GREETINGS FROM THE BEAR CUB CLASSROOM

DECEMBER 8, 2014

SURPRISES AND CELEBRATIONS

What a fun and fantastic week we have had talking about **SURPRISES AND CELEBRATIONS** after our return from our Thanksgiving break. We definitely needed something to take our minds off of the cold and gloomy weather outside last week. We started off welcoming our new friend **REX GEORGE**. Rex is certainly no stranger to our school. He has enjoyed being a Panda Bear in the afternoon class since the beginning of the school year. In addition, Rex has been attending the Bear Tracks morning program with Colleen. We made a special surprise snack to welcome Rex. Rex is a perfect addition to our team. Our friend, Mir returned to Turkey to be with his relatives back home.

We hope you have heard about our fantastic cake decorating experience. Shaving cream, food coloring, colored marker tops, piper cleaners, beads, sparkles, buttons, corks, straws, etc. Anything and everything we used in our Bear Cub art center to embellish an award winning cake. Some children work carefully and methodically on the cake project. Other children smear the icing and load up the trim. It is so much fun to watch the children figure out his/her specific design.

During this holiday season we incorporate conversations about giving to others and having gratitude. Realizing that the temperatures are plummeting and the leaves are falling we thought it would be thoughtful to make bird feeders and hang them up on the bare trees outdoors. The birds would have food to eat during this cold spell. We glazed our pinecones with birdseed and attached decorative ribbons. We hung them up outside of our classroom on the hill east of our playground. We also enjoyed the book, **THE QUILTMAKER'S GIFT** by Jeff Brumbeau. This is a beautiful book about a rich and greedy king that has everything but is still not happy. The illustrations are rich and colorful. The story is truly beautiful. The book is a timeless and worthwhile treasure to share with your children.

The holiday season is moving in so quickly.

Our Bear Cubs are busy this week with seasonal projects and discussions about holiday preparations and plans. The timing of our trip to New City School to see "The Sneetches" comes at a perfect time on our school calendar, Wednesday, December 17th (last day of school before our holiday break). The play is a story/musical written by Dr. Suess. The play is about being tolerant and accepting of everyone. The trip to New City School is a tradition at our school and a great learning experience. We must have all permission slips signed and returned by December 16th. Most of you have returned the permission slip – thank you .All parents are invited to attend (no pressure). We do get to ride on a big yellow school bus. Please let us know if you will be attending. You are welcome to drive and meet us at the school. The play is about 45 minutes long. Please have your child use the "potty" at home before coming to school on that day. The morning is exciting for all of us.

Before we move forward with additional information we want to take a moment to thank all of our Bear Cub families for your participation in our Dad's Day, Grandparents, Relative and Special Friends event before our Thanksgiving break. We had a phenomenal turnout and we are proud of our Bear Cub class! THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO VISIT US. This special event is such a big hit with the children when they get to share their school life with a family member and/or friend,

Important Dates:

HOLIDAY BREAK

December 17th, 2014 - January 5th, 2015

SCHOOL FEAST PREPARED BY BIG BEARS

Moving Forward

Many of you have asked about **SHOW AND SHARE**. We will start **SHOW AND SHARE** when we return from our Holiday Break. We schedule it on Fridays. Our first **SHOW AND SHARE** will be on Friday, January 9th, 2015 (wow, that sounds so far away). Your child may bring something (it must fit in his/her backpack) to share with the class. Sharing means you may show it during this designated time on Fridays. The item **does** have to stay in the backpack until it is time to show it. We do try to be careful with home toys. Our goal is to have the item return home in the same condition (we know you understand). We make a little stage at circle. Each child has an opportunity to move to the stage and talk about what they brought to share with the class. This is a "choice". If a child does not want to do this activity it is totally okay. Sometimes, a child likes to see what this is all about before they participate. And, sometimes, a child would like to have **SHOW AND SHARE** be a daily activity.

IN CLOSING

Before we sign off for the year of 2014 we want to sincerely **THANK ALL OF OUR BEAR CUB PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES for all of your support throughout the year. WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON**! Thank you for sharing your fun and adorable children with us throughout the year!! They always brighten our day!!

Marsha and Katie