is Dental Health month. Science exploration will help the children learn the importance of brushing their teeth 2 times a day.

The children are now working on identifying the letters in their last names! They have become very good at identifying letters in their first names and are working hard at the letters in their last names. Try quizzing your child on letters they see around town and at your house to help boost their skills. We have also begun working on our "Grocery Store Alphabet" books, which will give them even more practice! The more exposure they get to letters, the faster they will get at identifying them and the recognition will become more automatic!

Happy Birthday to Jen on February 12th!

Claire
Jen
Tina



Grizzly Bear News

Hello Grizzly Families! January has come and gone, 2012 is off to a great start here @ CPS. We did a lot of learning this month. We talked about Arctic animals including penguins, polar bears, and we had a blast making and playing with clean mud in our sensory table.

Our "Colors of Us" unit was a big hit. The children learned all about Martin Luther King Jr. and his fight to make things fair. We learned that he fought with his words and not with his fists. We also learned that we are all different shades of brown, from light to dark and everything in between. We mixed paints to find the "colors of us" and found that no two of us are exactly alike. You can find our beautiful people hanging on our hallway bulletin board.

We also explored Outer Space and learned about the Chinese New Year. February will be jam packed with fun learning as well.

We will be learning about Ground Hog Day and shadows, the Human Body, Valentine's Day, the Presidents, and the 5 senses.

Our Valentine's celebration will be on Monday, February 13th. We have 20 children in the class. We ask that you send in your child's Valentine's with just the "from" section filled out. We will also be celebrating the leap year by having a pajama day on Wednesday, February 29th. Your child can wear their PJ's to school and bring their slippers and a pillow, if they wish.

We are looking forward to February and hoping the Groundhog is kind to us on February 2nd!

If you have not done so already, please send in snow pants and boots for your child. We like to play outside even in the cold and snow!

Happy Birthday to:

Max Holland (5 yrs.) 2/8

Nathan Cropper (5 yrs.) 2/23

Rogan Fitzgerald (5 yrs.) 2/28



Thank you!

Nicole & Kat

Polar Bear News

We began the New Year by learning about the Arctic and Antarctic. We discussed differences between the two places (digging under the Antarctic snow you will find dirt and digging under the Arctic snow you will find water.) We also learned about the different animals that live in these two places (Arctic polar bears, narwhals, and walrus and Antarctic penguins).

We will continue talking about the different places around the world throughout February. After we left the Arctic, we learned about Asia. Not only did we celebrate the Asian New Year, but we also learned about different animals that live there (i.e. tiger, Asian elephant, and panda).

Introducing the different areas and cultures of the world is important for multiple reasons. Involving each child's culture into your classroom is important because it gives each child a sense of pride and confidence. Also, learning about diversity now can help to embrace differences later on.

Aside from learning about different parts of the world, we will be celebrating Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day in the month of February. Be on the lookout for more information about these two holidays!

Kathryn & Jane



ON ICY, SNOWY DAYS

PLEASE park away
from curbs at
pickup/drop off times,
so that our
BU grounds crew
can keep our sidewalks
safe and clear.

Year End Statements

If you need an end of the year statement for your taxes, they are available in the office.

Staff Birthdays

Jennifer Camp 2/12
Peg Smith 2/22

Parking Services will be collecting
PET SUPPLIES
2/1-2/14
for the
HUMANE SOCIETY.

There is a tub in the CPS main hallway
for donations.

Reminder

If your address, work/home/cell phone
number, medical or educational status
changes,
please let us know.

FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS

INCLUDE:



- * Fever
- * Cough
- * Sore Throat
- * Runny or Stuffy Nose
- * Body Aches
- * Headache
- * Chills
- * Fatigue

Some may also have vomiting, AND diarrhea. People may be infected with THE FLU, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

TAKE PREVENTATIVE ACTION:

- * Wash hands often (water and soap)
- * Cover mouth and nose when sneezing
- * Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- * Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- * Stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone (without fever reducing medicine)
- * While sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them

Building Brighter Futures for Broome Early Learning Reading Challenge

“Cuddle Up and Read”



Children start learning the skills they need to read and write from birth. You can prepare children to read and write by reading to them every day. Fill in a star below each time you read to a child (birth to age 5).

