



Big Bear News

January 19, 2018



**School Year
2017 - 2018**

Washington University Nursery School

What's happening In the classroom?

Happy New Year, Big Bear Families!

Despite the frigid temperatures we were excited to return to school and see our Big Bears! After spending the first two days getting back into classroom routines, we kicked off our unit on fairy tales with a focus on The Three Pigs and all of its quirky adaptations. In centers this readily translated into a lot of constructing! The children experimented building with Lincoln Logs (clearly a blast from the past - this required some direct instruction!) as well as popsicle sticks and various wooden pieces in art (designing skyscrapers was popular!), using screws and wrenches and drill bits, and pretending in the block area with the construction play box. In the writing center Big Bears wrote their own fairy tales, and perhaps most exciting of all, they created yummy, edible houses, rowboats, and such with pretzels and frosting or honey during snack time.



We compared and contrasted the various adaptations, which included The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, The Three Little Pigs an Architectural Tale, and The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig. Boy, do Big Bears love to listen to a good story! This week we will move on to The Gingerbread Boy and Cinderella.

In addition, we celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and found ways for the children to connect to his message of unity, peace, inclusion, and fairness. After reading about his life and starting - in an age-appropriate way - the conversation about evolving fairness for all we asked the children to share acts of kindness that they had experienced. Cora shared that an older boy had returned a ball that she and her brother had accidentally tossed outside a fence. Christian shared that his big sister had consoled him when he missed his parents. Harry shared a time when his daddy played with him. This then became the inspiration for their journals. We even listened to MLK's powerful "I Have a Dream" speech at the end of the day. We hope that you will continue these meaningful conversations at home.



*Stay warm,
Love,
Ms. Suzy & Ms. Heather*