For every 100 books you read you will receive a raffle ticket to enter the prize drawings to be held at 11:00 am March 31, 2012, during the Early Learning Reading Challenge Celebration.

The more you read, the better your chance of winning a prize (*Only one prize per person. You must be present to win.*)

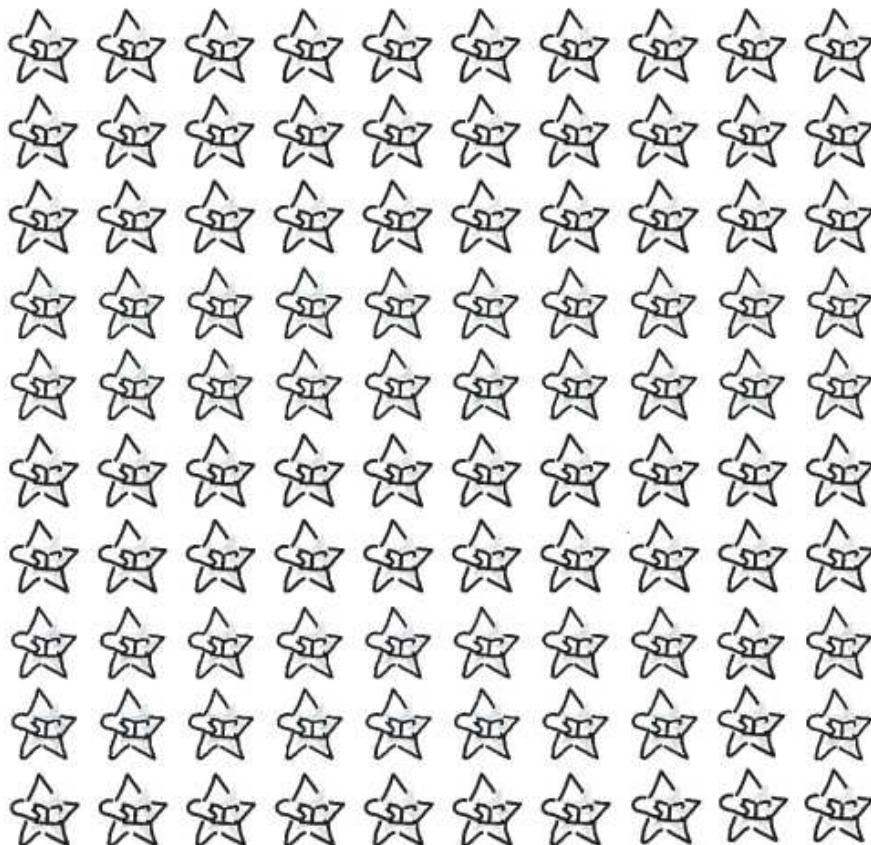
Goal: Read 100 books or more between January 15 & Mar. 31, 2012

Your Name: _____

Child Care Program Name (if applicable) _____

E-mail Address: _____ Telephone # _____

Check a star each time you read with a child. Reading the same book over and over is encouraged. Young children love repetition. Submit additional sheets for every 100 books you read.



For questions about the Early Learning Reading Challenge, contact Mary Ellen Lollie at 607-762-8197.

Deadline: March 31, 2012. To be entered in the raffle, turn in your completed form to:

- Mary Ellen Lollie c/o PACT Program, Franklin School, 262 Conklin Ave., Bing. NY 13903.
- Or bring the form to the Early Learning Reading Challenge Celebration from 10-12 on Saturday, March 31 at the Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St. Binghamton.